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CONTENTS

FEATURES
In Focus: campus news and views 2
Vice-Chancellor, historian and passionate Australian 6
A sense of community 8
Guest columnist: Caroline Wood 20
Forging artistic connections 22
UWA snapshots 24
Grad News 26
UWA Events 30
Grad Briefs 31

COVER:
Tibetan mother whose child (with pen at the ready!) will benefit from the school that WA Marketing lecturer Dr David Webb is helping to establish (see A Sense of Community). PHOTO: DR DAVE WEBB

CONTENTS PAGE PHOTOGRAPHS:
TOP: UWA student Clark Maul at Princess Margaret Hospital (PHOTO: COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS) – see A sense of Community
CENTRE: Bruce Martin as Francisco Pelsaert in Batavia (PHOTO: JEFF BUSBY) – see Forging Artistic Connections
BELOW: Guitarist Milica Ilic building an international reputation – see In Focus

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UNIVIEW is the University of Western Australia.
When preparing A Sense of Community, we were overwhelmed with material about this University’s academics, students and graduates who are involved in volunteering – from fundraising for a school for nomadic children in Tibet to entertaining hospitalised children.

As the article grew and grew, it overturned all previous plans for features in this issue. Even then, we couldn’t include all the examples of community service that we encountered.

While preparing the article, there was the additional good news that the University has pledged its support to war-torn Iraq, offering scholarships to Iraqi students in the areas of science, agriculture, engineering, commerce, public health and social science. Dean of the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences, Professor George Stewart, said the scholarships would enable students to gain skills that would be of great value in rebuilding their country.

As Philosophy Professor Andrew Brennan notes in this issue, UWA encourages ideals of local and global citizenship which give new expression to traditions of virtue – and reflecting the many examples of volunteering that begin on this campus has been both a pleasure and a source of inspiration.

The University has many reasons to appreciate this strong sense of community for it, too, benefits from the support of countless graduates, including those who give their time and skills to help staff UWA’s Visitors Information Centre.

UNDER the stewardship of Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Deryck Schreuder, UWA has seen much change over the past five and a half years. Now change at the University’s helm will soon take Professor Schreuder into a challenging new arena as an international scholar and author of modern history. At the end of January 2004 Professor Schreuder relinquishes the reins of power to his widely-respected deputy, Professor Alan Robson, who has filled the post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor for a decade.

When he arrived on campus in 1998, Professor Schreuder acknowledged that he was assuming the leadership of a university that was well served by its predecessors and its staff. He shrewdly balanced an agenda of change that included restructuring and internationalisation with the strengthening of the University’s already strong communities ties – as the base of the UWA Perth International Arts Festival, the southern hemisphere’s largest provider of adult education (UWA Extension) and a vital forum for intellectual debate (The Institute for Advanced Studies and Vision WA).

As President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee during the demanding period of the national Crossroads Review, a member of the Prime Minister’s Science, Engineering and Innovation Council, and a valued contributor to national and international educational and research bodies, Professor Schreuder has made UWA’s voice heard nationally and internationally.

He counts among the University’s recent achievements the major restructuring of faculties and schools that has made knowledge more integrated; the implementation of an operational priorities plan that has become the blueprint for measuring university work; the diversification of the income base; the strengthening of industry links; and a significant increase in international students numbers. He also sees the forging of an award-winning high-tech/high touch learning approach at the UWA Albany Centre as a landmark achievement for the ‘University for everyone’.

Professor Schreuder was Vice-Chancellor at the University of Western Sydney before coming to UWA in 1998. A Rhodes Scholar and visiting Fellow at Oxford, he previously held senior appointments at Macquarie and the Australian National University, and is a past President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities. Professor Schreuder is widely published and is the author of The 
the crowds on New York’s Coney Island Beach during the Depression, and the theatrical gaiety of Henri Toulouse-Lautrec’s Paris. To explore these worlds, you’ll have to visit Paper Matters, which illustrates the creative possibilities this medium has offered to artists – from Marc Chagall to Miriam Stannage. It runs until 25 January, and will be accompanied by a program of public talks. Entry to the gallery and the talks is free. For further information, phone 9380 3707 or visit www.arts.uwa.edu.au/LW/LW.html

THE VISION LIVES ON...

IN a eulogy celebrating the life of the late Sir Frank Callaway, Emeritus Professor David Tunley noted that this great man of music believed that strong foundations took time to lay down.

“He had the vision and the patience for this to happen,” recalled Professor Tunley. “The Department of Music he established at the University, with its beautiful buildings, its magnificent library, its Musicians-in-Residence scheme (the first in Australia) and its international publications, came into being over a long period of time and will last a long period of time.”

UWA paid a moving musical tribute to Sir Frank at a memorial concert in Winthrop Hall attended by his wife Lady Kathleen. The University Orchestra conducted by Peter Moore, the UWA Choral Society and Perth Oratorio Choir all performed in the concert which featured violinist Paul Wright (violin), Alicia Turner (bassoon) and Annette Goerke (organ) performing many of Sir Frank’s favourite works including Vaughan Williams The Lark Ascending and Elgar’s Romance for Bassoon and Orchestra.

Described as “one of the great pioneers and ambassadors of music education in our time” when presented with a UNESCO Medal in 1995, Sir Frank’s legacies to UWA are many. They include the Callaway Centre founded in 1988 when Sir Frank gifted his professional library and personal papers to the university.

Dr Victoria Rogers, Manager of the Callaway Centre (now in its 15th year) says that the strategic focus of the centre has shifted following the acquisition – through the vision of Sir Frank – of two major collections: the John Blacking Collection (including diaries, field notes, audio recordings, photographic and film material relating to African music) and the Peter Burgis Australian Performing Arts Archive acquired last year.

“These acquisitions mark a step forward for the Callaway Centre and its vision of becoming a vibrant research centre with a stream of visiting scholars working on various collections. The vision also encompasses the release of rare historical material in the form of CDs, CD ROMS and DVDs. With such rich archival holdings, opportunities abound.”

The School of Music recently held an international symposium celebrating the work and legacy of John Blacking, one of the most significant ethnomusicologists of his generation. A highlight of the symposium, attended by 60 delegates from 14 countries, was a film made nine months ago in Afghanistan. For Darryl Poulson, Head of UWA’s School of Music, it engendered great hope: “Made against the backdrop of the shattered city of Kabul, music which had been totally banned by the Taliban, was beginning to be performed by young and old alike.” A DVD based on the symposium has been produced. If you would like to know more, phone Dr Rogers on 9380 2791. The centre’s website is: www.arts.uwa.edu.au/circme/

The School of Music, busy celebrating its 50th anniversary, offers a varied program for music lovers, including University Music Society concerts, and free lunchtime concerts. There are three great lunchtime concerts scheduled for October, so check the UWA Music website: www.music.uwa.edu.au

GRADUATE PERFORMS WITH CARRERAS

PERFORMING before an international audience with the legendary José Carreras – and against the backdrop of the ancient Cambodian temple of Angkor Wat – is an experience that Milica Ilic is not likely to forget. The UWA student accompanied Carreras in a vocal version of Rodrigo’s famous Concierto de Aranjuez in a concert that raised funds for the Red Cross and for Cambodia’s countless landmine victims, and when Carreras performs in Perth in November, Milica will again be his guest soloist.

Milica began guitar tuition in Bosnia as a child and showed immediate promise. However when her family came to Perth as refugees, times were hard and it was months before the family could even afford a second-hand guitar. However her talent was spotted by UWA’s John Casey who suggested her as Carreras’ accompanist at the Singapore Symphony Orchestra charity performance in Cambodia.

Having graduated with First Class Honours in Music, Milica is now completing her BEd and later this year she will travel to the UK where she will study with UWA graduate and international performer Craig Ogden.

Clearly the guitarist lives at a breathless pace, performing at a wide range of music festivals and functions, and with the WA guitar orchestra Guitarstrophe! – as well as teaching. With so much drive, it’s little wonder that Perth luthier Paul Sheridan has been happy to provide Milica with her superb concert guitar and that Meredith Forder (WAFashion Designer of the Year 2001) has offered to design her concert gowns.

“Teaching has been very good for me, it helps to balance my lifestyle, and I love interacting with other performers in ensembles such as Guitarstrophe!”, says the UWA student. “But at the end of the day – even though it is the harder option – I know that I am meant to be a soloist.”

IN FOCUS

BIRDS Australia member Clive Napier gave a fascinating talk to UWA Friends of the Grounds recently, assuring his audience that the National Estate-registered grounds remain home to many species despite the University’s large human population.

The Friends were urged to take a hand in identifying ground-level nests on campus – particularly those of the rainbow bee eater – to save them from inadvertent destruction. The bee eaters arrive on campus in spring, spend summer at UWA and then fly north for winter. “As they nest in long burrows, you have to be careful not to destroy them when using machinery,” said Mr Napier. “Once the nests are located, they can be protected.”

Mr Napier pointed out that Pelican Point, a nature reserve on UWA’s doorstep, is a good site for migratory birds that fly thousands of miles from...
the Arctic Circle – apart from its local population of egrets, herons and pelicans.

If you would like more information about the Friends group, phone Daniel Fernando on 9380 7222.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLEAN GREEN UWA

UWA may be green in the botanical sense, but its managers feel that it could still do better environmentally, by reducing the use of cars by staff and students. To this end, the University is working with the City of Subiaco to get people out of single occupancy cars and to change commuters’ patterns. Jointly appointed environment/transport officer Ms Naomi White is investigating attractive car pooling incentives, improved bus services, bus-bicycle combinations and the possibility of a travel pass based on an idea developed by the University of Washington.

The long term plan is to introduce a travel pass that hooks into Transperth’s Smart Cards (planned for 2005) which will mean that travellers pay for kilometres travelled rather than zones. Says Ms White: “Basically we hope to offer students discounted travel so it will be a lot cheaper than parking, and to link the passes into other deals. We’re also working with students who already ride or walk to ensure that the University provides good end-of-trip facilities (like showers) for them.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

IN FOCUS

IN PURSUIT OF PLANTS

UWA Press has nicely timed publication of Philip Short’s botanical adventure story of the exploits of 19th and early 20th century plant collectors. In Pursuit of Plants will make an excellent Christmas gift.

This new UWA Press title tells of a plant hunter in Surnam who had vampire bats feasting on his toes; another in Africa who fell on hard times, sold his clothes and travelled naked for 200 miles; and a third who was pursued in the mountains of Western China by rampaging armed lamas (of the Tibetan Buddhist variety) bent on killing foreign missionaries and collectors. The Scottish collector, George Forrest, escaped with his life but lost his entire collection of 2,000 plant species, seeds and photographic material gathered from his travels. However all was not lost. The primulas he went on to collect were soon blooming in English gardens, as were the rhododendrons (he collected some 260 species new to science).

Author Philip Short (who is Plant Taxonomist at the Northern Territory Herbarium) has drawn material from journals, letters and other sources, to shed light on a lost world. In Pursuit of Plants is available at the Co-op Bookshop on campus and the UWA Visitors Centre.

Shaun Bambridge with the model of the Cossack floating facility

IS THE US CULTURE IN DECLINE?

IS America in a state of cultural collapse? Cultural historian Dr Morris Berman, author of critically acclaimed The Twilight of American Culture believes it is, and he puts the USA centre stage when delivering a series of lectures for UWA Extension this month. With topics including the significance of September 11, globalisation, the decline of American culture and perpetual war as a function of empire will run from Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 October at 7.30pm. You can read more about the series of four Twilight of American Culture lectures by accessing the UWA Extension website www.extension.uwa.edu.au

ENGINEERING STUDENT WINS AWARD

UWA Oil and Gas engineering student Shaun Bambridge is already making his mark in the industry. His honours project for Woodside Energy Ltd focussed on the maintenance activities and asset management requirements of the Cossack Pioneer floating production, storage and offloading vessel as production in this field declines over the next decade. Asset maintenance is a huge cost for resource companies, and Shaun’s research indicated how the company could change operating and maintenance strategies to maximise the present value of the vessel. Shaun, who was working with Woodside while completing his honours as part of the Co-operative Education for Enterprise Development scheme won an Engineering Excellence Award (in the student category) at the International Conference of Maintenance Societies.

He produced a model that defined failure and maintenance characteristics of critical equipment. UWA’s CEED program is a ‘matchmaker’, bringing together business and government bodies seeking researchers and high achieving students who are looking to gain ‘real life’ research experience. For more information about CEED, visit the website: www.general.uwa.edu.au/ceedpage

VISITING US FELLOW

A VISITING chemist on a United States fellowship is working with UWA’s Biomagnetics Group in the School of Physics to develop magnetic particles for guiding drugs to targeted sites of the body using magnets. The collaborative project involving physicists and chemists in the USA and Australia could result in patients being injected with a drug attached to tiny magnetic particles which would pass harmlessly through the body after delivery. The therapy would enable the use of chemicals that might otherwise be toxic to other parts of the body.

Dr Linda Harris, on a US National Science Foundation International Research Fellowship grant, is working in collaboration with UWA’s Associate Professor Tim St Pierre in the School of Physics. She began collaborating with him, and with Professor Sue Bemers-Price, head of UWA’s Department of Chemistry, while conducting research in polymer chemistry at Virginia Tech. Her experience with polymers and UWA’s strengths in biomagnetics allows for an excellent interdisciplinary collaboration.

“We are working on making very tiny magnetic particles to which we can attach things like drugs, so they can be injected and guided to the correct site in the body,” says Professor St Pierre.

“The particle size and the polymer used for coating are very important as they need to be able to be pass through the body once the drug has been delivered.”

Professor Bemers-Price will also work with Dr Harris on the biological systems involved in the project.

This cutting-edge research has necessitated the design of special equipment in the School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences that safely delivers an amounple of a toxic reagent into a high pressure reactor (see also UWA Snapshots).

Other aspects of the research being carried out by Dr Harris and Professor St Pierre include the development of magnetic fluids for use in biomedical applications. This work is being carried out in collaboration with polymer chemist Professor Judy Riffle

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at Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, USA. The team were recently awarded time at a unique experimental facility in Berlin (The Berlin Neutron Scattering Center at the Hahn-Meitner Institute) to carry out experiments involving the scattering of sub-atomic particles by magnetic fluids in very strong magnetic fields. Professor St Pierre and Dr Harris spent a week at the facility collecting data which will help them to understand the behaviour of the fluids in the presence of strong magnets.

Professor St Pierre also heads a research group that has developed a non-invasive, patented technique of imaging the liver using Magnetic Resonance Imaging machines. UWA spin-out company Inner Vision Biometrics (IVB) which has commercialised the technology was awarded two prizes at a May forum organised by Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia, supported by the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training under the Backing Australia’s Ability initiative. The event showcased more than 200 commercialisation projects from Australian universities and research institutions. IVB won national and state awards for the most outstanding research commercialisation opportunity in the field of biotechnology/life science.

TOUJOURS BORDEAUX

UNIVÈS’s mailbox always brings welcome news from graduates, even when they are half way across the world, and we were just a little envious when we heard from Rukshen Weerasooriya who is doing postgraduate work in cardiology in a picturesque part of France: Bordeaux.

Why Bordeaux? We were assured that – apart from scenic countryside and great vineyards – Bordeaux is home to a team of cardiologists making significant advances in the treatment of atrial fibrillation, a condition that Rukshen began studying in Perth. Characterized by chaotic electrical activity in the heart, the condition affects some five percent of all West Australians over the age of 65.

Supported by an Athelstan and Amy Saw overseas medical research scholarship, Rukshen is working with Professor Michel Haissaguerre to undertake catheter ablation training at Royal Perth before beginning his Masters studies in France.

“I wanted to work with Professor Haissaguerre to learn more about catheter ablation,” says Rukshen. “I am the first Australian cardiologist to undertake electrophysiology training in France. Atrial fibrillation ablation was considered the ‘last frontier’ in clinical cardiac electrophysiology but is now an established treatment option for patients. My research is focussing on the effect of treatment on patients. Catheter ablation is primarily undertaken to control the condition’s symptoms and improve quality of life, but very little data exists on the topic at present. It has been great working with the team that actually discovered curative atrial fibrillation ablation and to witness the ongoing refinements in the technique.”

Before taking up his studies, Rukshen did nine months intensive French language study. He admits that he and his wife Michelle enjoy wandering through historic villages and gaining “a healthy respect for the great wines and cuisine of southwest France.”

Rukshen says that he owes a huge debt of gratitude to UWA for supporting him through his two year fellowship. The Athelstan Saw Medical Research Fellowships were established by the late Dr Athelstan John Henton Saw, a former Chancellor of the University, in memory of his wife Amy and his son Athelstan. Rukshen will be arriving back in Perth this month and plans to continue clinical research on curative catheter ablation for atrial fibrillation at Royal Perth Hospital.

Rukshen bids farewell to Bordeaux
An academic career launched as a Rhodes Scholar, international and academy acknowledgements of his status as scholar and historian, plus appointments at the helm of two major Australian universities have won Professor Deryck Schreuder wide respect. Born in Africa and now passionately Australian – he is particularly drawn to the Kimberley region – UWA’s Vice-Chancellor intends to move beyond the institutions that have absorbed his energy over four decades, into the world of ideas that initially attracted him to academia. Professor Schreuder talks to UNIVIEW about his family, his passions, and his plans.

**Vice-Chancellor, historian – and passionate Australian**

When Professor Deryck Schreuder and his wife Paddy get together with their three sons, grandchildren and extended family, UWA’s Vice-Chancellor believes they perfectly reflect the Australia of today, with Dutch, English, Vietnamese, Chinese and Italian backgrounds.

“It is wonderful when your family comes back at you creatively, in a way that makes you grow,” he observes. “I think my family is a fair reflection of modern Australia in that it bridges several cultures. It also illustrates how people can be Australian while hanging on to their own heritage,” says Professor Schreuder.

“As you grow older you become very conscious of your beginnings. You think of yourself in the wheel of life, and examine your beginnings and the trajectory of your life. My African memories remain strong and they were immediately evoked in Western Australia, and in particular in the Kimberley. When Paddy and I go there, we could be in parts of Central Africa – so similar are the colours of the soil, the smell of the dust, the quality of light and heat. For me it’s a nice evocation, and it always awakes for me the passion I now have for this country.

“When you have moved around the world a lot, you become a patriot of a particular kind. I could easily kiss the tarmac when I come back to Australia. I’m quite idealistic about this country, in the way of Manning Clark. To me it offers an opportunity to shape a society that is different from old Europe or the United States – one that has tolerance, respect for the law, and creativity, without being hierarchical or class-bound.

“These are the dreams … and, perhaps as a migrant, one sees these possibilities with greater clarity. You look beyond the day-to-day preoccupations, and see this extraordinary land, its environment, its amazing Indigenous culture, and the British traditions here have been profoundly good in laying down the basis of a society that was later wonderfully enriched by multiculturalism. I think migrants tend to step back a little. We have strong memories of the world we came from. Citizenship is not just something we are born to, but something we value.

“As a scholar of international history, I find it extraordinary how the world has become more closely connected and interactive over the past few decades – and that is the canvas I wish to paint in the histories I plan to write.”

Professor Schreuder’s first commissioned history will be a new history of Australia, involving a dozen historians covering perspectives ranging from our Indigenous and imperial origins to the transforming force of migration and multiculturalism. He will not only write one of the theme essays, but will edit the volume to be published by Oxford Press as part of their Oxford History of the British Empire series. “We will bring together a complex story that encompasses values, popular culture and
“As an historian, I feel that the discipline is alive and well, and the challenge for universities and schools is to teach history in a way that is lively and responsive to community interest … I fear there is a gulf in the humanities between academia and the interests, desires and concerns of the public.”

gender, and that will be written for a general audience, not the academy,” he says.

“Public libraries tell us that in the area of non-fiction, history and biography lead by a long way in terms of popularity. There currently seems to be an almost insatiable interest in Australian history. I think internationalisation and our sense of living in a changing world is spurring interest in all areas, from ancient history to the lives of individuals who lived in times of change – from villains to heroes.

“As an historian, I feel that the discipline is alive and well, and the challenge for universities and schools is to teach history in a way that is lively and responsive to community interest. We don’t need curricula that satisfy teachers or reflect narrow academic debates. I fear there is a gulf in the humanities between academia and the interests, desires and concerns of the public.

“We need to conduct a discourse in which the community can engage. We have to be careful we don’t use a language we think is definitionally important but that locks out those with whom we should engage. We need to take the academy to the community – and those that do receive enormous support from the public. There are now notably professionally trained historians who write for a general audience – I am thinking of people like Ian Kershaw, author of the Hitler biographies, and Professor Simon Schama (author of Citizens and Patriots and Liberation) whose television program series A History of Britain has taken history to a wider audience.

“I am excited by the widening of the scope of history today – history that is written from the bottom up. No longer is it simply preoccupied by kings and captains, but rather it explores empires in terms of their impact on people; it looks at families, environments, ways of life, philosophies and ideas.

“I really admire people who engage us with complex ideas because they have a really important role in society. We are a pragmatic people, but we need to balance material concerns with a sense of longer term values, of what makes a good society. That is what the humanities are all about. They challenge what we believe and how we live. They ask about the nature of humanity, and how we work within the complex environments, ways of life, philosophies and ideas.

“I am passionate about the role of knowledge and universities, of thinkers and writers. They are there to lift us out of our material preoccupations. It is ideas rather than technology or business that shape a community. It is the universities, the ABC, and a number of small journals, that lift our horizons and expand our sense of what we are or could be.

“I have had a very fortunate life, particularly in Australia, and I see the next phase of my life as being a time to contribute in a different way, as someone concerned with ideas, public policy and public values – so I am excited at the idea of being ‘post-institution’.

“I have spent almost 40 years working in educational institutions since finishing my first degree in 1963 so I think I have earned a campaign medal and can now live beyond the institution and perhaps make a bigger contribution in some areas, because in certain ways your life is constrained by leadership and management demands. From the end of January such things will no longer be my responsibility, and I will be free to contribute in another way.

“At UWA, I was given a great opportunity to head a university that was already extremely well organised and positioned, and throughout I have had wonderful support.

“We have reaffirmed our role as this State’s oldest research intensive university, and that role is vitally important as we move into a knowledge based research environment. UWA is a powerhouse of knowledge and skill and we have thought a lot about how we work within the State, focussing on nodes of excellence that have industry links.

“While we can be proud of our campus, we must live in the wider world, for there are major challenges as we approach our centenary in eight years. Good universities are always in a state of transformation which doesn’t mean that they jettison values or traditions, but that they achieve change in ways that involve both the staff and the community in the process.”
“I believe that if you just do your little bit without thinking of the bigness of what you stand against, if you turn to the enlargement of your own capacities, just that in itself creates new potential…”

Physicist, ecologist, activist
Dr Vandana Shiva

A sense of community

“Community service is part of our mission,” says UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, and it is a mission taken seriously by staff, students and graduates who are currently volunteering their energy and enthusiasm in countless ways – from building a school for nomadic children in Tibet to taking their pets to visit the elderly in local nursing homes. Trea Wiltshire reports.

When US President John F. Kennedy told the world at his inauguration that the torch had passed to a new generation in the hope that it could shape a better world by volunteering time and skills – for country and community – his words proved inspirational to the young across the world.

“Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country…” became one of the 20th century’s quotable quotes, and the challenge it laid down is as relevant today as it was in the 1960s.

When addressing new students at the start of their UWA studies, Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, emphasises that UWA is much more than a place in which to acquire or hone skills. Becoming part of the UWA community, forming friendships that may last a lifetime, and shaping ideals that could make a difference, is all part of the UWA experience.

The ‘university for everyone’ that first opened its doors nearly a century ago has an admirable track record of producing graduates who serve their communities and country in exemplary ways, and of students who begin contributing while still studying.

“Community service is a key part of our mission,” says Professor Schreuder, “whether in terms of formal education and fundamental research, or the more informal social and cultural contributions to the life of this city and this State.” The Vice-Chancellor himself began voluntary work in adult education as a university student in Africa, and continues to work with a charity concerned with training and employing individuals and families in difficulty.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Development), Professor Margaret Seares, who has vivid memories of a busy
father who always found time for countless voluntary commitments, also emphasises the many activities that give UWA a unique standing in the community. “Achieving a sense of community is a unique challenge in this age of the nuclear family and emphasis on the individual. One of the defining features of community is a preparedness to give, and this can be done in a myriad of ways – joining a sports club, choir or band, a not-for-profit organisation, or groups that work with the disadvantaged or the environment.

“This notion of giving and receiving is what encourages UWA to spend time and money contributing to the community by providing concerts, public lectures, an art gallery, several museums, an international arts festival and a range of sporting facilities to enrich the life of our community – in addition to the teaching that enriches this State in a different way.”

Gary Segal, Senior Services Manager at Volunteering Western Australia, which is the peak volunteering body in this State, says that Australia has a strong volunteering ethic, with over four million people volunteering at least once a month. Country WA has the nation’s highest rate of volunteering, with some 45 per cent of rural people being involved with community organisations.

Mr Segal, who began Commerce studies at UWA in the 1970s, says that this State has more than 420,000 volunteers, but with an ageing population, there are some 700 vacancies particularly in the areas related to aged care and working with the disabled.

Philosophy Professor Andrew Brennan of UWA’s School of Humanities believes that while membership of voluntary groups is in dramatic decline in the United States, and has always been at low levels in countries like Scandinavia with its social welfare safety net, Australia is “backing the US trend”.

“We have both good social welfare arrangements and a high level of community involvement, which indicates a distinctive community commitment and public spirit. There is a lot of talk in academic circles these days (especially among sociologists) of globalisation, international solidarity and new emergent forms of community organisation. Apart from some hand-waving towards the internet, there is not much information about what these new forms of civil society might be like.

“However, it is clear that we have people here at UWA who are working hard both in the local community and in the wider global community. And their work is inspired by the same qualities of moral commitment, concern for others and sympathy that have always been characteristic of good citizens.

“This University encourages ideals of local and global citizenship which give new expression to traditional virtues. Many of the great moral and political thinkers such as Confucius, Aristotle and Hume argue that the best life for humans involves generosity and compassion towards others. It is just these virtues that are exemplified in the many examples of volunteering that begin on this campus.”

In this issue of UNIVIEW we celebrate the many ways in which UWA continues a fine tradition of giving to the community. We write of academics, students and graduates who have asked what they can do for their communities. Putting together an article that grew and grew and, sadly, could not feature all whose endeavours deserve to be acknowledged has been an inspiration – and a timely reminder when newspapers and televisions paint a grim picture of the world, that there are many working to make it a better place.

Marketing a dream: Lecturer Dave Webb

MARKETING lecturer Dave Webb concedes that not everyone sees marketing in a positive light. “A lot of people relate it to sales and advertising – about being pushy and convincing people to buy products they don’t need. However, there are different levels of marketing and macro-marketing can have a lot to do with making a positive contribution to improving quality of life. It’s all a matter of bringing a societal perspective into the equation.”

Dr Webb, who is a Buddhist, is certainly bringing a worldwide humanitarian perspective into the work he is doing with current students in the School of Business. They are helping him to realise a dream: to build a school for nomadic children in Tibet. As part of their electronic marketing course work, postgraduate students have designed a Website to assist in fundraising, and both postgraduate and undergraduate students have been working on a promotional strategy for the Tibetan Support Program that Dr Webb established earlier this year.

In July the UWA lecturer travelled to Yushu, an area in Qinghai (taking in the former Tibetan regions of Amdo and Kham) where 97 per cent of the population are ethnic Tibetan and most eke out a meagre living from the yak and sheep they tend on the Tibetan plateau. The vast majority of children receive no education, however along with Tibetan monk Lobsang Tsering, Dr Webb hopes to raise sufficient funds (under the auspices of the Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific) to build a school for 225 children aged 5 to 15. He also hopes to encourage Australian, American, Dutch and English sponsors to sponsor a Tibetan child through school.

The British-born Dr Webb arrived in WA six years ago to teach marketing at UWA.

“"When people discover that I am a Buddhist and teach marketing they react as if the two were polar opposites, yet I see no dichotomy. It’s a question of how you apply the marketing tools acquired through study. I aim to show students that these skills can be used to better society. It’s all about learning how to integrate values into the way you do business.

“I firmly believe in the basic goodness of people, it is just a matter of tapping into it and creating opportunities for people to contribute. I certainly try to integrate that positive philosophy in
my teaching in the hope that, ten years down the track, sitting in boardrooms somewhere, my students will be taking principled stances on a range of issues. It’s difficult sometimes to make an immediate difference, but Buddhism teaches that you plant the seed and wait for the right conditions for it to ripen…” Dr Webb will be integrating this thinking in a new course he will be offering to postgraduate students next year called ‘Social, Environmental and Public Policy Marketing’.

Dr Webb worked in industry before completing doctoral studies in marketing and strategic management at the University of Wales. He emphasises the importance of applying values and ethics in the workplace. It is a timely message in an era of mounting public cynicism about business ethics, corporate collapses and the excessive remuneration of corporate elites.

Dr Webb believes that we are living in an era of spiritual searching, and he was not surprised at the interest exhibited by individuals following a ‘Buddhism in Business’ presentation he gave to the Australian Institute of Management earlier this year.

“I sense something major happening within the workplace when I talk to senior managers,” he says. “Issues such as an ethical approach to impacts on the environment have become key issues in big companies, and there is definite interest in injecting positive values into the way business is done.” Dr Webb can be reached at UWA on +61 8 9380 7380. Further information about the school project can be found at the dedicated web site www.tibet-support.org

Send in the clowns: Law student, Clark Maul

WHEN Clark Maul walks out of Perth’s Princess Margaret Hospital after a session of clowning, he admits to feeling “ten foot tall and bullet-proof”. When he dons his clown costume and puts his head around the door of the children’s ward, he never quite knows what to expect.

“When you walk into a room, it’s initially the clown’s appearance that breaks down the barriers. You are everyone’s friend because you are not part of the health system – you’re just someone there to have fun…”

UWA student Clark Maul

“On the other hand, there are also many more cases where there is a recovery. You are also very aware that, in addition to the incredible work done by the health professionals, you have had a small role in that healing process by bringing in your doses of happiness…”

Clark began volunteering with Radio Lollipop when he saw the clowns in action at PMH, where his mother is a nurse. He waited until he turned 18, then joined up. For the final year law student (who was this year’s Ciara Glennon Memorial Law Scholarship winner) clown mode now comes as a matter of course.

“You have to be able to step out of one side of your life and into another,” he says. “You can watch other successful clowns entertaining sick children, but when you put on a nose and a funny hat you have to develop your own clown personality – that’s the only way you will genuinely connect with the kids.”

Clark is Honorary Chair of the volunteers’ board of management for Radio Lollipop, which is the hospital’s in-house radio station that has some 100 volunteers who give time to the sick children on every day of the year. About 20 of the volunteers are UWA students. The children run the station, doing the announcing, playing the music and taking the requests of children who may not be mobile.

“No matter how many assignments I have, I never miss a session at PMH. It gives another perspective to my life which is important. I can’t see myself giving it up. Hopefully down the track I’ll be dashing out of the Supreme Court to don my red nose and kit and caboodle … I guess it will be more of a challenge as I get older, but I look forward to that challenge.”

Médecins Sans Frontiéres volunteer, Ngaire Caruso

DR NGAI RE Caruso volunteered for Médecins Sans Frontiéres (MSF) as soon as she had the requisite two-and-a-half years of experience, and was sent to a refugee camp on the Thai-Burma border. She was the only doctor, and she worked with a French midwife in a camp of 16,000, with its 40-bed hospital, and an outpatients clinic treating 150 patients a day. She also supervised refugee medics and nurses trained in basic medicine by MSF.

“Being used to the support of senior doctors at Fremantle Hospital, it was a shock being on my own, with a limited range of available tests,” recalls Ngaire, who is currently doing emergency medicine training at Darwin Regional Hospital.
A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

“However it was far better than my next placement in Ethiopia, where I had no laboratory testing at all, and was totally reliant on what I saw clinically.”

The UWA graduate spent six months in Thailand, living in a bamboo hut and working untold hours with the Karen refugees, some of whom had been in the camp for over a decade.

“No one was starving and, in terms of the medical treatment, it was pretty good – in fact local Thai people came into the camp seeking treatment – but there was a terrible sense of hopelessness. Thai soldiers guarded the perimeter, so no one could get in or out, and the refugees lived in fear of attack by Burmese troops who had, in the past, crossed the border and torched the camp.

“In Thailand I had radio communication and another doctor in a town two hours away, whereas in Ethiopia the only communication I had initially was by satellite phone, which I could use once a week to call headquarters.

“I was in a town near the Sudan border, where MSF was working with local villagers. I was the only doctor, accompanied by an MSF logistics volunteer. I worked in four government-run village clinics, teaching the nurses and working with them, and running a mobile clinic and immunisation service.

“Occasionally we were overwhelmed with thousands of refugees and even rebel soldiers as the Sudanese civil war spilled over the border. Most returned to Sudan, but on the last occasion 1,000 stayed. Apart from building a clinic in the area, MSF was also putting down much needed wells in the area.

“Whereas in Thailand there was a town where, at weekends, I could hang out with other expatriates, in Ethiopia I lived in a mud hut with no running water or electricity, and that was it! Yet it was in Ethiopia that I felt really close to the people and I learnt about their culture. I had diarrhoea practically all the time I was there, plus Giardia and tape worms but I never got really sick. It was a fantastic experience, the best year of my life, and I felt really close to the people and I learnt about their culture.”

UWA graduate Dr Ngaire Caruso

The healing power of a sympathetic paw: Claire Webb, Susan Morrow and graduate Karin Alteruthemeyer

NEVER underestimate the healing power of companionship, especially when delivered by a wet nose, a pair of liquid-dark eyes and an occasional sympathetic paw!

UWA Staff Development Officer Claire Webb is convinced that the healing benefits provided by Animal Companions volunteers – who take their dogs to visit children in hospitals and the elderly in nursing homes – can be counted along with the best of medicines.

“There is a lot of evidence of the positive effects that animals have on those in hospital or nursing home settings,” says Claire. “We know of cases where residents in nursing homes have flatly refused to socialise until one of our dogs arrived. Then they have come out of their rooms to join the other residents in patting the dog and exchanging stories about pets they have loved.”

“Children, reluctant to take part in physiotherapy exercises, can be transformed when a dog becomes part of the sessions. Suddenly, they want to make the effort to walk, hold a ball or pick up a treat, so they can play with the dog.

Claire and UWA graduate Karin Alteruthemeyer, helped to found Animal Companions, a not-for-profit Western Australian group last October. Its role is to provide therapeutic visits by accredited volunteer and dog teams to hospitals, nursing homes and special needs facilities.

“We currently have 30 facilities on our waiting list,” says Karin, who runs her own database design company, but is finding that Animal Companions is “taking over her life”. Karin’s kelpie Faux Pas is a particular favourite with young and old. He can perform dozens of tricks, like playing dead, spinning round, walking backwards and standing on his hind legs and saluting.

Being involved in Animal Companions has been a real eye-opener for Karin, particularly in relation to the elderly and lonely in nursing homes. “Nursing homes are a hidden part of our community – you only hear about them when something goes wrong. There are a lot of lonely people in them, and they are so appreciative when we visit. And we know that petting an animal actually has physiological benefits – blood pressure falls, everyone gets to relax, and for a while that awful loneliness is relieved.”

If you would like to know more about MSF, visit its website: www.msf.org.au
Dogs involved with Animal Companions are assessed to ensure they have the right temperament to go visiting, and their handlers have to attend a one-day seminar. Susan Morrow (who works in UWA’s Microbiology Department) has just passed the accreditation process with her Australian cattle dog, Tiny.

Animal Companions currently has about 25 teams visiting both in the metropolitan area and the south-west. “There is a lot of demand for our services – far more than we can meet,” says Claire. Those interested in joining or supporting Animal Companions can contact 9401 8611 or check out the website: www.aciwa.org.au

A dedicated volunteer:
Honours student Simon Clarkson

YOU have to wonder where Canadian-born Simon Clarkson, a neuroscience student at UWA, finds the time for all his volunteering. The energetic Honours student is involved with Radio Lollipop at Princess Margaret Hospital several nights a week, is an enthusiastic supporter of University Camp For Kids at UWA, is much in evidence when State Emergency Service volunteers are called out after winter storms or summer bushfires, and provides first aid for St John’s Ambulance.

Last year Simon abseiled from the top of a city building as part of a fundraising event for the PMH foundation, and in August was shaving his head for another fundraising event. In addition, he is helping UWA’s Office of Development to launch a scholarship scheme that will encourage children who attended University Camp For Kids to maintain their secondary school studies and become eligible for a UWA scholarship.

University Camp for Kids is a registered charity that has been run by student volunteers since 1936. Rosie Ireland, president for 2003, says the camp aims to provide activities and positive role models for children who may be financially, socially or emotionally underprivileged, and who may not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in weekend and holiday activities. Participants are recommended by school counsellors or social workers.

“During our camps we pride ourselves on providing one-on-one attention for children, and whereas school or church camps often operate on an educational platform, our camp aims to let kids be kids and have a good time,” she says. The club’s hardworking committee and volunteers also raise funds so that the camps and picnics can happen, and a sizeable share of the $80,000 raised each year comes from the UWA student community.

Simon Clarkson believes that only university students could run such camps – because “we ourselves are just big kids, with the maturity to make the camps happen in a safe way.” The camp provides three day-long picnics at various venues around Perth for some 350 children, and three week-long summer camps at Point Peron for up to 230 children each year.

“The kids are at the camp for a week and we say ‘go for it’. We don’t try to change who they are, we just make sure they have a great time. Sometimes the kids just want someone to chat with – they want a week of undivided attention. We love it and they love it!”

The patron of Uni Camp For Kids is UWA Professor Fiona Stanley who was herself involved with the charity during her student days.

“There are a lot of prominent people in Perth who volunteered, and we want to encourage them to continue to support this charity, and also to get behind the scholarship scheme. At present we lose touch with the kids once they turn 13, but we’d like to bridge the gap so that, as they go through high school, they know that there is a scholarship that could help them study at UWA and become student leaders themselves.”

“If there is anyone who would like to know more about the scholarship scheme, or is interested in supporting it financially, I’d love to hear from them.” (You can contact Simon on 9380 3490 or sclarkson@anlhb.uwa.edu.au)

If you’d like to become a volunteer or support these organisations, you can contact Radio Lollipop on 9340 8835, or Uni Camp For Kids on 9380 2648.
Eye to eye with orangutans:
Erin Fraser, Librarian

WHEN a pregnant two-tonne Southern White Rhinoceros is reaching the end of a 16-month gestation period at Perth Zoo, or the normally harmonious atmosphere of the orangutan enclosures is disrupted, zoo volunteers like Erin Fraser may be called upon to keep watch over the animals involved, providing important information for Zoo staff.

“When I spend time doing what we call an ‘animal watch’, the orangutans in particular seem to know exactly why I am there. Usually, they look very guilty and behave impeccably while I’m watching,” says Erin, who is head of UWA’s Humanities and Social Sciences Library, and a founding member of the Australian Orangutan Project. Animal watches help record the progress and specific behaviours of different animals.

Having worked with the UWA Library for 18 years, Erin was previously active with the Friends of the Library. However, her involvement with the Perth Zoo Docent Association has now eclipsed other volunteering.

The Perth Zoo Docent Association has more than 300 volunteer members. The Docents (after the Latin do- cere ‘to teach’) assist visitors, conduct tours, occasionally undertake animal watches, assist with animal enrichment programs and provide information services.

Erin’s managerial skills have been put to excellent use by the Association. In conjunction with other dedicated docents, the UWA librarian initiated a policy and procedures manual and an annual yearbook promoting the association’s activities and creating an historical record. She delivers fundraising presentations and talks on her special interest areas – the big cats and orangutans – and has also promoted a wide range of activities and training for volunteer associations in overseas zoos during her holidays. Dublin and Singapore Zoos have taken up many ideas initiated in Perth.

Growing up with the zoo on her doorstep, Erin has been getting to know the animals for the past 35 years and is particularly fond of the orangutans. When she appears at the window of their enclosure with an interesting collection of books and toys, they invariably gather to greet her.

The zoo recruits docents once a year, usually in March/April. If you would like to know more about becoming a docent, contact the Zoo on 9474 0444 or visit www.perthzoo.wa.gov.au.

In the aftermath of war: volunteer medico, Professor Max Kamien

WHEN Indonesian army and militia groups pulled out of a devastated East Timor, UWA Professor Max Kamien joined dozens of doctors from around the world who packed their bags in response to a plea for help. In doing so, the former head of UWA’s Department of General Practice, was extending a tradition of volunteering that began when he graduated, donned a backpack, and travelled through Asia.

Back in the 1960s, his theatre of operation was South Korea where the starving huddled and died in flimsy shelters through a freezing winter, and Nepal, where fleeing Tibetan refugees (following the Dalai Lama into exile) fronted up at his clinics with diphtheria, tuberculosis and countless other infectious diseases.

However, it was the senseless destruction of East Timor that now sits most vividly in his mind. After the elections that won the besieged territory its independence – and the wrath of a repressive regime – the UWA professor received a plea for help from Timor Aid. He went for a month to work in makeshift clinics, and then returned several months later to produce a report for the Portuguese NGO Oikos on their area’s medical needs.

“About 80 per cent of the infrastructure was destroyed by the departing Indonesians who knew of every household that had voted for independence,” says Professor Kamien. “In the market towns where I ran clinics there had been hospitals and clinics, but everything was destroyed. There was no electricity, sewerage, running water, and of course, few medicines.

“Most of those who responded to the call for help brought what they could, and then we borrowed from other agencies. Eventually emergency medical supplies came in from the WHO, but they were inadequate to meet the needs. However, we were able to treat malaria and had plenty of antibiotics. We saw
about 180 people a day, and I recall that it was pretty exhausting.”

On his second visit several months later there were heartening signs of the market towns of Aileu and Same rebuilding themselves.

“There was much cleaning up, and a lot of very creative mechanisms to house people. World Vision was building basic dwellings – putting down concrete slabs and erecting roofs, then leaving the townsfolk to add walls. Oikos set up teams of carpenters to help rebuild the hospitals and clinics, and apart from learning skills, each member was promised a complete set of tools after working for 13 weeks.”

There were many Australians volunteering, and Professor Kamien believes that Australian universities should back that support by assisting in the training of East Timorese doctors. At present there is only one privately-funded East Timorese medical student in Australia. “Most of the medical care in the country is provided by high school trained nurses. When I was in the country in 2000, there were only four East Timorese doctors,” he says.

If you are considering volunteering in East Timor, Max Kamien and Susan Griffiths, formerly a long serving doctor at the Australian Mission in East Timor, have written an informative article in the *Australian Family Physician* (Vol 29 No.11, November 2000).

**A health network for refugees:**

**Dr David Burgner, Senior Lecturer**

HAVING spent a number of years working in London with refugees from sub-Saharan Africa, paediatrician David Burgner is determined to put in place a health network to support this vulnerable population. He appreciates that many refugees have suffered enormously, and on arrival in Western Australia, may be overwhelmed by alien surroundings, an incomprehensible health system, a language barrier, and the trauma they have fled.

“Over 1,000 refugees come into Western Australia every year from places like Iran, Iraq, Somalia, the Sudan or Afghanistan. Most are initially assessed by the Migrant Health Unit, with which I liaise closely, but many will subsequently present to GPs or other practitioners who may not have experience in dealing with individuals who are highly traumatised.”

Dr Burgner and other local health care professionals are developing guidelines (within Australia and New Zealand) for the health assessment of refugee and migrant children. They also plan to establish a local WA Refugee Health Network that draws together those willing to offer assistance, expertise and professional services. He also believes there is a need for educational programs in this area – particularly in relation to refugee children – for GPs and other health professionals, a view shared by the Royal Australasian College of General Practitioners.

“Health professionals within the network will be familiar with the special needs of migrants and refugees. They will need to be willing to work with interpreters, to offer prompt and affordable services – and free services for those on bridging visas who are denied access to Medicare,” says Dr Burgner.

Working closely with UWA graduate Dr Gervase Chaney, a fellow consultant paediatrician at Princess Margaret Hospital and Dr Aesen Thambiran, a Perth GP, Dr Burgner hopes that the network will also develop policy initiatives and raise awareness of refugee health issues among GPs and others.

“At present, the States and Territories have different health assessment systems,” he explains. “In WA we’re fortunate to have a Migrant Health Unit which performs an initial assessment. However, most refugees do not know how to access services subsequently, and it is vital that major health issues – including mental health problems – be addressed early, before they become chronic. Many refugees have been severely traumatised and may have been the victims of torture. At present they’re a vulnerable, disenfranchised group and we’d really like to hear from health professionals within the network will be familiar with the special needs of migrants and refugees. They will need to be willing to work with interpreters, to offer prompt and affordable services – and free services for those on bridging visas who are denied access to Medicare,” says Dr Burgner.

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professionals willing to help them.” If you are interested, contact dburgner@ichr.uwa.edu.au

Dr Burgner is working with the Victorian Immigrant Health Program and international health professions on issues such as refugee rights, international law, infectious diseases, psychological health and other areas of concern. The group plans to publish a series of papers based on these guidelines, hopefully in conjunction with the Royal Australian Colleges of Physicians and General Practitioners.

Walking for a Cure: PhD student Janelle Pelham

PHD student Janelle Pelham was diagnosed with diabetes when she was two years old and has lived with the disease for the last 23 years, so when the first Diabetes Walk for the Cure happened in 1996, she was among the walkers who raised money for diabetes research in Australia. Since then Janelle has participated in all the walks as team captain of a family and friends walk team, and is now a member of the organising committee, providing information to community groups interested in entering a walk team, attending kick-off events and getting involved in administrative tasks.

The walk, which is run by the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, is held on 19 October in all capital cities and several rural locations (for details phone 9481 1411). Janelle is a student in the School of Surgery and Pathology, and is doing research that investigates some of the molecular events that lead to the development of cancer, in particular to lymphoma and leukemia.

Taking the environment into the classroom: PhD student Florence Verspecht

WHEN Florence Verspecht’s boyfriend was posted to the small country town of Yalgoo as a teacher, the UWA Environmental Engineering graduate rightly anticipated that she might get involved with the school in a voluntary capacity during study breaks. “Yalgoo is a small town of just over 100 people in red desert country, with a store, a shire office, the school and the pub,” recalls Florence. When she visited the town 220km east of Geraldton, and the primary school with its 39 students ranging from pre-school to year 10, she took with her an environmental education program she had developed.

“Because of their isolation, remote country schools such as Yalgoo don’t have many opportunities for excursions, so I developed my environmental education program to bring the ‘excursion’ into the school. My aim was to increase awareness of current environmental issues and spark curiosity about science and the environment.”

The students participated in a range of hands-on activities relating to worm farming, recycling, solar power, salinity, climate change and ecosystems. “The general consensus was that the best activity was on solar power. Each student used a cardboard pizza box to make a solar powered oven which they angled to the sun to cook cheesies!”

Two microscopes donated by the School of Biological Sciences were a major attraction, allowing the students to examine slides of plankton, mushroom spores and “various unsuspecting insect victims”.

Clearly, bush telegraph was in action because Florence has since had requests to take her program to other schools. She has also made a return visit to Yalgoo for some origami and guitar-playing sessions. Florence is studying for a PhD in the field of biological oceanography.
De-stressing on the soccer field: Associate Professor Jonathan Foster

WHILE generally involved in research related to memory dysfunction, cognitive changes in dementia, and the positive effects of glucose and oxygen on memory performance (a chocolate bar before settling down to study IS a good idea his research reveals!), Associate Professor Jonathan Foster is reliving memories of his boyhood when he fronts up to Rosalie Oval for weekly soccer training session.

“I started playing soccer in the UK at about five and my hero was George Best. When we came to Perth in 2000 and my son wanted to play soccer, my wife volunteered me as coach. She reckoned it was a good way for an overly busy academic to spend much needed quality time with one of his kids and hopefully de-stress at the same time! In fact it is an ideal way to get your head out of work.”

The UWA academic co-coaches with teacher Russell Dyer (who also does some teaching for UWA Extension). They are strict about having fair substitutions and player rotations. Playing the best team may get a satisfactory match score but, they agree, it’s not necessarily fair play for under 10s.

In a Thai orphanage: Bree Donaldson, Honours student

FINISHING her degree half way through 2002, Bree Donaldson had six months before beginning Honours studies (on early life stress and reproduction) in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology. Browsing the Internet she found Cross Cultural Solutions, a group that brings together willing volunteers and needy organisations around the world. She knew that she wanted to spend some time volunteering in Thailand, and the New York-based organisation suggested a Bangkok orphanage for mentally handicapped children.

For Bree, who had travelled Europe but not Asia, it was a challenging but rewarding few months. Most of the children had been abandoned, although a few had parents who occasionally visited. Although sponsored by the Queen of Thailand, the orphanage lacked sufficient funding which meant that conditions were extremely basic and the help of overseas volunteers was welcomed.

“Despite the lack of language, we managed to communicate with the kids,” recalls Bree. “The experience was daunting, pretty humbling, and sad because of the conditions. Most of the kids slept on the floor and some were even physically restrained. Basically we played with the kids, and probably the most important thing we did was to give them lots of hugs which they really needed.”

Volunteers (most of whom come from the US and Canada) pay to be involved, and the US organisation organises meals and accommodation. Bree came back to Australia feeling incredibly lucky. “We have such an easy life in Australia,” she says. “and because of that, I would certainly like to do more volunteer
work in the future. The experience made me realise that I am stronger and able to handle more than I had previously thought.”

**Clinical Professor Lesley Cala**

WHEN neuroscientists from around the world volunteered to assist their Eastern Bloc counterparts, Clinical Professor Lesley Cala was among them. The decline in services following decades of Communist rule shocked the international team, and Professor Cala was moved to make return trips to volunteer help for those working in woefully ill-equipped hospitals in Minsk, Belarus.

“In my own field of neuroradiology – the diagnosis of brain and spinal cord diseases using CT scan, MRI and angiography – they were 50 years behind,” recalls Professor Cala. “In the hospital where most of the neurosurgery for Belarus was done, there was no MRI machine, and the whole country had only one CT scanner which was at that hospital, and their radiologist was struggling to interpret the images, having had no instruction. I explained what modern machines could do.

“By 1995, when I went back on my own, I discovered that a philanthropic organization in the USA had provided a modern Digital Subtraction Angiography machine, but there were no arterial catheters to use with the equipment (other than the donated ones I had brought with me) and their radiologist did not know how to use the catheter technique. I suggested they contact a Kiev neurosurgeon I met in the US, and within hours he had agreed to take their radiologist for instruction.”

Professor Cala took with her a collection of different types of brain tumours, identifying with the latest World Health Organisation classification, provided by a Perth neuropathologist. She also took as many donated antibiotics as she could carry (many essential medical supplies were only available through the black market).

“Essentially, we showed them what they needed, told them how to go about it, and left them in a pretty self-supporting state,” she says.

**Juggling a range of skills: UWA student Mark McLeod**

MARK McLeod, volunteer for the Starlight Express Room, has a whole bag of tricks when it comes to entertaining sick children. He can divert attention away from intravenous drips with some awesome feats of juggling, is adept at the hacky-sack and diabolo, and does a turn on a unicycle. And then there is his music: he plays several instruments, including clarinet and piano, as part of his UWA studies.

Starlight Children’s Foundation of Australia is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to brightening the lives of seriously ill and hospitalised children and their families. Mark is involved with one of Starlight’s hospital based programs, the Starlight Express Room which is based at Princess Margaret Hospital. The room is under the guidance and supervision of two full time staff (Captain Starlights) plus a team of dedicated and fully trained volunteers. Starlight is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Vicki Brown at vbrown@starlight.org.au. You can also find out more about the foundation at www.starlight.org

Mark learnt to juggle when he joined UWA’s Juggling Club which teaches members a full array of circus skills. The club’s top practitioners are in demand for events such as the St Patrick’s Day parade and parties.

**Charity begins on campus: PROSH directors Oliver Kerr and Kirsten Martin**

THE UWA Student Guild has a proud tradition in raising funds for charity. Once a year students take to the streets to rattle tins and collect money for a range of charities.

No one quite remembers why this day of fundraising was called PROSH, though it has been suggested that the name is a slightly inebriated rendering of the ‘procession’ of floats that moves through the city.
This year PROSH directors were fourth year students Oliver Kerr and Kirsten Martin who admit that organising a day that raised $62,000 is a big task.

“The key jobs are organizing the procession through the city plus getting all the requisite permits, and producing the PROSH paper, a parody of a local newspaper. The job of director is a huge responsibility so people don’t take it on lightly – it’s a bit scary living up to all those PROSH traditions. However, it’s hugely rewarding, and it is magic finally watching that parade and handing over the cheques,” says Oliver.

“This year they went to the Royal Flying Doctor Service to purchase infant incubators for new-born babies being transported to major hospitals from country areas. We also funded a special Holyoake Institute program that works with children whose parents have drug and alcohol problems, to help give them a chance at normal life.”

Most of the money collected by some 4,000 students is in gold coins, but occasionally a collector comes across a graduate whose nostalgia prompts a generous personal cheque. For the last couple of years, the PROSH tradition has swept through the streets of Albany, with students there swelling the collection.

Volunteering in PNG: Mark Weerakody

UWA Engineering graduate Mark Weerakody admits that after two or three years of working in a place, he gets ‘itchy feet’ and likes to move on. So he chose well when joining Main Roads WA: in 1990 he was sent to the Goldfields Esperance region, followed by the Midwest, Kimberley and Pilbara.

Right now the UWA graduate is putting his skills to good use to benefit the people of Papua New Guinea. Based in Lae, the country’s second largest city, Mark is a volunteer with Australian Volunteers International, working in the engineering department of the local council. A large portion of the road and bridge building projects he looks after are AusAID-funded, and give him the opportunity of providing work experience for engineering graduates from PNG’s engineering university based in Lae, UNITECH.

“Volunteering has given me some very valuable opportunities to put my engineering experience to good use; to experience a wonderfully diverse and rich landscape and culture by living and working in the community; and to benefit greatly on a personal level.” His two year placement ends in December.

Stories of survivors: UWA students Suzi Elias and Peter Hillman

WHEN third year Psychology student Suzi Elias woke with a splitting headache and noticed a slight rash, she took herself off to the doctor and was relieved when told it was “just a virus”. She went to lectures but, by the end of the day was in an ambulance, delirious with fever and with her blood pressure and heart rate falling dangerously.

Suzi had meningococcal disease, but, like fellow UWA student Peter Hillman (diagnosed as a flu victim), she survived and made a full recovery. Now both students are determined to spread the word about the dangers of a disease that is frequently misdiagnosed – sometimes with fatal consequences, sometimes claiming the limbs of young people.

The UWA students were the fortunate faces of a disease that can be treated with antibiotics if recognised early – and that was the message the two were spreading at a function organized by the Amanda Young Foundation during Meningitis Awareness Week in June. UWA student Amanda Young was not so lucky.
Sheena Prince
mother, wife: healthy way.”

It is an important factor in growing the Albany community in a
different ways (over the past two decades) of presenting her parish's
Senior High School and is chair workshops (she teaches at Albany
music festivals, performances and activities from organising school
volved with a host of community

Sheena Prince is one of those

A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

UWA Friend, teacher, parishioner, mother, wife: Sheena Prince

Sheena Prince is one of those people who enriches the community in which she lives in many small ways. A UWA graduate and social co-ordinator of the Friends of UWA Albany Centre, she is involved with a host of community activities from organising school music festivals, performances and workshops (she teaches at Albany Senior High School and is chair of the Albany District Schools Music Committee) to dreaming up different ways (over the past two decades) of presenting her parish’s annual nativity play!

Some of her volunteering was related to her husband Kevin’s time as the Member for Albany in State Parliament; others have come about in response to a growing family.

“Most of the things I’ve been involved in had much to do with raising three lively children, who are now young adults. I was instrumental in founding and growing a playgroup when they were little, became a brownie/guide leader and trainer, and am now a member of the Trefoil Guild,” says Sheena.

“When the children were in lower primary, our family helped to found an alternative school and eventually I became principal teacher there. When I wanted the children to sing in a choir, I took on the leadership of the parish choir, which I still maintain. Through this I became an active member of the Royal School of Church Music and involved in their annual choristers course for juniors. And when our son and his mates drove Sunday School teachers to exasperation I took that on, and am still doing it.

“My husband and I have a vital interest in education and feel it is an important factor in growing the Albany community in a healthy way.”

As social co-ordinator of the Friends of UWA Albany Centre, Sheena Prince organises a lively program of events from poetry readings and string quartet performance to preview functions for art exhibitions.

“Making my family the focus of my activities has opened doors for both community participation and personal development that would never have happened if I had been solely involved in developing a career,” she says. “I feel fortunate to have been challenged in these ways.”

If you’d like to know more about the Amanda Young Foundation, visit the website www.amandayoungfoundation.org.au

A sense of place: Brett Tizard, Business Manager

BRETT Tizard, who trained as a biologist, believes that his wide community involvement helped to hone communication and organisational skills that prompted him to leave the laboratory and move into the managerial post he now holds as Business Manager of UWA’s Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders.

Brett grew up in Armadale and is passionate about the town’s picturesque bushland setting. As chairman of the Armadale Settlers’ Common Management Committee for some 13 years (until 2002), he helped to transform one of Perth’s only remaining intact colonial era ‘commons’.

The historic 380 hectare landmark was mostly good quality bush but did have a few degraded trouble spots, invaded by weeds and rubbish, and was largely ignored by locals. However, restoring the native vegetation, developing walk trails and an education centre, organising plant identification workshops and guided walks turned the forgotten reserve into a much used bushland recreation area – and an acknowledged community asset.

Brett, who is also involved with the local community radio station, Heritage FM, is a member of the Armadale Redevelopment Authority Community Reference Group, which was established by the State Government to make sure that locals have a voice in the proposed redevelopment. He is also on the board of Araluen Botanic Park which was bought by the State Government in the 1990s and now provides horticultural training to ‘work for the dole’ volunteers.

“In Armadale we have a beautiful valley of bushland surrounding these splendid gardens which, in spring, are a sight that should not be missed. We have the best of both worlds,” says Brett, a man with a sense of place – and a determination to develop its full potential.
Today, what unites women internationally – transcending class, race, culture, religion, nationality and ethnic origin – is their vulnerability to abuse of their fundamental human rights, and their dedicated efforts to claim those rights. Women still face discrimination and violence. Women still live under systems of government that at best fail to protect them against violence, and at worst commit violence against them.

Violence against women is prevalent around the world – and work of the past 25 years has shown that no region, country or culture is exempt. A recently published World Health Organisation report found that 70 per cent of women victims were killed by their partners. Eighty per cent of the world’s refugees are women and children, and according to the UN Children’s Fund, more than a million infant girls die every year because they are born female. According to World Bank figures, at least one in five women and girls have been beaten or sexually abused. What is even more disturbing is that when women try to escape these conditions they are exposed to further abuse.

Amnesty International reported that thousands of refugee women are raped during their escape, are sexually exploited in their country of asylum by corrupt officials, and are exposed to danger when they are forced to return home to unsafe, insecure conditions. For many women and girls, there is no safe way to escape. (Human Rights are Women’s Rights, Amnesty International 1995).

Rape as a weapon against women has a long history. The Crusaders in the 12th century raped women in the name of religion, the conquest of the Americas in the 15th century saw the mass rape of indigenous women by invading forces. English soldiers in the 18th century systematically raped Scottish women during the subjugation of Scotland, rape was a weapon of terror used by the German army in the First World War and was used by the Soviet army in the Second World War. More recently, during the Bosnia-Herzegovina conflict soldiers from their own town or strangers passing through raped women in their homes.

But women are not safe in times of peace either. Male relatives in the name of family honour carry out honour killings in Pakistan. In India, brides are burnt to death because they fail to bring a sufficient dowry. In parts of Africa, the practice of female genital mutilation continues in the name of religion and culture. In Russia, domestic violence is not viewed as a distinct crime despite the admission that 14,000 women die every year as a result of domestic violence and the perpetrators are unlikely to face prosecution. “In the United Kingdom police answer one call every minute for public assistance against domestic violence. In the United States, a woman is battered every 15 seconds, and 700,000 women are raped every year.” (Irene Khan, Amnesty International News Document 2002).
These victims would be faceless if it were not for the human rights defenders, both men and women, who take action to eliminate violations of fundamental human rights. Defenders work in various spheres of society – through campaigns, debate and constant vigilance.

In recent decades, there has been credible progress in the advancement of women. Despite disparities amongst developing and developed countries, women on a worldwide basis have better access to education and proper health care. Women are protected in many countries by equal opportunity legislation that promises equal opportunities for women and respect for their human rights. There are many more women participating at a policy and decision making level, but despite these successes, we cannot afford complacency as we work towards better lives for women the world over. Nowhere in the world can women claim to have all the same rights and opportunities as their male counterparts. (United Nations, 2002)

Those of us who are interested in progress need constantly to expose our institutions, our ideas, our methods, and ourselves to challenges. History has shown that women have played a vital role and have been a powerful force for change; they have been the catalysts and initiators of activism.

Many of these women go unrecognised, so I would like to honour just a few: The Mothers of Plaza de Mayo who campaigned actively for those who disappeared during the years of military rule in Argentina; the Saturday Mothers in Turkey, whose weekly vigil attracted international attention and helped to halt the wave of “disappearances”; Irene Fernandez, a prominent Malaysian activist and campaigner for the rights of women and migrant workers, who is on trial for her report on immigration detention camps; the women of Myanmar who have been at the forefront of the pro-democracy movement, including Dr Cynthia Maung who set up a border clinic in Thailand that treats 150 patients a day, delivers 10 to 20 babies a month, trains 30 medics a year and provides checkups, immunisations and education about nutrition, sanitation and family planning. (Amnesty International Women’s Human Rights Campaign Kit 2002)

These women demand our respect and admiration, and our committed support. Each of us can play a part. You can join a human rights organisation, set up international networks with colleagues in other countries and assist them in their fight for human rights, support safe havens for women in high risk countries, participate in letter writing actions by forming letter writing groups, lobby the Australian government and the governments of other countries, and work with and pressure large corporations. You will honour and recognise both victims and defenders by doing so.

—

"History has shown that women have played a vital role and have been a powerful force for change; they have been the catalysts and initiators of activism."


“Nick Enright’s ability to drill into the lives of people is quite extraordinary...” The Australian, 11 January 2002.
Forging artistic connections

Ask Lindy Hume, the new artistic director of the UWA Perth International Arts Festival, what makes a successful festival and she is unhesitating: “Connecting with the audience in lots of different ways.”

Having been at the helm of many successful operatic productions in Australia and Europe, the festival’s first female artistic director has a wealth of experience in forging those all important connections.

“T here’s no magic formula in putting together an international arts festival, no instruction manual,” says Lindy Hume, busy shaping the 2004 UWA Perth International Arts Festival. “Every festival is a unique response to the people and the city in which it is staged, and to the artists involved.

“Arts festivals are by nature dynamic – what works for Perth in 2004 will not be right for 2014. They also respond quite dramatically to the personalities involved in creating them, which is not to say that I am putting my stamp on everything or worrying about how ‘my’ festival will differ from those produced by David Blenkinsop or Sean Doran.

“However I am an artist – and the first woman to fill this post, and it’s interesting that our research indicates that ticket buying decisions are generally made by women – so I clearly represent that demographic.”

Lindy Hume comes to the festival after a 15 year career in opera, directing productions for Opera Australia, and being a highly regarded former artistic director of the WA Opera. She’ll direct the Richard Mills’ opera Batavia for the 2004 festival, and she clearly views the pulling together of the festival as a creative work.

“I see it as part of my artistic output,” she says. “I am trying to keep my creativity at the fore rather than allowing it to be eclipsed by the day-to-day business of staging a festival – and I can do that because I have great support from a general manager (Wendy Wise) and an associate director (Shelagh Magadza), both with wide managerial experience.

“However, artistic directors have to be financially responsible – we can’t live in la-la land – and I believe that artists have more business capability than we are credited with. I have been running opera companies for 10 years, so I do have a good sense of the financial and corporate side of things.”

Having attended most of the regional programs that helped to make this year’s festival the largest yet in terms of its reach, Ms Hume will be gauging regional responses when shaping future initiatives.

“There has always been input from country WA, and I would like to extend this over the next few years,” she says. “I think the vitality of regional arts is one of this State’s cultural strengths. In 2004 we will be focussing on the Kimberley region, and working with both the UWA’s Berndt Museum of Anthropology and the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

“Last year our program in Albany was a huge success. The audiences were very responsive, very hungry for Festival events, so we are definitely developing that relationship, in fact we recently had three people there talking about community projects, sponsorships, and establishing a Friends group.

“However, not all regional programs met with the same response and I believe it’s important that we get to know communities before making plans to take programs there. It is important that we plan projects together rather than arriving in their backyard with an artistic offering.

“We also need to be sure that there is a fit between what the festival (and the city) can bring to a region and what the audience can accept and embrace. We have no desire to land like Planet Festival and then leave nothing behind. We want to develop long term relationships, so that the festival becomes a
central, positive presence in town. And if that fails to happen, we won’t go.

“There is also no desperate need for festival activity to happen every year in a particular region. We are flexible and understand that there are movements and phases in the life of a region – sometimes a festival will be a huge success and at other times it won’t work. So we have to be sensitive to that rather than just ploughing on regardless.”

The festival does considerable research to monitor spending and behaviour patterns in both Perth and the regions, and Ms Hume says that, in addition, there is no shortage of feedback. “We listen hard, and I want it known that I am very much an audience friendly director. I like to know the reality of what people are saying rather than what they should be saying.”

Communicating effectively with local arts organisations is also a priority for Ms Hume, with Lotterywest providing an additional $1 million specifically to fund collaborations with the local industry.

“The festival should be a unifying presence in the local arts industry. We provide an appropriate platform to showcase the very best of local artistic endeavours. We should be at the centre of the creative process, and those who will be part of that process – and with whom we will be having dialogue – are the major companies and galleries, as well as distinctive artists who live in this State. We think we have a very important role to play in raising the bar and giving an incentive to the local industry, and using our collective power to revitalise the competence of Western Australian artists. The additional funding from Lotterywest will enable us to develop long term relationships with these companies and to initiate exciting collaborations.

“We also have strong relationships with local universities, and in particular with UWA, which is our home. Tertiary students already benefit from master classes, forums and all kinds of discourse as part of the festival, and I hope to develop that stream because arts festivals obviously have the potential to grow in this area.”

While she shapes the 2004 festival, PIAF’s new artistic director is not abandoning her career in opera. She directed Carmen for Opera Australia this May and will direct The Barber of Seville for Houston Grand Opera in April 2004.

“I’ll keep doing one or two gigs a year, but I am learning to say ‘no’ and it’s very empowering,” she says. “However, I do want to keep my hand in as an artist. I don’t want just a desk job. I identify myself much more as an artist than an administrator, so to suddenly not be involved in directing would not be a healthy thing. I intend to make sure my skills are kept sharp.”

The 51st Perth International Arts Festival runs from 6 to 29 February 2004. Bookings open for Batavia on 1 October. Bookings for the rest of the program open on release of the Festival brochure in November. The festival website is: www.perthfestival.com.au ■
Marron are making a big impact during overseas trade missions and UWA research aims to make it easier for breeders to select the best strains.

with Western Australia currently exporting marron valued at more than one million dollars to fish markets and restaurants across the world, researchers at UWA are working with Danish scientists to solve one of the industry’s most pressing problems – achieving consistency in the size of these freshwater crayfish bred for export.

Scientists in Denmark are in the vanguard of genetic breeding and aquaculture, and earlier this year two leading scientists from the Danish Institute of Agricultural Science, Dr Mark Henryon (a UWA graduate) and Dr Peer Berg, visited UWA to work with local researchers. They also conducted workshops for undergraduate and postgraduate students and others interested in aquaculture genetics.

UWA researchers are already undertaking much useful research in aquaculture genetics in relation to yabbies. Now, in collaboration with the WA Department of Fisheries and with support from the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, they are focussing on the succulent local freshwater crayfish that are increasingly in demand in Europe, Asia and the US.

Dr Vercoe and Dr Craig Lawrence, a senior research scientist with the Department of Fisheries, are based at UWA’s Shenton Park station where they oversee an aquaculture genetics research project facility accommodating some 80,000 marron (representing 13 strains).

“The great value of marron is their large size – being larger than prawns, they fit a size niche in the market and make a good meal. But when you are exporting, the market demands consistency of size. We are confident that the latest Danish software will make it easier for breeders to select the best strains for breeding larger marron more quickly and consistently,” says Dr Vercoe.

The visit of the researchers from Denmark was supported by a grant from the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering. UWA is hoping to establish formal linkages with the International Network on Genetics in Aquaculture. Currently only nine research organisations in the world have been accredited by this body as an Advanced Scientific Institute in Aquaculture Genetics. Such recognition would enhance future international collaborations in aquaculture genetics for the University.

Banksias are key species in the woodlands of the Swan Coastal Plain. There are five species in Kings Park and they have decreased rapidly in recent decades. Scientists have noticed that similar deaths have occurred in rehabilitated vegetation following sand mining, and in crops of Proteaceae grown for export.

Consultations with arboriculturists, plant pathologists and entomologists have failed to provide a plausible explanation for the autumn deaths, so UWA researchers are now tackling the problem using an integrated ecophysiological approach.

“we propose a research strategy that combines the monitoring of key physiological processes during the critical season, and the assessment of indicators of plant function using morphometric, stable isotope and nutrient analyses,” says Dr Vercoe.

“Banksias are an important element of the ecosystem, not only because they are so prominent and attractive, but also because different species flower throughout the year, supplying nectar to birds at times when this is really important.

“My worry is that these deaths are a reflection of more profound changes in our bushland – changes likely to become more severe, making it difficult to restore ecosystems that have been altered. There are parts of Kings Park and Bold Park, for instance, where weeds are changing the ecosystem and this often coincides with Banksia deaths, so it is one of the things we are looking at. Old age is certainly not the cause of death. Banksias can live to be a hundred in the right conditions and many of those that are dying are young.”

If you would like to know more about this research please contact Erik Veneklaas on +61 8 9380 3584 or email: eveneklaa@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
In another area, Professor Ackland recently headed a research team (including Professor Bruce Elliott and Dr David Lloyd) that examined the causes of anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) injuries that are taking a toll on footballers.

"From a purely mechanistic standpoint, ACL injury occurs when the applied load on the knee ligaments exceeds its strength (which depends on many factors such as hormone levels, loading history and prior injury). Training can affect the neuromuscular control of movement and load experienced by the ACL."

"Our research indicated that balance training was the only training regime that acted to reduce the external knee loading in evading manoeuvres typically employed in sport. There is now a need to formulate appropriate training packages (with equipment and guidelines) for use by football clubs and to assess their effectiveness."

The UWA research was funded by the Australian football League.

Researchers measure the loading on knee ligaments during a 60 degree side-step manoeuvre.

COLLABORATIVE PROJECT
ANSWER ANCIENT PUZZLES

SCIENTISTS from around the world are working with researchers from UWA and the Geological Survey of Western Australia to find out about ancient life on earth some 3.5 billion years ago – and to settle some hotly debated issues. Japanese and American scientists from the University of Kagoshima, Pennsylvania State University and the NASA Astrobiology Institute joined researchers from The University of Western Australia and the Geological Survey of Western Australia in a major international collaborative research project that got under way in carefully selected areas of the Pilbara in July.

The Archean Biosphere Drilling Project aims to settle some hotly-debated questions about the existence of early forms of life in some of the world’s most ancient rock formations.

A diamond drilling rig – funded by the Japanese Ministry of Science and Education and NASA Astrobiology Institute – spent more than a month in the area, drilling deep into the Pilbara’s ancient rock. Samples obtained are being scrupulously analysed, and the results could settle debate on several issues – ranging from the existence of ancient life in Archean sedimentary rocks (between 2,700 and 3,500 million years old) to the composition of the atmosphere at that time.

"The Pilbara is one of the few places on earth where rocks older than 2,700 million years have suffered only minimal metamorphism," says Professor Mark Barley of UWA’s School of Earth and Geographical Sciences. "If you are looking for evidence of ancient life, this is where you come – because if you are to find fossils of micro-organisms you need to look in areas where the rock has been relatively undisturbed."

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Neuroscience student wins Travel Award

Helen Barbour has been awarded a 2003 University of Western Australia Graduates Association’s Alexander Cohen Postgraduate Travel Award. She speaks to Rita Clarke about her research into spinal cord repair.

Helen Barbour moved into neuroscience because she was fascinated with the workings of the brain, and into neurological regeneration because she finds it really annoying that regeneration hasn’t, as yet, been fixed. “The neurological system still won’t repair itself. Skin and bones repair but brain and spinal injuries are permanent.”

Helen, 25, was one of the first students to enroll in the newly formed Bachelor of Science (Neuroscience) created to maximise learning opportunities from UWA, The Queen Elizabeth 11 Medical Centre and Royal Perth Hospital. Now into the third year of her PhD, she has just won a UWAGA Alexander Cohen Postgraduate Research Travel Award, which she will use to attend the 10th International Symposium on Neural Regeneration in California at the end of the year. She will present a paper on her research topic Mechanism of Therapeutic Action of Cell Transplants for Spinal Cord Repair.

Her four supervisors, Professor Alan Harvey and Dr Giles Plant from UWA’s School of Anatomy and Human Biology, and Professor Lyn Beazley and Associate Professor Sarah Dunlop from the School of Animal Biology, are involved in different but complementary areas of brain and spinal research. Helen, with Dr Giles Plant, is experimenting on using a specialist type of cell from the nose to regenerate the spinal system. “The olfactory system is the only one in the whole central nervous system able to repair itself throughout life because there is a constant turnover of the small neurons. If they are damaged, new ones are still growing. But, they have to extend up to the brain and make a new connection which is difficult as the brain is not conducive to this.” Part of her research is looking at the support cells (olfactory ensheathing glia) to find out how they allow these nerves to regrow.

Although actor Christopher Reeve’s visits to Australia publicised stem cell research, and prompted the New South Wales Government to put money behind it, Helen says she is concentrating on taking a biopsy of cells from patients and growing them to increase the number of cells. The theory is then to transplant them back into the patient. “You have no ethical problems and no immune rejections. It’s a matter of optimising the way in which you do this.” The problem is to decide whether this will be a worthwhile operation, because further problems could be created. “Cells might develop into a tumour – we just don’t know.”

Helen hopes to see clinical trials in WA within the next five to 10 years, but stresses this will need a lot of good people and lots of money. Three years ago, Sponsorship from the Road Safety Council enabled the setting up of UWA, QE11 and RPH’s combined Neurotrauma Research Program (coordinated by Lyn Beazley). This sponsorship will extend for another year. “It’s hard to get sponsorship because you don’t get instant results. We can’t yet say ‘Get up and walk,’ and there’s still a lot of ground
work to be done.” But, she believes this kind of research should be top priority. Not only is the cost of looking after disabled people immense, the ramifications of the research are boundless and highly likely to be transferable to other areas. “If we work this out, with a bit of tweaking, it could be used in optics, traumatic brain injury, and injury that comes from diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.” Success will probably come through a combination of approaches: a clean up of the area of injury; drugs, to minimize cell death; physiotherapy and intensive care.

Helen has one more year to come up with some final answers in her particular area of research. “I don’t have them as yet. But they tell me you don’t expect to change the world in your PhD.”

So, will she continue working on her theories, post PhD? Although she will remain in biological science research - since she enjoys working towards a clinical solution and having control over what she is doing – she is not sure if she will stay in this area. “I’m looking forward to expanding my skills. The set dogma seems to be that you do your PhD and then go overseas. I don’t want to. I would like to stay in Perth, even if it is more difficult to get a job here, obviously, than canvassing the whole world.”

Let’s hope we find enough money for research to keep her.

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**50TH REUNION LUNCHEON**

Sunday 23 November 2003 – Winthrop Hall

UWA graduate Katharine Brisbane co-founded the influential Currency Press, Australia’s performing arts publisher, in 1971, and was managing editor and publisher until her retirement in 2001. A theatre critic for 21 years, she saw and influenced the rise of contemporary drama, film and music in Australia, and founded the Australian National Playwrights’ Conference in 1972. Honoured and awarded for outstanding service to theatre, music and publishing, Katharine has also written extensively on Australian theatre.

Katharine, who says she entered The University of WA at the best time – 1949 – will be guest speaker at the 50th Reunion Luncheon. Graduates of 1953, particularly, are invited to attend but other interested graduates from earlier years are also welcome.

We are still trying to trace some ‘lost graduates’ listed below. Anyone knowing the present address of any of these graduates is requested to pass the information to the Graduates Coordinator, Juanita Perez at the Convocation Office on +61 8 9380 1336 or email jperez@admin.uwa.edu.au

Mrs Lexie J Bell, Ms Norene A Bogg, Ms Elizabeth F Boulton, Mr James D Brickhill, Dr Richard J Chadwick, Mr Lance L Chao, Mr Harold A Chia, Ms Juliet M Cole, Ms Joan H Dixon, Mr Gordon R Eastwood, Mr Neil T Fernon, Mrs Margaret H Hammersley (Wilson), Mr John F James, Mr Francis J Johnson, Mr Barrie E King, Ms Kathleen M Lalor, Mr Charles McDonnell, Mr Rodney N McKenzie, Ms Ahmad Z Mohammad, Mr Neville S Moore, Mr Ian G Morison, Mr George C Moss, Ms Rita B Murphy, Ms Ann M Overs (Barbat), Mr Graham D Pearse, Mr Neville C Permezel, Mr John G Rickie, Mr Robert G Robson, Mr Leonard F Samuels, Mr John J Skelton, Mr Talbot E Smith, Dr John B Swan, Mr Boon T Tan, Ms Judith M Taylor, Ms Rene L Thomazt, Mr Ivor J Williams, Mr John M Woulfe, Mr Roy Jensen
Drama was not part of my undergraduate days at UWA – unless you count upsetting half of Perth by putting pictures of headstones on the front page of Pelican – but it is never too late for a theatrical touch.

Having tried many ways of keeping a conference audience awake over the years, I pulled a colourful trick in June, unbuttoning my conservative blue shirt while beginning an address to a group of obituary editors, writers and sheer enthusiasts. In America, mecca of over-the-top gestures, I figured, they would like this sort of thing.

It worked. Underneath the blue, I was wearing an Aboriginal-flag T-shirt. Symbolism was the pitch. The black, red and gold motif had a serious purpose. I had come to this quiet corner of the south-western US, I told the gathering, to discuss tributes-in-print to Aboriginal lives and the attempts that my newspaper, The West Australian, has made to include as many as possible in the three years it has been running the dedicated obituary section.

“Blackfellas,” I said, “is a word I wish to touch on. The term has been widely used over the years, by both Aboriginal people and others. There is a possibility that its use in the 21st-century may be offensive to some. Patronising, maybe. Too blunt – to people who prefer adjectives such as ‘indigenous’ rather than Aboriginal, or, even more blunt, black.”

Much more than mere wording was on the agenda in Las Vegas, New Mexico, a much more sedate place than its namesake, the gambling-and-glitz Vegas in Nevada. At this fifth annual obituaries chat-fest run by a redoubtable Texan, Carolyn Gilbert, the “blackfella” discussion point did, however, strike some as seminal because it entails the issues of respect, manners and sensitivity – all particularly important when it comes to obituaries.

I had chosen an Aboriginal topic for my paper partly because it would surely provide fresh subject matter for a largely US audience. Of the 60 conference-goers, three were from Australia, two from England, including the London Daily Telegraph’s obituaries editor, and one from Canada, a feisty woman with the intriguing name of Ashante Infantry.

Another motivation for my choice of material, however, was the chance to discuss a theme that was not only international – Australia’s colonial and post-colonial heritage – but would surely resonate in a setting where past mistreatment and marginalisation of local indigenous people, not to mention minorities, is never far below the surface of future-oriented everyday American life.

Gathering the life story of a Nyoongar or Yamatji could present similar difficulties, such as lack of documentation, to acquiring information on Apache people, who were/are a major group in New Mexico, and on Comanche, from further west in Texas.

During the ten minutes I left for questions there was no time to mention Native Americans (the latest socially-impeccable term) because of so much curiosity about Aboriginal people. “Is it true they refuse to allow photographs to be used of dead
people, and must not utter even their name?” asked one man. In some cases, yes, is the answer, but on neither point is it a blanket ruling.

Other subjects on the agenda of the three-day gathering were candour/sanitisation in tributes; whether they should be signed or anonymous; choice of subject — should they be household names, or names of worthy citizens barely known beyond their own households and social networks. And, in any case, need they be worthy? One especially interesting conference session centred on which obituary editors present had included, or excluded, the passing of English Moors murderer, Myra Hindley, last year. The West Australian did include her, though with the footnote that the article was not a tribute but a recognition that her crimes, and the political and social saga that her continued imprisonment became, had great impact.

Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association

ANNUAL ELECTIONS

- Election of Warden and Deputy Warden
- Election of 13 members of the Council of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association

Application forms now are available for the above positions.

- MR PETER CLIFTON will complete his one-year term as Warden of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association in March 2004.
- MR MATTHEW ZILKO will complete his one-year term as Deputy Warden of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association in March 2004.

Eight members of the Council of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association will complete terms in March 2004, and there are five additional vacancies.

Nomination forms for all of these positions now are available from Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association. Please telephone Juanita Perez, the Convocation Officer on 9380 3006, or email on uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au including your postal address.

Please consider nominating for one of these positions.

The closing date for nominations of the positions listed is 5pm Friday, 23 January 2004.

Applications received after this date will be declared invalid.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

invites all graduates and other members of Convocation to attend the
FIRST ORDINARY MEETING of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association which will be held on Friday 19 March 2003 at 6.30pm for 7pm start at University House

The address will be given by:
Professor Alan Harvey of the Faculty of Life and Physical Science at UWA.

Professor Alan Harvey from the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences at The University of Western Australia
1940s

- **Roy Hamilton** (BE 1947) has finally retired at age 78 to settle back in Perth. He joined the State Public Works Department in 1946, moving to the Pilbara where as District Engineer he supervised the construction of water supplies, rebuilt jetties and maintained buildings. In 1954, he moved to Wellington Dam to build a hydro-electric power station, and then led a team of some 400 workers to raise the Wellington Dam 50 ft (15.15 m). In 1963, he was appointed Resident Engineer and Diversion Dam and the 30,000 acre (12,000ha) irrigation area. The work was completed in 1963. In 1973, he was appointed Director North West Department, and he retired in 1983. He then, with wife Roselee, moved to Kununurra to take up a 12.5ha block of land to develop a mango plantation. He has been honoured with an OAM in 1998 for services to agriculture and the community, and a Centenary Medal in 2003 for services to the community of Kununurra. He now hopes to continue with his golf and to meet up with old friends in Perth.

- **Ron Lyons** (BSc(Hons) 1949) worked in lead-zinc-copper mining for two years in eastern Australia, then won a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of California (Berkeley) and received his PhD in 1954. After mining experiences in England, Australia and the USA, he joined Stanford Research Institute as a geoscientist working on lunar soil research. He studied lunar exploration methods at NASA Ames Research Centre, California, where he assisted in the development of Satellite Remote Sensing. He retired in 1993 as Emeritus Professor of Geological and Environmental Sciences and continues to teach one course a year in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Sciences in the GEX Department at Stanford University. Ron was awarded the William T. Pecora Award in 2001 for outstanding and sustained scientific, educational, and professional leadership in geological remote sensing. He is married with four children and five grandchildren.

1950s

- **Douglas Stuart** (LLB 1952) retired in 1984 and in 1989 moved to live in Burleigh Heads, Qld.
- **William Matthews** (BE 1957) retired in 1998 after 41 years of consulting engineering in the power industry on five continents. But lives in Quebec, Canada.

1960s

- **Ross Abbott** (BE(Hons) 1962) is a Director of Classic Columns Australia Pty Ltd and retired from full-time work. Ross lives on the Central Coast of NSW and is a volunteer for the East Timor project.
- **Lawrence Ingrasen** (BSc 1963; DipEd 1966) is Research Director at the Australian Council for Educational Research, developing a research program on teaching and learning, and other aspects of the professional development of teachers. He previously worked at Monash University for 30 years.
- **Stephen Hastings** (BSc(Hons) 1966; DipEd 1979) is lecturing in information technology at Central TAFE, East Perth campus. Leisure activities include playing second tenor horn for the City of Perth Brass Band and singing in the WASO chorus. Former classmates can contact him at hastis@perth.training.wa.gov.au.
- **Peter Phillips** (BSc(Hons) 1976) is a senior research scientist with the National Acoustic Laboratory, researching hearing loss prevention based upon research in cochlear mechanics. He lives in Narrabeen, Sydney.
- **Jawah Hough** (BCom(Hons) 1976) writes that she has just returned to the UK after spending nearly three years in Houston, USA, unfortunately unable to work due to visa restrictions. Now living in Bucks, England, she is delighted to be reunited with her two sons.

1970s

- **Ted Witham** (BA(Hons) 1970) has been Executive Director of YouthCARE WA for nearly five years. YouthCARE oversees chaplaincy and religious education programs in government schools. Ted used his five-week study leave last March to explore how religion was being administered in public schools in the USA. He considers that our public schools are much more hospitable to religious viewpoints.
- **Morrice Caputi** (BSc 1971; BCom 1977) has been appointed CEO of Connex, NSW, a public transport company based in Sydney.

1980s

- **Paul Abbott** (BDS 1980) is Head of UWA’s School of Dentistry and Director of the Oral Health Centre of WA. He is also responsible for teaching undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Endodontics. Paul is a registered specialist endodontist and has a one day/week private practice in Subiaco.
- **John Cunningham** (MB BS 1980) has left general practice in Mandurah and has been physician trainee at Fremantle Hospital since January.

1990s

- **Douglas Simpson** (BCom 1971; DipEd 1975; BEd 1982) has just finished a five-year term as honorary aide-de-camp to the Governor of Western Australia and is now teaching at Trinity College, Perth. He is actively involved in volunteer work with the State Emergency Service, as a Justice of the Peace, and also works part-time with the Royal Australian Air Force Reserve, as a marine operations officer with a P3 Orion air crew. He is married with one daughter.
- **Neville Probert** (BE(Hons) 1973) moved to Melbourne after graduating, learnt to fly gliders and became passionately interested in aviation. In 1978, he joined the Airworthiness branch of the Department of Transport. 25 years later, and now living in Canberra, Neville is the Head of Airworthiness Standards in the Civil Aviation Safety Authority.
- **Eric Le Page** (MSc 1975; PhD 1982) is a senior research scientist with the National Acoustic Laboratory, researching hearing loss prevention based upon research in cochlear mechanics. He lives in Narrabeen, Sydney.
- **Susan Williams-Johnson** (BA 1971) recently moved to Canberra to take up the Foundation Chair in Pathology in the ANU Medical School, having immediately before been Director of Chemical Pathology for Queensland Health Pathology Service. Her husband, Associate Professor Peter Hickman (MB BS 1980) has been appointed Director of Chemical Pathology for ACT Pathology.
- **Robin Smith** (BA 1972) writes that she and her husband are happily settled in West Gin Gin. They own Neergabby Organic Farm, a Bed & Breakfast farm on 20 hectares on the banks of the Gin Gin Brook and the attractive rimmed limestone and timber homestead has three double rooms. Email: nofsmith@iinet.net.au
- **Robin White** (BA(Hons) 1982) is a marine operations officer with a P3 Orion air crew. He is married with one daughter.
- **Richard Mallaby** (BSc(Agric) 1986) is Research Director at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. He is an active member of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and held the position of Director of the Institute of Health and Welfare for 10 years. He is a member of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Council.
- **Peter Phillips** (BSc(Hons) 1976) is a senior research scientist with the National Acoustic Laboratory, researching hearing loss prevention based upon research in cochlear mechanics. He lives in Narrabeen, Sydney.
- **Cassandra James** (nee Lawson) (BSc (Hons) 1984; PhD 1989) is a senior lecturer and teaches immunology at Murdoch University. She also leads a research team discovering novel immunotherapies for influenza virus and herpes virus infections.
- **Robin White** (BE 1985) is a marine operations officer with a P3 Orion air crew. He is married with one daughter.
- **John Kraljevic** (BA(Hons) 1982) is a journalist (commercial features editor) at the Peterborough Evening Telegraph in the UK. John’s leisure interest is cricket – he plays for a local village team, Biston Park. Married with a teenage daughter, he is a regular traveller to Europe, often on motoring press launches.
- **Helen Paton** (BSc 1980) has lived in Melbourne since 1985. She has worked as an audiologist at the Royal Childrens’ Hospital, Vision Australia and the Victorian Deaf Society. Helen now runs her own private practice and is married with two young daughters. She writes that she visited Perth last year to see her father, Robert Paton before been Director of Chemical Pathology for Queensland Health Pathology Service. Her husband, Associate Professor Peter Hickman (MB BS 1980) has been appointed Director of Chemical Pathology for ACT Pathology.
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- **Mark Warren** (BE 1982) has been working as a business consultant with Worley for 14 years focusing on improving business within Worley and their client organisations.
- **Gregory Burgess** (Blair’s 1984; LLB 1985) has recently returned after nine years in Switzerland and is now working for McCallum Donovan Sweeney, solicitors. He specialises in personal injury law including medical negligence. Greg is married with a baby daughter.
- **Gerard Crowley** (Blairs 1984; LLB 1985) is an assistant solicitor at Weil, Gotshal & Manges, in London.
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Richard Dale (BE(Hons) 1987) was a design engineer for four years before moving to London. He completed an MBA at the London Business School, while working in venture capital and management consulting. He now runs his own business, Ergo Value Creation Partners and lives in Sydney with his wife and three children. Richard is planning to visit Perth in January and would like to catch up with old mates. Contact him at rdale@ergovalue.biz.

Lisa Thompson (BA 1984) played Buddy Holly’s wife in the long-running musical, The Buddy Holly Story, touring Australia from 1991-93. Lisa left Australia several years ago after gaining a scholarship at Salvador University in Brazil, where she studied dance and music. She writes that her experiences as a sheep-drencher and salsa dancer inspired her to write Fleeced, which is her first novel.

Debra Shearer-Dirie (BMusEd(Hons) 1992) is working as a music specialist in Port Hedland. She is married with a baby daughter and lives in Wedgefield, near Port Hedland.

Erica Johns (BA 1990; DipEd 1999) has moved to Melbourne with her partner, and has taken up a position in the English discipline of Paediatrics at the University of Tasmania.

Hanni Gennat (BSc; PhD 2003) teaches in the discipline of Anatomy and Physiology and is also a project officer in the discipline of Paediatrics at the University of Tasmania.

Irene Sezgin (née Chin) (BSc 1988) has been managing director of her own telecommunication software business, Viciom Systems, for the past seven years. She is married with a baby daughter and lives in Lane Cove and Sydney.

James Jones (BA(Hons) 1989) is Project Manager, Human Resources, at the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead, UK. He is about to publish his first book on a history of post-war popular music.

1990s

Arani Coorey (BA 1990) writes that she is now working for NASA and lives in Pearl-land, Texas. Former classmates can contact her at acor@university.com.

Erica Johns (BA 1990; DipEd 1991) is taking 12 months leave without pay from her position at the Department of Veterans Affairs and now lives in Wedgefield, near Port Hedland.

Debra Shearer-Dirie (BMusEd(Hons) 1990) has just returned from the US after completing her master’s degree (MME) and Doctorate in Choral Conducting at Indiana University. She is currently working at the Queensland Conservatorium, Griffith University, in Brisbane.

Natasha Goulden (LLB 1992) is a senior associate in the property division of Clayton Utz, based in Sydney.

Robyn Gibson (née Wager) (BMusEd (Hons) 1992) is working as a music specialist in the junior school at Penrith College. She teaches K-2 class music and coordinates the string ensembles. Robyn and her husband, Peter, are now the proud parents of a baby son, who was born last May. Former classmates can contact her at rgibson@smartchat.net.au.

Belinda Lonsdale (LLB 1992; MBA 2000) commenced practice last April as a barrister, primarily in the area of criminal law, at Albert Wolff Chambers, in Perth.

Robert Ash (BE(Hons) 1993) works for Clough Engineering and is now the Instal-lation Manager for large scopes of work on offshore oil and gas construction and installation projects. In over ten years with Clough he has worked in the North Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. Now based in Perth, he has just installed the first tension leg platform in SE Asia, off the east coast of Borneo.

Hanni Gennat (BSc; PhD 2003) teaches in the discipline of Anatomy and Physiology and is also a project officer in the discipline of Paediatrics at the University of Tasmania.

Gillian Scott (BA 1993; DipEd 1999) has moved to Melbourne with her partner, and has taken up a position in the English Department of Methodist Ladies College, in Kew. Although based in Melbourne, they are both hoping to continue their travels further afield including visits back to Perth.

John Cailles (DipEd 1985) has since completed an MA and is now writing for his PhD. He says that he is looking forward to sending a copy of his soon to be published short stories to the University library and to follow that with his current novel.
Nicole Glenn (née Free) (BSc(Agric) 1995) is now a full-time mother looking after her baby son. Prior to this happy event, Nicole worked as an employment consultant in Muswellbrook, NSW. Former classmates can contact her at nglenn@bigpond.com

Kirsten Bennett (née Milne) (BMusEd(Hons) 1994) taught primary school music at St Mary’s Anglican Girls’ School for six years. She writes that she took one year’s leave to teach primary children at a school in Essex, UK, then made a brave decision to stay there because she enjoyed the change. She subsequently met and married a Suffolk boy. Their first child was born in July. Former classmates can contact Kirsten at kirstenmilne@hotmail.com

Claudette Kelly (PhD 1997) is teaching undergraduate student nurses at the University College of the Cariboo, in Kamloops, Canada.

Daniel Kuan Li Oi (BE(Hons) 1998; BSc(Hons) 1998) writes that after graduating, he completed Part 3 of the Mathematical Tripos at Cambridge, then “defected” to Oxford for a DPhil before returning to Cambridge to take up a research position at the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics, specializing in the physics of quantum information. He was recently elected a Junior Research Fellow at Sidney Sussex College, beginning October 2003.

Marin Le Tessier (BCom 1998) is married with three children, and running a financial planning practice in West Perth.

Jeremy Powell (BEc 1999) is studying for the degree of Master of Applied Finance at Macquarie University, in Sydney.

Rebecca Boyd (née Ferguson) (BPHE 1999; BEc 1999) is studying for a Master of Applied Finance at Macquarie University. She is now working full-time at Young and Rubicam Matttingly, whilst finishing her studies. Former classmates can contact her at sally-anne_cox@bu.yr.com

Clare Winters (BSc 1999) moved to Brisbane after graduation and worked for the Department of Defence. She spent two years working as a liaison officer for the Department of Defence in London. She writes that she was married in 1998 (eloped while on holiday in Japan) and now has two young boys. Former classmates can contact Paulina at derlacki@netspeed.com.au

Ryan Johnstone (BA 1996; DipEd 2000) taught English at a private girls’ school in London, after graduating. He returned to Perth last year and took up a position as lecturer at the City of Perth TAFE.

Alexandra Sjostrom (née Backman) (BSc 1998; GradDipSc 2001) and her sister, Natasha Ross-Connelly, run their own business, Como Health and Fitness Centre. She writes that the business has a predominant focus on osteoporosis prevention and rehabilitation.

Brionne English (BE(Hons)) 2001) has been working as a mechanical engineer with the Perth company Meridian Engineers for the past three years. She writes that her work involves FE analysis, piping analysis, and the project management of the design supply and installation of complex weighing systems for bins, tanks and trains.

Elizabeth Mackley (BA(Hons)) 2001) has been working for the past two years as the Personal Assistant to the Managing Director of Market Equity.

Lisa Corbellini (BA(Hons)) 2002) moved to Canberra and began a one-year graduate position with the Attorney-General’s Department. Lisa writes that she is one of 18 graduates with the department and one of three non-law recruits.

Sally-Anne Cox (BCom) 2002) moved to Melbourne in 2001 and commenced a Master’s degree in Advertising at RMIT. She is now working full-time at Young and Rubicam Matttingly, whilst finishing her studies. Former classmates can contact her at sally-anne_cox@bu.yr.com

Catherine Harris (BA 2002; BEc 2002) is in the graduate program of the Department of Transport and Regional Services, in Canberra. She writes that she works in land transport planning and marine security anti-terrorism.

Ian Shen (MBA 2002; MFinMgt 2003) is working for Mortimer and Chau Holding Services, which is a diversified financial services company in Wellington Street, Perth.

Sunshine on UWA Expo 2003

ABOUT 20,000 people took advantage of perfect weather to visit the University for Expo 2003 on Sunday August 30. Most wanted information about courses, others were interested in postgraduate studies, and some came just to take in the atmosphere and roam the beautiful UWA grounds.

The annual UWA Expo has become an important way for UWA to encourage prospective students, as well as opening its doors to the wider community. Hundreds of staff and students volunteer their time each year to present information lectures and displays across all faculties.

The area around the New Fortune Theatre (in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) is always a hub of activity. The theatre’s balconies were filled for a performance by UWA’s big band (pictured below), conducted by jazz lecturer Matthew Styles.
‘Christmas in July’ dinner

THE Sydney event billed as a ‘Christmas in July’ dinner at the Holiday Inn, Potts Point, sold-out one week prior to the function. Guest speaker, well-known ABC broadcaster and graduate, Geraldine Doogue AO (BA 1972), discussed the topic: How UWA prepares us for life. Her talk included a series of reminiscences, some serious and mostly humorous. The sell-out crowd of more than 90 graduates is eagerly awaiting the next function from this dynamic Sydney committee.

1. Ms Geraldine Doogue, Mr Peter Turpin
2. Professor Ian Hume, Mrs Desley Hume, Professor Ivan Kennedy

Melbourne reunion

THE largest-ever gathering of graduates at an interstate event was also held in July at the historic Swanston Hall, in the Melbourne Town Hall. More than 400 graduates and their guests relived fond memories of their student days at UWA, and also heard Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (and Vice-Chancellor designate), Alan Robson AM, deliver an address on developments and successes at UWA.

3. Trevor Jones, Vanessa Williams, Rachel Ryan, Professor Alan Robson, Natasha Dean
4. Julian Yeo, Peter Soukalopoulos, Aaron Laniucha, Antony Arnold
5. Adrian Down, Susan Farr, Matthew den Elzen, Megan de Jong
6. Peter Leunig, Lorraine Emden-Snook
7. Sharon Wong, Phillip Barrett, Joanne Chapman, Matthew Dry, Melissa Trudinger
8. Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, National Vice-President, Mrs Judith Parker, National President and International President, Mrs Pnina Herzog

Global women’s meeting

THE University of Western Australia and Senate Member, Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, hosted a dinner in September for the General Assembly of the International Council of Women. It was the first time in the 115-year history of the Council that the General Assembly had been held in the southern hemisphere.

The Assembly elected Mrs Judith Parker as a voting member of the Board, and Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, as its International Adviser for ‘International Relations and Peace 2003-2006’.

8. Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, National Vice-President, Mrs Judith Parker, National President and International President, Mrs Pnina Herzog
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A DIVISION OF THE UWA GUILD OF UNDERGRADUATES