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FEATURES

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COVER: UWA student Adam Lucas who has been selected for the Olympic swimming squad, with his younger sister Amy. Both competed in the Olympic trials in Sydney. (See Let the games begin…) Photo: Ian Ferguson, The West Australian

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UWA Internet: http://www.uwa.edu.au
UWA's School of Music graduates are much in demand. While the ensemble music of three graduates became a ‘wedding gift’ at Denmark’s recent royal wedding in Copenhagen (more about them in the next issue), members of the successful Giovanni Consort are spreading their wings locally in preparing a spring-time musical treat.

For a decade the Giovanni Consort has been building a reputation as a leading vocal ensemble group that sings challenging music extremely well. This year their annual concert series will be performed twice, and in several venues including UWA.

The young musicians are delighted at the prospect of performing on campus, because the School of Music played a role in the consort’s formation. Graduate Andrew Foote initiated UWA workshops in 1994 and general manager Guy Hooper recalls: “he always stressed the importance of our ability to create vocal work for ourselves.”

You can check out the details of the group’s performances by ringing +618 9389 7054 or by email to: bookings@giovanniconsort.com

Statistics show that UWA graduates are among the nation’s most successful in gaining employment. We can share this ‘good news story’ because of response to the annual Graduates Destinations Survey.

The survey, conducted in association with the Graduate Careers Council of Australia, aims to find out about the work, further study and other activities of graduates. It can be completed on line (http://ogsds.gradlink.edu.au) or by filling in the questionnaire sent to all graduates recently.

The information is used by career advisors to help students to make informed career and study decisions; by higher education institutions in strategic planning; and by employers in developing recruitment programs. Data provided is only seen by the UWA Survey Manager and confidentiality is assured. The University is hoping that graduates will have completed the survey by early June.

The Robson family: UWA Arts student Suzanne, Professor Robson, wife Gwen (a UWA Arts graduate) and UWA Arts/Law graduate Andrew.

With complex education issues dominating the national political agenda and a hectic schedule of events as UWA’s new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson enjoyed the purely celebratory nature of at least one early commitment: a Winthrop Hall ceremony to mark the commencement of his term of office.

More than 400 attended the celebration, with Chancellor Ken Michael, Westfarmers CEO (and UWA graduate) Dr Michael Chaney and Guild President Ms Susie Byers offering public congratulations. The Vice-Chancellor was surrounded by family members on this proud occasion, with only daughter Nicole, who is studying in Tasmania, unable to attend.

A diary date to note is UWA Expo 2004 on Sunday 29th August, a great occasion for appreciating the full spectrum of what is on offer at this University. The day-long event combines informative course information sessions with hands-on displays, music, community events and campus tours.

Visitors can chat to UWA staff and students, view exhibits and demonstrations, attend talks on courses, enjoy concerts, and stroll through the beautiful UWA grounds. There will be over 40 talks on areas of interest to prospective students.

Visit the Expo website at www.expo.uwa.edu.au – if you do you’ll be one of the 58,000 external visitors who access UWA’s website every day!

UWA PRESS – ANOTHER RECORD!

UWA Press is currently celebrating the success of its children’s book Deliverance of Dancing Bears, which won two awards from The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The Press also has a record number of short-listed titles in the WA Premier’s Book Awards, including John Dowson’s runaway success Old Fremantle.

This month UWA Press helps us to get acquainted with The People Next Door through Duncan Graham’s appealing book on Indonesia. The award-winning journalist explores the world’s most populous Muslim nation and introduces us to a myriad of characters – from slum-dwellers to philanthropists, political malcontents to beleaguered householders.

It’s an intriguing journey: funny, sad, and revealing – and a timely contribution from a graduate who moves between Indonesia and rural Chittering, north-east of Perth.

Also available this month is Corroboree, winner of the...
feedback from readers

Our mail bag has been full of great letters, so sincere thanks to those who let us know they enjoy UNIVIEW – and the memories of UWA that it evokes.

A graduate living in Canada wrote: “I have wonderful memories of Australia as a whole and of UWA and Perth in particular. The beauty and charm of the city and university campus, and the friendliness and warmth of Western Australians are still in my mind… I do enjoy reading UNIVIEW every time. Congratulations for doing a great job. The articles and news are very interesting.”

Thanks also to those who wrote expressing appreciation of our feature on Rottnest, including Professor Jose Furtado of the Imperial College in London, and environmentalist and graduate, Dr Vincent Serventy, who gently chided us for referring to the island’s Wedge-tailed Shearwaters as ‘mutton birds’.

“Congratulations on UNIVIEW,” wrote Dr Serventy, who is President of Honour of the Wild Life Preservation Society of Australia. “The section on Rottnest Island was fascinating – my having known so many of the great early figures from Harry Waring onwards…”

Dr Serventy, author of Flight of the Shearwater, has been described as the ‘father of conservation in Australia’. He has travelled worldwide from Antarctica to Africa, and his autobiography is well worth reading – for this graduate fought many important local environmental battles. Vincent Serventy, An Australian Life is published by Fremantle Arts Centre Press.

make a diary date

While politicians are taking a keen interest in encouraging children to read, the UWA branch of Save the Children has been doing that for decades, as a spin-off of fund-raising through their annual book sale (16 – 21 July this year). The sale offers a huge range of children’s books at affordable prices and sees Winthrop Hall full of children paging through their ‘finds’!

Of course children’s books are just one category – from classics to cookery – that will be on sale in the Undercroft. But to sell, Save the Children first need to acquire – and that’s where you can help. If you have books to donate, pickups can be arranged by phoning: +61 9440 6411, 9312 3119 and 9385 9070.

the annual sale attracts thousands and by the final day the crowds are still coming – lured by plummeting prices. Money raised helps disadvantaged children in WA and Save the Children programs in Iraq, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

in this issue...

Not surprisingly our thoughts turn to the Olympics in this issue. We explore the sports science that underpins elite performance and introduce you to UWA academics, students and graduates involved.

Our Newsmaker is UWA graduate Kevin Parker who has been appointed to the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague. There are two such tribunals to deal with humanitarian disasters in Yugoslavia and Rwanda as well as special bodies established by the UN to deal with the disasters in East Timor and Sierra Leone.

“It is hoped that the existing Tribunals will send a credible warning to those who turn to armed conflict that, win or lose, they may well find they must answer to an international judicial body should they be found responsible for grave abuses of international humanitarian law and the law of armed conflict. It is hoped that this may curb
To complete an Honours effort, he says, "I was persuaded that it was necessary, in the interests of humanity, to contribute to this response that the international community has yet evolved. "I was persuaded that it was necessary, in the interests of humanity, to contribute to this effort," he says.

He graduated with a degree in pure mathematics at the age of 16 and a PhD at 20. In 2002, a scholarship took him to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he focussed on automorphic forms and number theory. Currently, he is working on research that will see him working with Associate Professor Cai Heng Li and Professor Prager on a project entitled Factorisations of finite groups and graphs.

In his book *Taliban*, journalist Ahmed Rashid paints a grim picture of how power vacuums, entrenched poverty and the teachings of barely-literate madrassa fundamentalists produced an army of young zealots in Afghanistan who knew little beyond handling a weapon, and had even lost knowledge of the farming and herding that had long sustained the troubled region.

"They had no memories of the past, no plans for the future," wrote Rashid of those caught up in the civil strife that spilled across Afghanistan's borders.

UWA graduate Dr Kenneth Street is one of a small band of agricultural scientists trying to fill the skills vacuum in neighbouring Tajikistan. He is also helping the people of the Central Asia to exploit their one great asset: the ancient agricultural varieties that are progenitors of modern agricultural species.

The war devastated Tajikistan and lasted until 2002," says Dr Street, who is coordinating a regional plant genetic resource project for UWA's Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture. "The republic’s governance infrastructure is still very Soviet, bureaucratic and controlling, but as the old guard retires there seems to be a certain freshness as the old guard retires there seems to be a certain freshness and optimism for a brighter future creeping in — at least this is the case in Tajikistan.

"I feel it is right that the West should offer a helping hand to these struggling republics. I also see myself as a bit of an ambassador for Australia, because in recent times Australia has been the only country that has funded a significant genetic resource conservation program in Central Asia, so I like to make this known as widely as possible.”
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Western Australia celebrates its 175th birthday this year. And we want to find at least 175 people who are keen to share their memories of their school days.

We want to put some of these memories into the Western Australians on Show exhibit at the WA On Show exhibition to mark the opening of the Perth Convention Centre in August.

Send in your story by email to alumni@det.wa.edu.au. Or write to Alumni, Department of Education and Training, 151 Royal Street, East Perth WA 6004. We will get in touch with you before we publish anything.
FROM THE VICE-CHANCELLERY

I am pleased to report that your University has received an extremely positive assessment in a major external performance assessment by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

Not many organisations of our scale and importance to the community either get (or make) the time to take a ‘slice’ through their operations from top to bottom at any given time. The agency’s report provides us with an important check point in relation to our mission and our strategies and plans at a very important moment in higher education in Australia, with significant Government policy changes at a national level.

Our University clearly has been measured as a university continuing to make a significant contribution at levels of international excellence. It has been commended as a provider of high quality teaching and research with good outcomes and high morale among staff and students. This is a welcome affirmation of our standing within the higher education sector and importantly within the broader community that we serve.

The report also commends the University for developing a culture highly conducive to individual research, and for our new strategy of developing themes and fledgling centres as a means towards more effectively positioning the University to compete more effectively for larger collaborative research grants.

The student entry scores of our University rank among the highest nationally and internationally. While this is indicative of the University’s reputation for scholarship and is instrumental in subsequent student success, we were pleased that AUQA acknowledged our recognition that high entry scores alone do not ensure quality learning. We are in the process of changing our approach to teaching and learning towards an outcome-based education pedagogy and greater use of flexible learning methods.

The AUQA report also acknowledged that UWA has had “notable success in developing an approach to teaching and learning that makes professional studies accessible to Indigenous students.”

Also of significance in the early part of this year, has been the decision by our governing body, Senate, to take up the Federal Government’s option of increasing the student contribution to their education to 25 per cent above the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS).

The decision followed months of discussion and consultation with students, staff and the wider community and is in line with nearly all of Australia’s Group of Eight research-led universities. It reflects the university’s need to respond to chronic under-funding of the sector by the Federal Government over at least the past 10 years.

The result will be partial restoration of adequate levels of funding per student and arrest the further erosion of the University’s capacity to sustain both the quality of its staffing arrangements and the facilities and infrastructure to meet student needs.

Additional funding generated from the increase will be used to improve the quality of the student experience. A package of scholarships and financial support will also be developed.

Leading any university as Vice-Chancellor can be a challenging and at times daunting prospect. At our University, it is especially so as we intensify our efforts to excel in achieving the twin goals of serving our State, while at the same time pushing forward the boundaries of our claim to international excellence.

The need for strong and clear leadership is essential. This is exactly what I believe we have with the new executive team. We have a balance – not only in gender terms – but in experience both within and external to the university system. And there is a balance between those with knowledge of this University, and those who come from other institutions.

Our new Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Margaret Seares and Executive Director (Academic Services) and Registrar, Mr Peter Curtis are well known to our University community. Professor Doug McEachern joined us towards the end of last year as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation); and now we have been joined by Belinda Probert, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic) and Gaye McMath, Executive Director (Finance and Resources).

Of course, an executive team is nothing without the support of high-quality dedicated staff. At this University, our performance at national and international levels suggests we have just such staff across our academic, research and administrative areas.

Professor Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor
Defending ‘unfashionable truths’

Emeritus Professor Charles Oxnard is acknowledged on campuses – from UWA to University College London and the University of Chicago – as “a courageous defender of unfashionable truths”. The much honoured anatomist, biologist, materials scientist, and pioneer in the anthropological uses of computers and multivariate statistics is internationally renowned as a researcher, mentor and teacher. He is still engaged in the great adventure of scientific discovery – and continues to win applause from medical students when lecturing in anatomy.

UWA’s Professor Charles Oxnard observes that when in 1859 Charles Darwin suggested in The Origin of Species that Homo sapiens descended from primate ancestors, “there were many who prayed it was not true and others who hoped fervently that if it were true it would not become widely known.”

When, more than a century later, British researchers suggested that man’s most plausible ancestor was not the African ape, *Australopithecus africanus* – as leading paleoanthropologists of the day believed – there was a flurry of heated debate. Charles Oxnard was one of the scientific ‘heretics’, and only long after publication of an article by him in *Nature* in 1975 (entitled *The place of australopithecines in human evolution – grounds for doubt?*) did the tide of opinion swing his way.

“It has been exciting, over the years, to move from being a heretic to being centre stage!” beams the UWA Emeritus Professor who cuts a distinctive figure on campus, with his professorial demeanour, his broad North country accent and his ready humour.

In 2000 Professor Oxnard’s ground-breaking work became the subject of a US symposium in his honour and a year later he was the recipient of the Charles Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. At that time, a former student, Professor Matt Cartmill, now a respected scientist and one-time President of the American Physical Anthropologists, observed that the UWA researcher had placed his unique stamp on just about every aspect of his discipline across the second half of the 20th century. From the symposium has come an edited volume dedicated to Professor Oxnard by his students and colleagues. Entitled *Shaping Human Evolution*, it will be published by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Oxnard, said his former student, had spent much of his distinguished career “pursuing the lonely job of documenting unwelcome facts, using innovative methods borrowed in part from other fields of science.”

Professor Matt Cartmill, who studied under Professor Oxnard at the University of Chicago during the 1970s, went on to observe that the UWA academic’s research accomplishments have been almost as global as his residence patterns. He outlined for the audience the extraordinary span of a scientific career that began in the United Kingdom, then ranged across America, and is now centred in Australia – although the good professor is still on the move, having held a prestigious Leverhulme Trust Professorship at UK universities for the past few years. He is currently investigating the evolution of the brain in mammals, primates and humans, and his work is supported by both an Australian Research Council grant and a new Leverhulme Trust (UK) research project grant. The latter runs to 2006 and sees him moving each year between UWA, the Universities of York, Liverpool and London.

A Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the New York Academy of Sciences, Emeritus Professor Charles Oxnard’s long career in anatomy, anthropology and evolutionary biology has taken him from the dissection of cadavers to laser
investigations of the internal structure of bone. He has explored diverse methods for studying biological form and pattern through mathematics, physics and engineering, and in a range of anatomical regions in animals that encompass most members of the Order Primates.

He held the Chair of Anatomy and Human Biology at UWA from 1987 to 1997 when he became a Senior Honorary Research Fellow. While some in their seventies might adopt a more relaxed approach to research, Professor Oxnard’s enthusiasm and energy are unabated. Like his first scientific mentor at the University of Birmingham, Professor Sir Solly Zuckerman (“He retired in 1966, but never retired from problem-solving until his death in 1995…”), the UWA professor continues to relish the challenge of his research, and says that former and current students and colleagues are his enduring inspiration. In questioning and developing his original theories, they enable him to remain part of an unfolding discourse on the origin of species and the workings of the world.

Charles Oxnard is also acknowledged as an inspired teacher, who, as Professor Cartmill observes, “can pull off the nearly impossible feat of rousing a roomful of medical students to enthusiastic attention by talking about evolution.” He himself recalls the prescience of an unheralded teacher at a small Scottish village school who encouraged his own precocious interest in science at a time when Scottish education was strictly classical – mathematics but no science! He introduced the nine-year-old to the ideas of Wegener, Goethe, D’Arcy Thompson and Solly Zuckerman – and later the scholarship student became the last full-time student of Zuckerman, author of the 1934 book Functional Affinities of Man, Monkeys and Apes that had initially stirred his interest.

At that time the young researcher and his mentor were championing an unpopular school of thought about human evolution that went against theories espoused by leading paleoanthropologists who were drawing simple lines of descent (through as many fossils as possible) especially where hominids were concerned. The University of Birmingham was an exciting place to be during the 1960s because Zuckerman and his colleagues were innovative and intellectually lively, and were working at the forefront of the methodological revolutions in science that the digital computer was beginning to make possible.

“From the outset my work with fossils suggested that the tree-climbing Australopithecus, dating back three million years, were not the ancestors of Homo sapiens,” says Professor Oxnard. “My research suggested that our ancestors lived much earlier – perhaps five million years ago, and recent fossil finds suggest at least eight million years!”

Professor Oxnard spent much of his early career gathering data to test this unfashionable hypothesis. Using innovative methods borrowed in part from other fields of science, plus his own in-depth knowledge of human and animal anatomy, he studied the ankles, shoulders, pelvises and hindlimbs of Australopithecus. The fossils he has worked on over the years have been gathered from sites ranging from the Olduvai Gorge in East Africa to excavations in Guangxi Province in China.

After the publication of the 1975 article in Nature, the consensus was that Charles Oxnard was way ahead of his peers, and indeed most paleoanthropologists have slowly shifted to his side of the debate. In 1983 in his magnum opus The Order of Man, he predicted that new fossils and investigations would support the results of his biometric work – as they did by the turn of the century. In 1987 the University of Washington Press published another ground-breaking book Fossils, Teeth and Sex which widened the human evolution story by exploring fossil discoveries in Asia. In this book he examined to what extent data gathered from fossil teeth found in China corroborated or challenged earlier studies, and he also explored sexual dimorphism in humans and apes.

During his long and continuing academic journey, Charles Oxnard has constantly moved into uncharted territory, including the use of multivariate statistical programmes and fuzzy sets to understand biological form. “I have always been blessed by having mathematically gifted colleagues – such as, at UWA, Professor Adrian Baddeley in Applied Mathematics. They have real abilities to understand the biological problems on which we are working,” he says. Optical data analysis led him into discourse with geologists who were as interested in the textures of oil-bearing rocks as he was in the textures of stress-bearing spongy bones encountered in osteoporosis.

At UWA, and at universities around the world, Professor Oxnard’s lectures have garnered him a reputation for wit and wisdom. Matt Cartmill has observed: “More than any other scientist I’ve ever known, Charles Oxnard bubbles with what I can only call boyish enthusiasm for everything he does. He gives you the feeling that doing research is such sheer, unadulterated fun that it’s something of a scandal that the government pays us to do it.”

Having recognised early that he needed to study and practise medicine before pursuing research in human evolution, Professor Oxnard today uses that knowledge to good effect.

“I knew I would probably be involved in teaching at some stage,” he says, “and I have found that I can best teach anatomy from the basis of my knowledge of medicine. A lot of anatomy is best understood through its application. If you can show medical students the clinical relevance of what they are learning, they become really turned on.

“Some in universities see lectures as an efficient way of imparting a lot of basic information to a large group of students. My aim is to get students stimulated and excited, so they leave appreciating that there is more to a subject than just learning the facts. When that happens, the mind opens to learning. If you just impart information you bore the hell out of them!

“When I teach medical students I almost always get applause at the end of a lecture. Some argue that we should do away with lectures – and that’s certainly a good idea if they are boring – but there is a long tradition in academia of top scholars delivering wonderful lectures and it would be sad if that were lost.”

Professor Oxnard continues to co-supervise postgraduate students in UWA’s School of Anatomy and Human Biology and to teach upper level undergraduates in human biology.
UWA Sports, in conjunction with the Office of Development, has launched The UWA Sports Foundation.

The Sports Foundation will:
- Enhance the current Sports Scholarship program;
- Develop a coaching and mentoring system to boost UWA Clubs’ performances;
- Further improve sporting facilities and infrastructure for the UWA Community;
- Attract corporate resources to UWA sporting events; and
- Maintain a history of UWA’s sporting achievements.

The UWA Sports Foundation is now accepting contributions.

For more information please contact David Russell on 61 8 6488 3920

The UWA Sports Foundation
– Become a Part of Our Team!
In a sense, the Olympics are as old as recorded European history itself. The traditional date of the first Olympic games – 776 BC – coincides roughly with the introduction of alphabetic writing into Greece, the unsurpassed writing system which spread to Rome and ultimately to us. For the Greeks, the Olympics defined what it was to be Greek and distinguished them from the barbarians around them; only Greeks could enter the games, and they liked to imagine that foreigners regarded the public nudity and displays of athletics as offensive and incomprehensible. But so important was the four-yearly festival for the Greeks that dating by Olympiads was the most commonly used system of time-reckoning in the Greek world. The Olympics began as a religious ritual in honour of Zeus at his sanctuary at Olympia, in southern Greece. Unlike the modern Olympics, they never changed their location, and the facilities were always rudimentary; Olympia was never a town, and for the first two centuries of the games there were no buildings there at all. In keeping with this, the events themselves were very simple, and indeed for over half a century the only event was a 200 metre sprint. Gradually other events were added – at first longer races, then wrestling, pentathlon (which added javelin, discus and long jump to these disciplines), boxing, equestrian events and a sort of no-holds-barred fighting known as pankration. Eventually other events were added specifically for boys, but the organisation was extremely conservative, and the last permanent addition made to the program was in 200 BC. The Olympics were to continue for another six centuries with virtually no change. As a festival of the old religion, they were eventually closed down in AD 393 by the now-Christian Roman empire, for another six centuries with virtually no change. As a festival of the old religion, they were eventually closed down in AD 393 by the now-Christian Roman empire, their demise coinciding with the end of the Classical world just as their beginning had marked its real opening. Within a few decades of the end of the games, the period known to modern historians as the Middle Ages had begun.

The love of sport was a hallmark of the Classical civilisations, and it was only during the nineteenth century that organised sport regained anything like its old importance in Western cultures. Various attempts were made to revive the Olympics during that era, but the most successful was that of the French aristocrat Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the driving force behind the 1896 Olympics held in Athens, which have become regarded as the first ‘modern Olympics’. It is instructive to wonder how much of the modern Olympics an ancient Greek would have recognised: team sports, the participation of women, and above all the deliberately international character of the modern events would have struck him as seriously out of character with the original version. Many of the events, such as the marathon, would have seemed to him bizarre, and much of the ritual as simply bogus, such as the ‘Olympic torch’, unknown to the ancient Olympics and first introduced at Hitler’s Olympics in 1936. At the same time, the concept of ‘amateurism’, which defined the modern Olympics at their inception and dominated them for most of their history, was unknown to the Greeks, although the token prizes awarded for Olympic victors – mere crowns of wild olive – could be used to suggest that Greek athletes did not compete for money. In fact, successful Greek athletes seem to have worked full-time at their profession, and gained much wealth through victories: their cities recognised the status that Olympic victories gave to the whole community, and rewarded success accordingly (in Athens, an Olympic crown meant the right to free meals for life!).

Any knowledge of the constant wars between Greek states, or of 20th century history, can only call into question the pious belief that sport between nations promotes peace. Nor was there much ‘sporting spirit’ in the ancient Olympics; we hear of cheating competitors, dishonest judges, and psychotic sore losers. Winning was, quite simply, all that mattered, and it is hard to think of a less Greek sentiment than Baron Coubertin’s ‘the important thing is not winning, but taking part’. It is significant that, unlike the Romans and us, the originators of the Olympics never used the word ‘games’ of their athletic competitions. They were ‘contests’ (agônes – whence ‘agony’), performed for the honour of the greatest of the gods and as serious as life itself.

Dr Neil O’Sullivan will be giving a public lecture on Olympic Myths Exposed at 7 pm on Monday 2 August; for bookings, please call +618 6488 2433, email extension@uwa.edu.au or visit www.extension.uwa.edu.au
Let the games begin…

The hope that “it will be alright on the night…” seems more relevant to theatre than the opening of the world’s biggest sporting event. Certainly there has been no shortage of drama in the run up to the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. UWA graduates, academics and students are involved in a range of roles – from conducting the sports science research that could cut a swimming turn by vital seconds to providing the strategies that enable an athlete to perform at peak, despite Athens’ humid heat. Some are in the background coaching star performers like WA gymnast Allana Slater; others, including UWA student Adam Lucas (on the cover of this issue) will be out there doing their best to win honours for the nation; and at least one graduate is already planning – for Beijing in 2008 and Madrid’s bid for 2012.

Last September’s World University Games in South Korea proved to be a good testing ground for UWA students with Olympic ambitions. Honours BSc student Kylie Wheeler, who won silver in the gruelling Heptathlon at the 2002 Commonwealth Games, won gold and improved her personal best score. Swimmer Adam Lucas (a Bachelor of Commerce student) also scored a personal best, winning bronze in the Men’s 200m individual medley. At Olympic trials in Sydney, he made the Australian swimming squad and Kylie remains a strong contender for Athens.

Current student Stefan Szczurowski and graduate David Dennis are in the Australian rowing team; graduates Tim Neesham and Peter Tresise are in the waterpolo squad; graduate Michael Boyce is hopeful of making the Hockey team as is current student Geoffrey Boyce.

“In order to field UWA athletes in international competition, we need excellent training venues,” says Bruce Meakins, Director of the UWA Sport and Recreation Association. “Facilities at the UWA Sports Park are being progressively upgraded so that at least one international standard facility is available for each major sport.” (See This sporting life)

The University is proud of its many sporting heroes whose performances have won the nation sporting honours in many fields.

UWA graduate Shirley de la Hunty, who died earlier this year, was one of Australia’s sporting legends. A triple Olympic gold medallist, she was the first Australian woman to win a track and field medal and she went on to win back to back gold in the 80m hurdles at Helsinki and in Melbourne. She also won hearts as a dedicated coach.

Ric Charlesworth’s explosive speed as inside-forward will be hard to forget in Australian men’s hockey. Dr Charlesworth played at four Olympic Games, represented WA in first-class cricket, and coached the Australian Women’s Hockey team to a number one world ranking and two Olympic gold medals. UWA graduate Rechelle Hawkes was one of the Hockeyroos’ top performers and is the world’s most highly decorated women’s hockey player, having won three Olympic, two World Cup, and one Commonwealth gold medals.

These are just three of many graduates who have represented their country at the Olympics and who now inspire a new generation of athletes.

Dr Charlesworth’s son, Jonathon, knows all about juggling elite sport and studies at UWA. He won’t be at Athens, but he appears to be following in the footsteps of his famous father who also studied medicine at UWA.

Jonathon was selected for the Under 20 national hockey squad in 2003 and was in the winning Under 18 National
Championships team the previous year. His ultimate aim is for play for Australia; his more immediate aim to make the Junior World Cup qualifiers against New Zealand at the end of this year, and then the Junior World Cup team that will compete in Holland in 2005.

“Trying to combine hockey and medicine keeps me on my toes,” he assures UNIVIEW. “I never get totally comfortable with success at one or the other and quickly come down to earth with the realisation that I have to keep achieving.

“There are times of the year when it gets pretty crazy but it works out. During exams, medicine takes preference and over the holidays hockey is number one. And it’s great to be involved in two very different pursuits and mix with a variety of people. I’d be devastated if I had to give one up for the other, but as I get ‘deeper’ into each, I realise that I might have to make that decision one day…”

Olympic swimmer Adam Lucas also knows the pressures of juggling study and sport. He is studying Investment and Corporate Finance, E-Commerce and Information Management at UWA. At the Olympic trials he came second in the 200m Individual Medley.

“The individual medley is definitely one of the most gruelling events,” says Adam, “You have to push your body to the limits in each stroke as you are using different muscles throughout the race.” You can read more about Kylie Wheeler and Adam Lucas in GRAD NEWS.

Today UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science has become the base for most of the sports science research that underpins our top performing athletes. The Western Australian Institute of Sport (WAIS) was established as part of what was then the Department of Human Movement prior to the building of Challenge Stadium in 1987. When established in 1968, the Department offered one of Australia’s first sport science degrees and this has since been extended to become arguably the nation’s best. It currently has 400 full time students including 45 PhDs, half of whom travel across the world to do postgraduate studies supervised by UWA academics.

The current head of the School, Professor Brian Blanksby, has watched the exponential growth of sports science during 35 years at UWA. Professor Blanksby pays tribute to the foresight and the lobbying of Emeritus Professor John Bloomfield (author of Australia’s Sporting Success published last year) who became aware of elite sports coaching systems while lecturing in Europe in the 1960s. On his return he lobbied State and Federal governments and was one of the primary architects of the hugely successful Australian sports system that is now producing champions.

“Sport science was pioneered by UWA and has been a huge success story,” says Professor Blanksby. “Australia has gone from receiving a handful of medals in the 1976 Montreal Olympics to fourth on the medal count in the Sydney Olympics – with a population of some 20 million people!

“Despite this success, there are virtually no research funds for sport science via the major research organisations. Very recently, small amounts of funding have been introduced via the International Cricket Council and Cricket Australia, the International Tennis Federation and the Australian Football League.”

Sports scientists at UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science have been working on a range of research aimed at improving the performances of athletes. Dr David Bishop and colleagues in the Team Sport Research Group have conducted trials on strategies for coping with the high temperatures and humidity of Athens. Their trials revealed that team sport exercise results in a much greater increase in body temperature (and risk of developing heat illnesses) than endurance exercise.

“There has been a lot of work done on running a marathon and how it dehydrates a runner,” said Dr Bishop, “but very little on team sports, where players stop and start a lot. It’s very different from the continuous effort of a marathon, and athletes need to prepare and recover quite differently. A simple, practical outcome from this research is that in hot conditions, it may be better for team-sport athletes not to warm up prior to competition.” Research conducted by Dr Bishop has shown that warm-ups result in team sport athletes reaching a critical core temperature earlier.
Dr Bishop and Dr Neil Maxwell, a visiting researcher from the University of Brighton, are also looking at new methods for acclimatising internationally competing athletes before they leave home. They have been working out what exercises team players should do while in the climate chambers at UWA to better prepare for the summer Olympics. The Team Sport Research Group has also been involved in research on the benefits of two common performance enhancing substances (see Performance enhancement – making it legal).

UWA’s Professor Blanksby says that UWA sports science graduates are currently employed in a wide range of positions – conducting research and coaching in academic institutions and institutes of sport; acting as sport specific sport scientists with elite teams; being involved in injury prevention and exercise rehabilitation and meeting the physical activity and health/fitness demands of schools, worksites, the young and the elderly.

“All these areas of potential employment augur well for our graduates,” says Professor Blanksby.

Honing the skills of a top gymnast

Dr Joanne Richards, WAIS gymnastics coach

Behind every Olympic gymnast there is a phalanx of sport scientists ready to analyse a performance, suggest a new strategy, advise on an exercise regime to strengthen problematic muscles, draw up an appropriate diet, and bolster flagging spirits.

Behind Olympic gymnast Allana Slater there are several UWA-trained sports scientists, including Dr Jo Richards, who has watched Allana Slater hone her gymnastic skills from the time the six-year-old was hand-picked as a potential elite gymnast.

Dr Richards’ PhD study at the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science was on the biomechanics of growth and performance, an area of significant interest in gymnastics. That research centred on the impacts on performance of a maturing body and it continues to inform her work with a WA Institute of Sport (WAIS) team of eight young gymnasts, some preparing for the 2008 and 2012 Olympics.

“A gymnast’s strength does not necessarily increase with body size,” explains Dr Richards. “In fact there can be a drop off in performance as she reaches adolescence. A sudden growth spurt – say seven to ten centimetres – makes it very difficult for an elite gymnast to perform successfully. This varies with each individual and of course genetics plays a big role. Being small in stature is a prerequisite – unless a gymnast’s strength outweighs body size disadvantages. In gymnastics there are a lot of variables.” In her thesis Joanne did a longitudinal study tracking the growth and performance of her subjects over three-and-a-half years.

Dr Richards now coaches the WAIS squad, along with Russian coach Nikolai Laphchine, and also manages the sports science and medical aspects of their training, liaising with other WAIS health professionals to address diet, strength and performance. “In this capacity I have been able to put the sports science I studied to good use,” she says.

Right now, the coaches are focussed on preparing Allana Slater for Athens. Although the team will only be chosen at the last minute, the WA gymnast is a strong candidate.

“I’ve worked with Allana for 12 years. We had our eye on her for a long time because she had the physical abilities and the staying power – that ability to bounce back from injury and disappointment,” says Dr Richards.

“We do sometimes lose promising gymnasts due to teenage peer pressure. It can be hard to keep them focussed. Parents play a big role but it is a fine balance. When the parents are the drivers of ambition it never works. You can’t put in that many hours unless you love gymnastics.

“Because it takes a long time to produce a gymnast – six to eight years to reach high performance – there are lots of decisions to be made along the way: choices about what skills to teach when; when to push hard; whether to stick to perfecting a single movement or get it 80 per cent right and move on. We tend to adopt the Russian approach which is strict in its adherence to certain principles, but flexible enough to keep an athlete motivated. We try to never lose sight of the fact that we are working with children.”

Performance enhancement – making it legal

Dr David Bishop, researcher at UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science.

Dr David Bishop of UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science says that while team sports are a national passion – and Athens 2004 is the ultimate goal for
the elite team players – the area has attracted relatively little scientific research.

For the past three years, Dr Bishop and the Team Sport Research Group have been studying the effects of various ergogenic aids and training methods on team-sport performance. Recent award-winning research that is attracting international attention has cast new light on how legal performance enhancing substances may improve the performance of Australian teams.

Dr Bishop’s team has shown for the first time that strategies that increase the ability of muscles to neutralise lactic acid can improve the performance of repeated sprints – similar to those performed by many team sport athletes. “Our first experiment involved increasing the ability of the blood to neutralise lactic acid. This is a simple process and only requires a common substance, sodium bicarbonate, which occurs naturally in all living things, and helps to maintain pH balance. Our results indicated that athletes were able to recover better between sprints following bicarbonate ingestion, probably due to smaller changes in muscle acidity,” explains Dr Bishop.

“These improvements in repeated-sprint performance were small however, when compared to the improvements achieved following caffeine ingestion. For the first time, researchers at UWA have also shown that a moderate dose of caffeine taken 60 minutes prior to exercise significantly improved (by five to 10 per cent) sprint performance during a prolonged repeated-sprint test.”

Dr Bishop’s research, recently acknowledged as Best Scientific Paper at the Sports Medicine Australia Conference in Melbourne, attracted international collaborators, including Dr Neil Maxwell from the University of Brighton. The soccer-mad Italians and Spanish have also been seeking Dr Bishop’s advice on how to best improve team-sport performance.

With sports science widely acknowledged as a vital tool in the quest for gold, it’s not surprising that Steve Lawrence has encouraged a close relationship between the Institute and UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science. The Institute currently employs many UWA graduates, and generally has several PhD students working on sport science research projects that could enhance the performances of elite athletes.

WAIS covers the 29 Olympic sports (plus netball), thirteen of which have full time coaches. It also runs programs that help selected athletes such as former UWA student Tina Morgan who won a silver medal for Tae Kwon Do at the 2003 World Championships and current student Amy Ash who is aiming for 2008 Olympic selection. Amy, who is studying in the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, reached the quarter finals of the World Championships in Germany last year.

“We also are out there identifying promising athletes in a range of sports so that we can guide them into pathways that will develop their skills,” says Mr Lawrence. “We also go to schools and test kids through the Smarter than Smoking Talent Search program for physical attributes that could mean they’re suited to a particular sport. Through this program we annually test over 10,000 students.”

Other athletes come to the Institute’s attention by applying for WAIS scholarships. In this way the Institute can help athletes involved in sports for which WAIS does not have a full time coach. Some 15 UWA students currently hold WAIS scholarships.

**Way ahead of the field Architecture graduate Tim Urquhart**

When China’s successful bid for the 2008 Olympics was being celebrated amid a sea of undulating red silk flags, UWA graduate Tim Urquhart – who provided strategic assistance to support Beijing’s successful bid – was already way ahead of the field, reviewing Spain’s chances for 2012 in Madrid.

Having been Development Manager for Sydney Olympic Park, Mr Urquhart has a fairly good take on the planning and logistics that are a vital component of the Games. As NSW
Illusion or Illegal?

Was it an optical illusion or an illegal bowling action? Would Sri Lankan cricketer Muttiah Muralitharan have to drop his formidable “doosra” from his repertoire because of its delivery? This was much debated back in April when the Sri Lankan flew to Perth following a test match during which he was reported for a suspect bowling action.

Biomechanics experts at UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Sciences have previously worked with the talented Sri Lankan, and with Pakistani paceman Shoaib Akhtar. Professor Bruce Elliott and the biomechanics research team of Jacque Alderson and Si Reid, together with former WA coach (and now Principal of Currie Hall) Daryl Foster were on hand when the Sri Lankan set out to prove that the bowling action of his “doosra” was legal.

Twelve high-speed cameras shooting at 250 frames a second filmed the bowler who has assumed the mantle of Test cricket’s leading wicket-taker. Reflective markers on Murali made the footage easier to analyse by UWA biomechanics experts whose job it was to determine whether Murali’s arm straightened while bowling the “doosra”, which is delivered with an off-spinner’s action, but spins away from right-handers.

The two UWA experts have worked with Murali on previous occasions when his off-spin and topspin deliveries were cleared of throwing in 1996 and 1999. Those tests did not include the “doosra” (which means “the one that goes the other way”), a delivery he has since mastered.

The UWA findings were sent to the International Cricket Council Technical Committee by Sri Lanka Cricket.

Manager of Bovis Lend Lease Consulting, which decided to detour Athens, he appreciates that large scale international projects are never predictable. It’s all about the games that are played in relation to mounting a successful bid, winning designs contests and tenders, and securing actual project involvement.

As The Australian recently observed: “Australian companies battling for Beijing 2008 Olympics-related business are discovering that ‘this is not a place for the faint-hearted’… They are learning for themselves what lies behind the saying that ‘in China, signing a contract is just the start of negotiations’.”

Mr Urquhart’s company provides client-side property services that, in the context of these major events, range from strategic planning of infrastructure and venues through to project management, implementation and operation. He graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Architecture, cut his teeth on the Observation City Hotel complex, worked in Europe and Britain (including the refurbishment of the Tower of London), before returning to work on the Sydney Harbour Casino project.

“Our involvement in Beijing has shifted over the last 18 months from providing strategic assistance to the Bid and Organising Committee, to one of participating via tender in private consortia for the design, construction, finance and operation of major venues. Our focus is specifically on the Convention and Exhibition Centre, which is a $A1 billion project,” says the UWA graduate.

“Many Australian firms, predominantly architects, have been doing the same and generally with a great deal of success, although participating in winning tenders is not necessarily translating to project involvement. However we have an excellent relationship with the Beijing Organising Committee (BOCOG) and once Athens is over, the eyes of the world will shift to Beijing and we anticipate securing a role with BOCOG to assist in the detailed planning of their venue needs.

“There is no doubt that China and Beijing will deliver a truly excellent Games in 2008, their planning to date has been first class and they are getting on with the job – particularly with the major capital projects where early commencement is critical.

“However, I believe their challenges are just commencing. Their ability to truly partner with the private sector is becoming questionable; collaborating with and managing the many demanding and powerful international stakeholders like the IOC, rights-holding broadcasters, international sports federations etc has not commenced; raising large sponsorship targets, managing these accounts and accommodating the ever-changing needs of the Coca-Colas, McDonalds and Visas of the world is no small task.

“It is often said that the only amateurs of any Olympic Games is the Host City and the Organising Committee because everybody else has done it before!”

Mr Urquhart’s CV is now dominated by involvement in elite sports events. Since the Sydney Olympics he has worked with the Beijing Bid Committee and the Organising Committee on strategic planning and related work; with the City of Madrid in preparing its 2012 bid, with the Melbourne
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2006 Commonwealth Games Committee, with the Turin Organising Committee for the 2006 Winter Olympics; and with the 2003 Rugby World Cup.

When team work really counts

UWA graduate David Dennis, and student Stefan Szczurowski

Competitive rowing has taken UWA graduate David Dennis around the world – Croatia, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Germany, Denmark – but it’s the early morning training sessions on the Swan River that he classifies as truly “awesome” – those moments when the slender skiffs glide over flat, clear water as morning mist lifts.

However, these early morning sessions are sheer hard work, and they happen every morning right now as David trains with his fellow West Australian, David McGowan. The two local rowers (along with a Sydney pair) are in the Olympic squad for the Men’s Coxless Four. David has been rowing at UWA since 1998 and in 2000 joined the WAIS squad. UWA student Stefan Szczurowski, who is currently studying at UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, has been selected to row for Australia in the Olympic Men’s Heavyweight Eight.

Both rowers hold UWA Sport and Recreation Association and WAIS scholarships, and appreciate that teamwork underpins success in rowing.

David and Stefan go overseas in June and remain there until the Olympics, competing in Switzerland and Amsterdam before going to Athens.

Helping the Hockeyroos to play it cool

UWA Lecturer Dr Carmel Goodman

Carmel Goodman swam for South Africa for almost a decade, so she knows all about participating at an elite level, and about the importance of sports science. With mid-August temperatures in Athens expected to be in the high 30s, she believes that coping with heat, humidity and the notorious pollution of the Greek capital will be a major challenge.

The UWA Lecturer is Team Doctor for the Hockeyroos and Medical Director of the WA Institute of Sport. Along with her associates in the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, she has been conducting research into post-exercise recovery and the use of ice vests. She has also been travelling with the Hockeyroos to places with similar levels of heat and humidity.

“We’ve done a lot of work with ice baths and the use of ice vests to decrease body temperature. The vests were used intermittently by those who wanted them before and after games as a heat hydration strategy, but we are now insisting that everyone use a new innovative vest designed by the Australian Institute of Sport which draws heat from the body without any cooling devices within the vest itself. It has proved very effective in substantially decreasing body temperature,” says Dr Goodman.

“The negative effects of dehydration are many and include a decrease in coordination, attention span and physical ability. At the minor end there are heat cramps and at the extreme heat stroke. Some girls cope well with the heat and there is a big variation individually in terms of how fluid retention is managed,” says Dr Goodman.

Analysing the technique of elite performance

Dr Andrew Lyttle, Sports Biomechanist

Improving performances in sports as different as pole vaulting and swimming is the challenge of biomechanist Andrew Lyttle who is currently working at the WA Institute of Sport.

Dr Lyttle’s PhD at UWA’s School of Human Movement and Exercise Science looked at the hydrodynamics of swimming turns. To improve performance in swimming turns, Andrew measured the drag created as a swimmer moved through the water. The research aimed to find out the best depth for gliding out of a turn or dive, and how to optimise the underwater kicking in preparation for stroking. He is currently engaged in research into underwater computational fluid dynamics to improve swimming performance.

“We have done several research projects on starts and turns in collaboration with the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science, taking advantage of UWA’s pool and instrumented force-plates. By analysing each component of a turn you can highlight a problem that, if rectified, could lead to substantial improvements in performance.”

Biomechanists analyse an athlete’s performance, looking specifically at the technique involved. Working with Olympic and Commonwealth Games pole vaulters Kim Howe, Dimitri Markov and Paul Burgess, the UWA graduate checks the mechanical principles that each athlete must adhere to, and assesses the effectiveness of each athlete’s individual technique. Dr Lyttle works predominantly with Olympic contenders in track and field, swimming and rowing, and
keeps a close association with UWA through co-supervision of postgraduates in the field of Biomechanics.

**Guiding the nation's best gymnasts**

Liz Chetkovich, Head of Gymnastics, WAIS

When she studied Human Movement at UWA in the 1970s most of Liz Chetkovich’s peers were studying to be Physical Education teachers. However she was intent on coaching gymnastics (in fact she was already doing so, with Nelleck Jol, who was a former coach of six Olympic representatives). It was with Nelleck that she did all of her practicums.

After graduating in 1977, Liz coached locally before gaining coaching experience in the United States. When she returned in 1981 she started her own club, its best performers forming the majority of the inaugural West Australian Institute of Sport Women’s Gymnastics squad when the Institute was established in 1984. Four years later, when a full-time program was introduced, she became one of WAIS’s first full time employees and now is Head of Gymnastics.

Back in the days when slender but steely Russian and Romanian gymnasts stole the show at several Olympics, it seemed that competitors were becoming ever younger. That trend peaked with Nadia Comaneci at the Montreal Olympics, says Liz Chetkovich, after which the Federation of International Gymnastics responded by introducing a minimum age of 15 years for gymnasts to be eligible for senior international competition. This was to ensure that enthusiastic coaches were not making excessive demands on young children.

“Gymnastics is an intensive sport that – like classical dance – demands a degree of preparation at a young age. Without this early preparation, advanced level skills cannot be taught. However a balance needs to be found between early preparation and longevity in the sport,” says the UWA graduate.

“With a second age increase after the 1996 Olympic Games to a new minimum of 16 years, and the dropping of the compulsory exercises from the Olympic competitive program, the emphasis shifted upwards again to encourage more mature gymnasts to continue competing. The result is an even more dramatic shift in the age demographic. The last World Champion, Russian gymnast Svetlana Khorkina, is 24, a far cry from the 14 year old Nadia Comaneci in 1976.

“This has had a flow on effect to the sport as a whole with the result that the age at which children are starting intensive training can now be somewhat delayed.” However the age change has produced its own problems, because at an elite level it is as all-consuming as athletics or swimming. Whereas once a female gymnast was considered to be at her peak between 14 years and 17 years, now it is later – which could clash with family responsibilities, TEE studies or making career choices.”

Liz Chetkovich has been gymnastic commentator for Channel Seven for the last three Olympics and will be off to Athens later this year. WAIS has been training Olympic gymnasts since 1988, producing three competitors in 1992, and one in the last two Olympics.

**Coordinating sports science**

Jay Davies, WAIS Specialist Program Coordinator

When Jay Davies completed her Bachelor of Science in Human Movement in 1993 and was contemplating Master’s studies, UWA’s Professor Brian Blanksby encouraged her to focus on biomechanics and she has never regretted taking that advice.

“He was my supervisor in research that examined the biomechanics perspective of the breast-stroke turn, and doing that research made me appreciate what a technical sport swimming was and how important biomechanics was,” says Ms Davies.

After stints as head swimming coach at the Institutes of Sport in the Northern Territory and New South Wales, Ms Davies returned to WA as Specialist Program Co-ordinator at the WA Institute of Sport. This involves coordinating sports sciences services for WAIS athletes, and acting as a consultant for the swimming program.

She works closely with the swimming coaches, and when the WA squad went to the Olympic trials in Sydney, she was overseeing services offered by the core of WAIS staff, from physiotherapy to performance analysis (each swim is videoed for that purpose).

Ms Davies retains research links with UWA, having recently completed a project on dives and turns with Professor Blanksby and Nat Benjanuvatra, an Assistant Lecturer in the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science.
This sporting life

The University’s vibrant Recreation Centre is one of the first places on campus to hum with activity. “We never sleep” is the unofficial motto of UWA’s Sport and Recreation Association which operates the centre. By 6am people are playing squash, and after 10pm training sessions and social games are still in progress.

The proposed Water Sports Complex adjacent to the Boat Shed. It will be completed early next year.

Today some 27 sporting clubs flourish on campus with a membership of about 2,500. An enormous diversity of sports are on offer and whereas once the clubs catered only for students, now they welcome graduates, and members of the wider community – an approach that allows top performers to graduate from junior to elite level.

“It is important to us that graduates and the community are able to access UWA club facilities and coaching programs, so that the clubs can compete successfully and enhance their performances,” explains David Russell, Deputy Director of the Sport and Recreation Association.

“Previously, young players were in a dilemma when they began studying at UWA. They didn’t want to be disloyal to their old clubs, but they also wanted to compete with UWA peers. So we opened up the clubs and they now provide programs for juniors. Today the Tennis Club’s Junior Development Program has some 150 members, and it’s possible for them to graduate from junior to elite level. The Hockey Club is the largest, with more than 400 members (more than 200 being juniors).”

Alumni support for a whole new range of Sports Association Scholarships now makes it much more feasible for a student to pursue academic studies while competing at an elite level.

Top quality facilities help UWA maintain a high sporting profile. As the teaching and research facilities at the Crawley campus expanded, the University began to transfer sporting activities to a site in Mount Claremont bequeathed by Dr William McGillivray in 1959. The facilities that now exist at UWA Sports Park have turned it into the premier sporting facility in the State.

This September the Australian University Games (5,000 competitors in 22 sports) will be hosted there, and next year the Indian Rim Asian University Games, a new event initiated by an amalgamation of local university sports associations, Australian University Sport West (AusWest) established in 1993.

International and national competitors are impressed at the facilities (provided by UWA, the State Government and the City of Cambridge) now located in the one area. They have also been impressed by the perfect playing surfaces – from the Olympic-standard hockey superturf to grass facilities for rugby.

Recently new clay courts have been added, meaning that tournaments such as the State Clay Court Championships can be accommodated. Established in 1914, the UWA Tennis Club boasted many of the State’s top players. Fund-raising for a new club house is now underway and this $1m project has received support from many top performers.

Today it is estimated that some 30,000 sportspersons train and play at UWA Sports Park, including many local schools.

While the park has become the main focus for club sports, the green sporting ovals on the Nedlands’ campus are still well used. Rugby (social games and Golden Oldies) is still played on Riley Oval, as is social soccer and touch football, while cricket matches, including the annual Festival of Cricket, take place on James Oval.

Overlooking Matilda Bay, the superbly-restored UWA Boat Shed (built in 1929) hosts events ranging from yoga to weekly Members Nights, plus the annual regatta, the Vice-Chancellor’s Cup, in August.

Still in the planning stages is the $2m Water Sports Complex adjacent to the Boat Shed. The stone and timber complex, due for completion early next year, will allow the Association to develop sport and recreation programs for students, staff, graduates and the community.

The School of Human Movement and Exercise Science is also developing a deep water pool to be used by elite sports people for triathlon, water polo and swimming training to be completed by the end of this year.

Campus sport was once a department within the UWA Student Guild, but in 1996, the Sport and Recreation Association became a separate membership-driven entity.

Today the association has more than 9,000 members, and students can activate their membership as part of their student amenity fees.

Later this year UWA will launch a Sports Foundation to generate funds to further develop the scholarship system and enhance facilities. A key element of this initiative will be an invitation to high-profile sporting graduates to become UWA Sports Ambassadors.
GRADUATE PROFILE

Graduate pans for ‘green gold’ in Asia

By Trea Wiltshire

For most of us, the crescent of now independent republics that once formed the outer rim of the Soviet Union are little known. We hear occasional news reports of a grinding poverty that was exacerbated by the dismantling of the USSR. We see images of lofty ranges, of handsome people of Persian ancestry, of yurts and flocks and children living in arid landscapes that promise little in the way of sustenance.

UWA graduate and agricultural project coordinator Dr Ken Street saw the poverty and challenging landscape daily while travelling through Tajikistan recently, collecting the native plants and seeds of the region. He also experienced the traditional hospitality of a people who enjoy communal vodka toasts (“the poorer the people, the more generous the hospitality”); and dusty pot-holed roads littered with abandoned Soviet tanks.

Clearly Dr Street relishes most of what is involved in what he sees as an achievable mission that could ultimately contribute to breaking the region’s treadmill of poverty. He is representing the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) and UWA’s Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA), two of a small cast of international players pursuing an important role: bringing 21st century science into a region where arable land is scarce and hunger is a lingering spectre.

One pressing and immediate task is to collect and conserve the rich agro-biodiversity of Central Asia and the Caucasus, a region known to be the centre of origin of...
most of the world’s important grain crops and horticultural species. For example, the area harbour progenitors of wheat (Aegilops and wild Triticum species), barley (Hordeum spontaneum) and lentil (Lens orientalis) – plus several species of wild chickpeas native to the region. In the deserts of Central Asia, says Dr Street, endemic range varieties and genera thrive. If properly used, they have the potential to reverse land degradation in fragile desert environments in the region – and to be used in other arid countries such as Australia.

“These important genetic resources are at present largely unused for research and development both in the republics themselves and by the international community at large,” says Ken Street. “The danger is that this unique resource is being eroded by a variety of factors such as rapidly changing farming systems, environmental degradation, salinity, over grazing and mismanagement – and the situation is exacerbated by the instability following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

“This is a region that is an incredibly important centre of diversity, so we are out there literally panning for endangered ‘green gold’. And it’s a race against time! Why bother to save a few plants that look like weeds to the untrained eye? Well for a start, agriculture accounts for 50 per cent of the economy of this region and the vast majority of people live off the land.

“During the Soviet era genetic resource conservation and utilization were centrally controlled by the famous Vavilov Institute in Russia. Today, each republic faces the daunting challenge of developing its own agricultural research, production and marketing systems.”

In the five central Asian republics much of the landmass is semi desert, 65 per cent is rangeland, and only seven per cent is arable. The region has low rainfall and extreme temperatures. During the Soviet era the republics essentially became agricultural cogs in a centralised system of production and marketing. Cotton and livestock were the major outputs, while local food production was supplemented from other regions. Now crop production is being expanded and fodder crops (once used for animal production) are being replaced by cereals.

“For the people, the first priority is food security which centres on the production of cereals, but this necessitates big changes in farming systems in a region that lacks expertise and infrastructure. Thus the environment is being damaged by poor crop husbandry,” says Dr Street.

“Inadequate rotations are reducing soil fertility and causing erosion and an increase in pests and disease. Poor drainage and increased irrigation are causing salinity while overgrazing is resulting in desertification or severe deterioration of the natural rangelands. Clearly plant solutions will play a significant role in finding sustainable answers to these problems.”

Dr Street came to UWA as a mature age student after a range of jobs (stockman, fisherman and landscaping) and completed an Honours degree in Agriculture. He went on to do a PhD on the ecology of a self-regenerating pasture species, and that involved more than two years of field work with the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) in northern Syria as part of a CLIMA project.

“Working in an international environment and in a developing country really opened my eyes,” he recalls. “From this experience I knew that international agricultural research and development in developing countries was where I would develop a career.”

He and his Syrian-Armenian wife, Mary, returned to Australia when he wrote up his research and took up a job as a research officer in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. But Dr Street was restless and when Professor Clive Francis of CLIMA offered him a position as project coordinator for one of CLIMA’s Grains Research and Development Corporation-funded projects based at ICARDA he jumped at the chance.

Initially the UWA graduate coordinated a Plant Genetic Resource project, involving Russia’s Vavilov Institute in St Petersburg, founded in the 1920s, that houses one of the most important collections of agriculturally important plant genetic resources. When ICARDA’s mandate expanded to include the Central Asian and Caucasian Republics, so did his field of operations. He currently coordinates projects in Central Asia and the Caucasus funded by the Australian Centre for International Agriculture (ACIAR) that involve plant collection missions. A recent mission took him to Tajikistan, and his travels through that country served to underscore for him the importance of this work.

“Villagers eke out a meagre existence from tough mountainous environments that don’t yield an easy living,” he recalls as he sketches a picture of the awesome landscapes he travelled through. “The sub-zero winters confine families and their animals indoors for up to four months, so in summer they must harvest enough food, forage and fuel for winter. You see them walking perhaps twenty kilometres a day to cut grass forage, and the farming equipment they use for ploughing, harvesting, threshing and winnowing hasn’t changed in centuries.

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“People live close to the edge – there’s no room for error or crop failure. It’s vital that we help these people to know what crops are best for their environments. Recently humanitarian agencies were busy handing out seed aid of the wrong genotypes that resulted in devastating crop failures.”

Dr Street has clearly met many people who have touched his heart, including his Tajik driver, a former rebel in the civil war that left the country’s infrastructure in tatters, and a physics professor who, in Soviet times, enjoyed a good income and prestige but now grows just enough to feed his family. He is also fascinated by these republics that, he says, have a surreal quality: “Ancient peoples and cultures, impacted by the Soviet years and Russian culture, now struggling to remember, retrieve and discover their own sense of identity and purpose.”

The backdrop of a troubled past is still very evident to those who travel through the republics – but so is the potent goodwill and hope for a better future for this challenged region.

Dr Street says that financial constraints continue to be the most significant obstacle to the development of sustainable national Plant Genetic Resource programs in this region. Further information on ICARDA’s work in the Central Asian and Caucasus regions may be obtained from Dr Street (K.Street@cgiar.org).

Professor Clive Francis of CLIMA says that UWA has several projects with ICARDA and past linkages have directly resulted in the release of new cultivars of lentil, chickpea and faba bean in Australia. The current research includes not only the Central Asian project funded by ACIAR, but also two projects involving plant health and offshoot disease screening of legumes.

In relation to these, CLIMA Director Professor Kadambot Siddique, visited ICARDA in May this year to discuss progress and projects with the pathologists involved and Dr Street. There is a linkage between these projects as pulse crop relatives and land races abound in parts of the CAC and are the likely sources of new types of resistance to serious pests and diseases.

If you would like to know more about CLIMA, visit the website: http://www.clima.uwa.edu.au/
As a secondary school student did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?
During my years at Perth Modern School my ambition was to graduate from the RAAF Academy and fly. Hence my matriculation included three maths and two sciences. In 1954 parental consent was necessary to join the defence force when under 21 years of age. My father had seen too many friends killed flying during World War II and would not consent. He urged me to take up engineering or medicine. I rebelled! For reasons which remain somewhat unclear to this day I turned to law. There had been no lawyers in the family and what sparked this interest has always eluded me. Perhaps there was a deep inner pull from the social science side of my make-up. As events turned out I was also able to fulfil my earlier ambition quite satisfactorily. I was called up to do national service training in the Air Force, was selected for air crew training and successfully completed the pilot training course. As in so many other things in my life, there seems to have been a “Guiding Hand” in all of this. I can now see that my life has been more satisfying with law as the primary career focus and flying a secondary interest.

When you were studying at UWA, how did you view your future career? Did you have a game plan?
I really did start law with an extremely scant knowledge of what it involved and what future career options it would open up. I remember during my years at law school exploring the management cadetships which were offered at that time by leading corporations such as BHP. Law was seen as a good degree foundation by such corporations. I also considered for a time the prospect of a diplomatic career. My inadequate efforts to master two European languages appeared to me to be a bad omen, however, so that thought was put aside. By the final year at law school I had resolved to give mainstream legal practice a go, even though the thought rather filled me with trepidation at the time. At that stage there was no ambition for any judicial career, although I was reminded many years later that Professor Ross Parsons had purported to identify judicial potential following a couple of Tort mock trials in which I had been assigned the role of a judge. From the outset, however, it was clear that I had a natural leaning towards advocacy and from my early days as an articled law clerk my interest was keen in the litigation side of practice.

Apart from studies what were your interests/involvements at UWA?
A major pre-occupation throughout my days at UWA was the Air Force. Apart from national service I had joined the WA University Squadron as an Officer Cadet and many of my evenings and vacations were spent in uniform. I enjoyed interfaculty sporting events, particularly hockey, but as the law school was very small in numbers any glory came from competing, rather than winning. Hockey was my main sporting interest but I pursued this with Old Modernians and later the South Perth Club, rather than UWA. While the law school was small there was a very active and enjoyable social life of which I have a number of lasting memories, not all of them glorious. I did get quite involved in organising Prosh one year.

What are the qualities you acknowledge in yourself that are strengths in your present role.
From early childhood I had been impressed by my mother with the virtue of honest hard work as the only sure way to cope successfully with life. I must confess I was often less than perfect in my implementation of this idea, but overall...
I think that any achievements I have managed have been substantially due to persistent careful work and reflection, rather than any particular brilliance. It is also fair to say that I have always had a quite modest appreciation of my own abilities. This has often meant that I pushed myself harder in preparation than might have otherwise been the case. It has also caused me to hold back until I was really confident of my ground. Some might see these to be indications of weakness rather than strength, but my impression is that these qualities have contributed substantially to the development of my professional abilities and personal standards. I have always had a strong sense of fair play, and a concern for the underdog, which have a clear relationship to the notion of justice. These have helped me to find the way through many difficult cases over the years. Since coming to The Hague I have been exposed to the varied judicial approaches of my new colleagues, who come from over twenty nations and represent many legal systems. This has been an enormously educative experience and has confirmed the value of trying to be open to new ways and ideas. I learn new things every day. This experience keeps me challenged and interested and ready to go on in the law even though I am much nearer 70 than 60 years.

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

The move to The Hague has completely transformed what used to be the pattern of my life. I sit in court each day, presiding in a Chamber of three judges, either from 9 am until 2pm or from 2pm until 7pm. In addition, as one of the permanent judges, I must deal with a number of other cases which are being prepared for trial and attend to other administrative and professional functions. As a consequence, the hours tend to be long. However, I try to keep the weekends substantially free because my wife Joan and I hope to see much more of Europe during our stay in The Hague. This is being accomplished by weekend travel, the distances here being comparatively small and the transport system so well organised. Joan and I enjoy walking and do a great deal in The Hague. Living in an apartment we cannot pursue our great interest in gardening, beyond a few flower boxes. The colours of the tulips and other bulbs, however, are wonderful. There is a range of social and cultural activities centred on the diplomatic life of The Hague, rich offerings in music, dance, art and musical theatre, plus Dutch lessons and bridge.

With family in Australia, it is also necessary to allow time for ongoing e-mail and telephone contact with five children, their spouses and nine grandchildren. We also continue our very active involvement in church life and find we have been able to fit in very easily to an extremely active English-speaking parish in The Hague.

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

Joan and I are fortunate to have a number of close friends of long standing some of whom we met during our student days. Fortunately, these tend to include a number who have nothing to do with the law as both of us feel the value of contact with people with quite different interests and occupations.
When Kevin Keneally takes volunteers to remote beaches to watch baby turtles move from the safety of their nests to the blue rim of the ocean – while birds of prey hover – he brings together twin passions. For the UWA graduate and research scientist is committed to preserving this State’s unique flora and fauna and in raising public awareness of conservation issues.

Having seen the enthusiasm of volunteers tagging turtles on Dirk Hartog Island or discovering a plant new to science on the Mitchell Plateau, LANDSCOPE Expedition leader Kevin Keneally appreciates the value of involving the public in field research. And the approach to eco-tourism adopted by the expeditions initiated by UWA Extension and the Department of Conservation and Land Management has now been recognised by an international award.

LANDSCOPE Expeditions serve the dual interests of UWA Extension and CALM by providing continuing education opportunities through community-supported research. Recently the expedition program won an International Environmental Award from the Association of German Travel Agents and Tour Operators. Kevin Keneally is Scientific Coordinator for the research expeditions that take volunteers to wilderness areas of Western Australia such as the Montebello Islands, the Shark Bay World Heritage Area and the Gibson Desert.

The UWA graduate first began leading tours for local naturalists’ clubs in the 1970s after graduating and joining the Western Australian Herbarium. Previously, he had worked as a research assistant in UWA’s Microbiology Department, and had spent a decade on the staff of the Botany Department.

In 1992 UWA and CALM collaborated on tours that would involve paying participants in real research. Since then there have been more than 50 LANDSCOPE Expeditions and former UWA Extension course co-ordinator, Jean Paton (also a UWA graduate) now works for CALM as expedition administrator.

“This program is unique in Australia,” says Kevin Keneally. “There is no other State organisation working with a university on field research in which the volunteers put up most of the funding, and actually participate.

“The expeditions are proving to be very valuable. The Mitchell Plateau expedition in 2002, for instance, provided a good collection of tropical plants and added to available information on bird, mammal and reptile species. It also provided a surprising discovery – a freshwater alga, previously only found in China.

“The expeditions also help identify areas that should be included in the reserves that protect and enhance the State’s biodiversity. And they are mutually beneficial: participants return home with a broader understanding of the natural world, the role of research and conservation, and the rewards of knowing they have contributed to valuable studies in remote areas.”

Those involved range from students engaged in academic research to doctors and lawyers, farmers and teachers. Specialists invited to lead the expeditions have included scientists from CALM, the CSIRO, the WA Museum and UWA academics. Two PhD students from Australian universities are currently using the expeditions as a case study for research into sustainable tourism.

Participants get involved in a range of activities; they set pit traps for animals being studied, weigh and measure them, gather plants and seeds, make observations and take photographs of plants and animals.

“And it’s a two-way street because a lot of participants have a lifetime of experience,” says the UWA graduate. “After an expedition to work with turtles, one of the participants was able to provide us with a modified gynaecological instrument to assist in sexing turtles – a very difficult thing to do externally. Another helped us to build a much better turtle trap. Farmers are always great to have on a trip because when a 4WD gets bogged, they know exactly what to do!”
Aiming for the Olympics

Kylie Wheeler and Adam Lucas are this year’s recipients of the UWAGA 2004 Sports Bursary. They reveal their Olympic aspirations to Rita Clarke

Although UWAGA Sports Bursary winner Kylie Wheeler has to wait until July, after selection trials in Germany, to see whether she’ll be an Athens’ Olympian, it’s almost a given. She’s No.1 at the moment in Australia and looks fit enough to long-jump to Greece under her own steam if she had to.

As a heptathlon athlete, she competes in seven track and field events over two days. Day one is 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put and 200m sprint. Day two is long jump, javelin, and the dreaded 800m. “Most of us prefer the high powered sprint stuff,” she says. Jumping and hurdles are her métier. In hurdles, you aim to spend as little time in the air as possible; in high jump she feels she is “soaring through the sky.”

When medley swimmer Adam Lucas, (also a Sports Bursary winner) heard he’d made it into the 2004 Olympic Team his reaction was: “Awesome! I mean, I was there with Thorpe, Hackett and Klim.”

However Thorpe’s now legendary fall from the starting block was unnerving. He recalls a collective groan and people running about saying: “Thorpie’s broke!”

“He’s such a big man that if he flinches his centre of gravity moves,” says Adam. “I mean you practice and practice. It made everyone else scared.” Obviously shaken about the fall of an idol, Adam (18) takes courage in the fact that his own place in history is assured: “We’re always going to be Olympians. They can’t take that away.”
As Kylie was “pretty good” at all events, she seemed made for the heptathlon. “You need a bit more bulk for the shot and javelin, which I’m working on,” she says. “Lots of people come into the ‘Hep’ with a throw background. I’m lucky I came in as an all rounder.”

She trains 22 hours a week, most mornings and afternoons, with one day off. “Three track sessions, three weights, two long runs, two jumps and about four throws.” She’s traveled far and wide for World University and Commonwealth Games, visiting Korea, France, England, Austria, Belgium, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia. She aims to compete in Beijing in 2008, and – so she can visit Calcutta – hopes to make the team for the 2010 Indian based Commonwealth Games.

Kylie studies part-time for a Bachelor of Science, Physiology. Altruistically, obviously, her Honours thesis is on obesity and veins which one could surmise would never come within coo-ee of her elegant limbs. Career-wise she’s not interested in research, and might go on to study paediatrics.

She works part-time at Little Athletics and loves music, playing piano and trombone, having performed at the Opera House when part of the St. Mary’s and Hale School’s bands. “That was awesome,” she recalls. “I regret not learning more music.”

Adam is doing a Commerce degree (Investment Finance; Corporate Finance; Information Management; e-commerce) and has started, with a friend, a small business building websites for people (www.infiniteconcepts.com.au). While doing practice laps, he tries to memorize things for exams. “I mean I do a lot of laps – I must swim 50,000 laps a year!”

Like Kylie, Adam is thrilled to have won one of the $3,000 UWAGA Sports Bursaries because it helps keep him in shape – paying for physiotherapy and Pilates – and allows him not to work while studying. He’s also grateful to the WA Institute of Sport: “They took me on board and helped make Athens a possibility. I knew I had a chance but I’m over the moon to get in. I mean just being a part of the biggest competition in the world…”

If you would like to donate to any of the awards offered to students by UWAGA, please contact Juanita Perez Scott at telephone +618 6488 1336 or email uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au

New Warden Matthew Zilko

Matthew Zilko commenced his one year term as Warden at the First Ordinary Meeting in March. Matthew joined the Council of Convocation in 2002 and was Deputy Warden in 2003. He practises as a barrister and holds the degrees of LLB (1972) and MPhil (1997) from The University of Western Australia. He is a member of the WA Bar Association and the Legal Practice Board. In 2001 he was appointed Senior Counsel by the Chief Justice of Western Australia. In addition to his work as a barrister Matthew also lectures part-time in Legal History at UWA.

The new Warden is mindful of the fact that our graduates now live and work in nearly every part of the world. He would like to see more alumni chapters set up in various parts of the world which have not yet been tackled by Convocation in order to maintain and strengthen the links between graduates of the University. He also wishes to maintain the excellent services already provided by Convocation including its web page and lifetime e-mail service and the 50th Anniversary Reunion which has become such a highlight of the University year.

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50th Anniversary Luncheon

Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association, is again organising the annual reunion luncheon for graduates who are celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation from UWA. This function has become very popular and all graduates are welcome, many treating the occasion as a ‘50 and over’ club for an annual gathering with friends of University days. This year the reunion luncheon will be held in Winthrop Hall 21 November at noon, so mark this date in your diary. All graduates of 1954 will receive a letter and an invitation at a later date, while former attendees will receive an invitation. The Graduate Outreach Committee of Convocation arranges the function but would welcome volunteers from among the 1954 graduates to join the committee and assist. Please leave your name and phone number with the Graduates Coordinator, Juanita Perez Scott at the Convocation Office, on (08) 6488 1336 if you are interested.

Help make this milestone an enjoyable celebration of your academic achievements.

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. Please note that names in brackets are maiden names.

Mr James Ashurst, Mr Eric T Bailey, Mr Edward W Cameron, Mr Albert J P Chapple, Ms Choon Thiem-Tatt, Mr Allen P Clarke, Mr Gerald B Clarke, Mr John F Eadie, Mr Robert C Evans, Mr John H Ferres, Dr Barry N Fitzpatrick, Mr Egbert R Fitzpatrick, Ms Glady's P Gamble, Ms Wilfrid R Garretty, Mr Douglas C Gillett, Mr William F W Godfrey, Ms Ula A I Harris, Ms Patricia Henderson, Ms Kwong W Ho, Mr Ian R Hooker, Dr Walter J Howse, Mr John J Kosky, Mr Nathan N Krasenstein, Mrs Dorothy E Lamberton (Harris), Mr Robert C Lang, Mr Hong W Lee, Mr John W Lewis, Mr Ross Maine, Ms Aileen J Marlow, Miss May F Marshall, Mr Patrick McCarthy, Mr David B McNaughton, Mr Arthur A McRoberts, Mr Gordon W Medcalf, Ms Frederica A Millar, Mr Kenneth Newton, Ms Bernadette M M O’Donovan, Mr Terance M O’Sullivan, Mr Hilary S Quinn, Mrs Krishnasamy Ramamoorthy, Mr Richard Roper, Mrs Jenepher S Scott (Burns), Ms Ramirs Senfelds, Ms Dogar I Singh, Mr Reginald L Smith, Ms Doris-Ann H Spragge, Dr Nancy E Stone (Hardwick), Miss Susan M H Taylor, Mrs Margaret M Trail (Eddy), Mrs Barbara J Tydeman (Smith), Mr Jerome Valis, Ms Janet M Watson, Ms Betty G White, Mr Samuel W Woods, Dr Gray Woolley and Mr Iain H Wyatt.
At the First Ordinary Meeting…

Professor Alan Harvey of UWA’s School of Anatomy and Human Biology, told a rapt audience at the First Ordinary Meeting about the important work his UWA team is doing on neural repair – a vital area of research aimed at improving the lives of countless accident victims confined to wheelchairs. Following his talk, Alan displayed his musical virtuosity by entertaining the audience with his guitar.

Dr Jenny Gregory, speaker at the Second Ordinary Meeting, 17 September 2004

Dr Jenny Gregory is Director of University of Western Australia Press and the Centre for Western Australian History at The University of Western Australia. She is also President of the History Council of Western Australia and President of the National Trust (WA) and an active member of the Independent Publishers Committee of the Australian Publishers Association. Her main academic interests are urban history and heritage. Her publications include City of Light: a history of Perth since the 1950s (2003), Building a Tradition: a history of Scotch College Perth 1897–1996 (1996), Claremont: a history, co-written with Geoffrey Bolton (1999), and several edited collections, including On the Homefront: Western Australia during WWI (1996). She is currently working on the development of the Historical Encyclopedia of Western Australia as Editor-in-Chief.
Parents of UWA students clearly relish the opportunity to get a feel for the UWA campus at the annual Parents Welcome. Academics, staff and students act as guides on the occasion, and the visitors enjoy refreshments at the Vice-Chancellery. Seen here enjoying the occasion are:

1. Ken and Sue Wilson and Martyn Churcher
2. Lesley and John Starr, Brian and Marissa Ballard
3. Jenny Lucas, Ruza Ostrogonac-Seserko, Luigi and Rita Sorci
4. Professor Lou Landau, Barbara Levit, Felicity Gouldthorp and Associate Professor Paul McMenamin

**Parents well and truly welcome!**

Proud parents were also on hand at the UWA Awards and Scholarship Ceremony for commencing undergraduates held in Winthrop Hall at the end of February. A range of scholarships that acknowledged academic excellence as well as extra-curricular endeavours, diversity and regional location, were accepted by students from the Class of 2004. Aletta Van Pletson, studying Arts, was delighted to receive one of sixteen Diversity and Merit Awards. “To immigrate to Australia is one thing,” the undergraduate told UNIVIEW. “To be accepted to a university and receive a scholarship within the first year of living in the country is another. Although I am constantly studying outside the curriculum to catch up with things such as English Academic Writing, this acknowledgement of the talents I have reminds me that I am capable of achieving the standard expected of a university student in Australia.”

**UWA awards acknowledge excellence and endeavour**

At a special function, the University acknowledged graduates, students and academics who have won awards over the past three years in the 40Under40 competition run by WA Business News and supported by UWA (see In Focus).
In 1960, aged 33, he was appointed Professor and Head of Department of Biochemistry at the University of Kharkiv. In 1965, he became senior research scientist at CSIRO, in Canberra, and, a year later, was appointed Foundation Professor and Head of Chemistry at the University of Papua New Guinea. He was Chief Scientist in the Department of Primary Production in Darwin in 1981. He returned to Perth in 1989 as Principal Soil Chemist for the WA Department of Mines. Don was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, London, and a Fellow of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute.

**Brenda Mazzucchelli** (née Sloane) (BSc 1961) was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) in the 2004 Australia Day honours awards. She was recognised for her service to the community, particularly through education and welfare organisations associated with the Anglican Church of Australia.

**Glen Higgins** (BSc 1962; DipEd 1963) retired after 40 years with the WA Education Department, the last five years as President of the WA Secondary Schools Executives Association, an association for secondary principals and deputy principals.

**Adam Bubna-Litic** (BA 1963; DipEd 1965) is spending time in the Czech Republic, where he has restored family properties that were confiscated by the communist regime in 1948. He returns annually to Australia in March-April.

**Eric Speed** (BEd 1963) taught secondary level Science and lectured in Educational Administration for the Education Department of WA prior to being appointed as the Foundation Principal of Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School (1971-77) and All Saints College (1981-87). He was the Foundation Director of the WA International College (1987-90) and the Perth International College (1997). He has remained involved in education since retiring and is part-time lecturer and consultant at Murdoch, Edith Cowan and Notre Dame universities. Eric writes that he fondly remembers his days at UWA, where he was awarded a Full Blue and represented WA in amateur football (1956).

**P a m e l a O 'C u n e e n** (née Robins) (BA 1964; DipEd 1965) taught in WA for three years then left to study languages and singing in Europe. She married a diplomat and has travelled for over 22 years, representing the European Union in a number of African and Caribbean countries. Pamela now works in psychology and counselling and lives in Kent, UK.

**Barry Kissane** (BSc 1969; DipEd 1971; BEd 1975; MEd 1982) is senior lecturer in Education at Murdoch University. He is the President of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers.

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**Barry Kissane** (BSc 1969; DipEd 1971; BEd 1975; MEd 1982) is senior lecturer in Education at Murdoch University. He is the President of the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers.
David Ravine (BMedSci(Hons) 1980; MB BS 1980) writes that 19 years after leaving Perth to pursue his professional interest in Medical Genetics, he has returned to take up the foundation chair of Medical Genetics at UWA. David has remained research-active during this time, focussing primarily on research opportunities emerging from the introduction of newer molecular genetic technologies into the routine of clinical practice. The strengthening vigour in human genetics research within the Western Australian Institute of Medical Research (WAIMR) was a key element in his decision to return to Perth.


Phillip Samuell (BA 1981) is the financial adviser for his own business in Perth. He advises on financial planning, life insurance and income protection matters. Former classmates can contact Phillip at phil@philsamuell.com.au.

David Crossing (BSc 1983) is working as a geological consultant specialising in mapping. He is currently in Thailand for six months. David is married and writes that is now the proud father of a baby daughter.

Gael McDonald (MBA 1983) has been appointed Vice-President International at UNITiCE Institute of Technology in Auckland, New Zealand. In addition to her Vice-Presidential role, she is Professor of Business Ethics and is currently President of the Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management for 2004.

Mark Ellison (BSc 1984) has just completed his PhD in science communication at the ANU. He is currently Head of Science at Radford College, in Canberra.

John Throssell (BSc(Hons) 1985) relocated to Melbourne in 2003 with his family, to take the role of Principal Environmental Hydrogeologist with Parsons Brinckerhoff which specialises in the assessment and remediation of land and groundwater contamination and soil salinity.

Suzanne Eaton (née Gougoulis)(BPE 1997) is the author of Executive Life: Developing the Business Mindset which is sailing the Atlantic Ocean. She is lecturing at the Universiti Malaysia Borneo. Although based in Melbourne, Simon Pritchard (BSc(Hons) 1992) has been the in-house counsel for the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), in Basel, Switzerland, since January 2002. The BIS is an institution which fosters international financial and monetary cooperation and hosts the secretariat for the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Russell Hunt (BEng 2001; BSc(Hons) 2002) has been the in-house counsel at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), in Basel, Switzerland, since January 2002. The BIS is an institution which fosters international financial and monetary cooperation and hosts the secretariat for the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Rory MacJie (BA 1992; LLB(Hons) 1992) has been the in-house counsel at the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), in Basel, Switzerland, since January 2002. The BIS is an institution which fosters international financial and monetary cooperation and hosts the secretariat for the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision.

Anna Birchard (née Gough)(BCom 1995) is the director of the WA division of CPA Australia. He has a management and marketing background and has spent six years for CPA Australia in those areas.

Alexandra Welch (DipEd 1993; MEEdMan 1999) is the author of Grassroots Childhood Reminiscence Groups in the 1920s. She is the deputy principal of Ellenbrook Christian College and writes that she is both pleased and proud to learn that there has been an increase of past pupils entering UWA in the past few years.

Jason Teo Tze Wi (BEng 1993; MEEd 1996) lives in Sydney and is the Mobile Market Research Manager for Optus.

Tracey R Wood (BSc 1995; BPsych 1996) lives in Sydney and is the best MBA student from the Australian Defence Force Academy. His thesis was conducted in the area of evolutionary robotics entitled Pareto Multi-Objective Evolution of Legged Embodied Organisms. Jason is lecturing at the Universiti Malaysia in Kota Kinabalu, which is located on the tropical north-western shores of Borneo.

Slyan Vijayasekaran (MB BS 1994) commenced specialist training in 1996 and spent two years in the UK. She is working at Princess Margaret Hospital with plans to work in Cincinnati, USA, to further specialise in paediatric otorhinolaryngology and research into the aetiology of middle ear infections in children.

Leanne Zeroni (née Wood)(BSc 1994) married Peter Zeroni (BSc(Hons) 1992) and they moved from Perth to Darwin last year. Both are working for the Northern Territory Health Department and enjoying time with their two-year-old son. Former classmates can contact them at zerowood@inet.net.au.

Maureen Ostorio (née Brevoort) (BCom 1995) has been in public practice since 1997 and completed her CPA in 1998. She is married with two children, and writes that she hopes to have her own business within the next few years.

Rabia Siddique (LLB 1995; BA 1997) has been practising as a criminal solicitor in England for the past six years, most recently as a legal officer with the British Army. She previously worked as a criminal lawyer with the Legal Aid Commission and the Commonwealth Department of Public Prosecutions, in Perth.

Devin Stein (BSc 1995; BPynch 1996) lives in Sydney and is the Mobile Market Research Manager for Optus.

Ian B Watt (BCom 1995) is the youngest person to be appointed principal of the WA division of CPA Australia. He has a management and marketing background and has spent six years for CPA Australia in those areas.

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Jan Dupree (BA 1995) completed her PhD in 2002 and is now the proud father of a baby daughter.

Christopher Beer (MB BS 1997) has returned to Perth after working for one year at the Prince of Wales Hospital in Sydney, and one year working in Newcastle.

Adrienne Jackson (BE 1997) is currently the bosun on the Endeavour, which is sailing the Atlantic Ocean.

Chin Ting Kwang Noel (BA(Hons) 1997) has been working for Ministry of Manpower, in Singapore, since graduating. He is the Assistant Director for the Foreign Manpower Management Division and also concurrently Assistant Director for the Labour Market Management Division. He is married with a baby daughter.

Warner Spukar (BSc 1997; LLB 1997) writes that after seven years in the city working as an insurance lawyer, he has now commenced a new practice, Cornerstone Legal, in Willieton. He enjoys being his own boss and working close to home, as does his wife and two young boys.

Theodore Teo (BSc 1997) has been working in the area of international research, training and communication since graduating. He is presently in Singapore working as a Regional Manager in a Youth Expedition Project; empowering and developing youth through international service with learning expeditions throughout ASEAN countries, China and India. Former classmates can contact Theo at: theodore.teo@sf.org.sg.

Zoë Briceak (BSc 1998) is a process engineer working on a fly in/fly out basis for Minara Resources. She lives in Port Kennedy and former classmates can contact him at zbriceak@kodo.com.au.

Peter Kell (MB BS 1998) is working as a GP and obstetrician at the Murray Medical Centre, in Mandurah.

Pauline Lee (BEd 1999) is a sales representative for Bristol-Myers Squibb in Kuala Lumpur. Pauline visited Egypt this year and this happy snap shows her standing in front of the Great Sphinx of Giza.
Diane Smith (BSc(Hons) 1999) is a social worker with Wanslea Family Services, in Perth. She writes that she feels nostalgic about her time at UWA and is proud to see her 18-year-old son begin his Arts degree.

Bradley Brown (BCom 1999) is working in the Solomon Islands with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands, with the aim of rebuilding and reforming the island’s economy. He previously worked in Canberra for the Commonwealth Treasury for the past five years.

Elizabeth Sinclair (PhD 1999) is now a research associate in UWA’s School of Animal Biology. She has been working as an audiologist in Australia, for the past six years.

Suzanne Clarke (BSc(Hons)) 2000) is the National Tournament and Programs Coordinator for the Canadian Ladies Golf Association, and oversees the operations of junior, amateur and senior national championships. Suzanne lives in Oakville, Ontario.

Natasha Marks (MusB 2000) is a clarinet teacher working at various private and public schools in Perth. Natasha writes that she is engaged and busy planning her November wedding.

Christopher Taylor (BS(Hons) 2000) completed his Master’s degree at the University of Memphis and is currently working on his PhD in engineering physics with Professors Rob Kelly and Matthew Neurock at the University of Virginia. Fellow classmates can contact Christopher at abini0@virginia.edu.

Brett Beard (BSc(Agric)(Hons) 2001) has been working as an agronomist at Elders Dalwallinu for the past three years. He will be taking one year off and will be travelling around the world.

Sven De Jonghe (BE(Hons) 2001) is a mechanical engineer with Bassett Consulting Engineers, in Perth. He was married in January and honeymooned in the Maldives.

Simeon Bartley (BSc 2002; DipEd 2003) is working on corporate web applications at the Water Corporation, in Leederville. He teaches part-time at various schools and was married last year.

Catherine Campbell (BPsych 2002) writes that she is completing her Master’s degree in Clinical Psychology at Murdoch University.

Lui Terri Chan (BCom 2002) writes that she is working for Citibank in Hong Kong and really misses the warmth of Perth both in terms of climate and friends.

Reinhold Hart (PhD 2002) is a project manager for the Department of Industry and Resources and is responsible for attracting new resources-based projects to WA and encouraging value adding to projects including renewables for power or alternative fuels.

Stas Simon Krupenia (BCogSc (Hons) 2002) is completing his PhD in cognitive engineering at the University of Queensland, where he is examining the cognitive work domain of anaesthetists and their interaction with patient monitoring machines.

Nor Aznita Aziz (MB BS 2002) is doing voluntary trainee work as a guest doctor in the Zurich University hospital. She writes that she is still learning German and trying to get a permanent job in Switzerland.

Spiro Raftopoulos (MB BS 2002) is working as a registrar at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital and is in his third year of clinical medicine. He writes he recently married his partner of seven years and he intends embarking on specialist training next year.

Daniel Soon Chee Ming (BA(Hons) 2002) worked for a sociology professor and enrolled in a Master’s programme at the National University of Singapore, after graduating. His research is on Singapore migrants in Perth and he is hoping to pursue a PhD after completing his Master’s. He is looking forward to returning to Australia and has just received his Australian permanent residency. Former classmates can contact Daniel at go305743@nus.edu.sg.

Adam Stewart (GradCertMgt 2002) is the Finance and Corporate Services Manager for Broome International Airport and Roebuck Estate.

Heather Birk (MB BS 2003) has a part-time internship at Nambour General Hospital on Queensland’s Sunshine Coast. She writes that she misses family and friends, but is very happy in her new home.

Deygugacia de Jesus (LLB 2003) is legal counsel for Environinvest Limited, a public company specialising in agricultural investments in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.
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