Budgie says:
‘Thanks, but it’s not farewell’

Budgie organised and personally funded a free lunchtime concert on the day before the Easter break, to acknowledge his working life and the friendships he has made at UWA.

Rain on the day meant a change of venue but Budgie was delighted with the event.

The University’s longest-serving staff member is probably the least self-serving. While paying tribute to his friends and his years on campus, he still refuses to attend a ceremony to have the Chancellor’s Medal officially bestowed on him.

But before you start nodding in agreement, listen to the rest…

“People get medals heaped on them” (Budgie was awarded the Chancellor’s Medal three years ago) “and what do they give back?”

“I thought it was time to give something back for the 52-plus terrific years I’ve had as a technician in Physics.”

Neuroscience – creating a research base for common ills

Up to 50 per cent of admissions to hospitals are neuroscience-related.

These problems cost the government more than $1 billion a year.

It was figures like these that in 1997 encouraged a group of senior UWA academics to put together Australia’s first undergraduate neuroscience degree. This year, their first first-year students are completing their degrees and the first neuroscience honours students have begun their projects.
No, our beautiful garden campus is not being threatened by a deadly plant disease.

But in many educational and policy environments, critical questions are being asked about the future of campus-based universities. Traditional forms of learning are being challenged by new electronic modes of flexible delivery. The vision of the ‘campus-less’ university is being advanced by educational futurologists.

Critics of the campus range from those who argue that rising costs alone will drive us to a virtual campus environment on the world wide web, to those who see the campus as a relic of an old era in higher education, beloved only by those nostalgic for the good old days. A kind of theme park for the ageing academic?

Does any of this matter to us on our beautiful comfortable campus?

The tyranny of distance from other metropolitan centres will certainly not shield us from the impact of educational services made available by ‘distance providers’. A range of educational products is already available through a variety of modes of delivery. And there is much talk of the imminent arrival of comprehensive e-universities on the Internet ... of consortia of global networks of institutions (including Australian members) contracting to provide degrees through media corporations, indeed even the ‘virtual presence’ of the great research universities — a Harvard or Oxford — through their electronic agencies. The Cyberspace University is imminent!

These external threats aside, there are now the challenges being posed by our society, which require a changing higher educational environment. Individuals in the community want to access university at different stages in life, engage in courses and classes at times which suit their life circumstances, even want to mix the modes of delivery, by taking some courses on a campus and others in ‘distance modes’.

In Western Australia, we have a special challenge in meeting the needs of potential students in remote locations who find it expensive to move to Perth. And, we have a potentially huge student clientele both interstate and in our wider Asia Pacific region (some 2.5 billion people live in the same time zone as Perth).

So it’s 8.30am at the new UWA Childcare centre. As each pre-schooler arrives, he or she is heralded with shouts of glee. Almost every new arrival makes a grand entrance. It’s as though they were going to a party rather than childcare.

It appears the children love the new centre as much as the parents and staff do.

With the benefit of the services of the best architect in Australia, the best designer of interior space and the best overseer of the refurbishment, says the centre demonstrates the absolute commitment of the University to the family-friendly policy.

“With the benefit of the services of the best architect in Perth, the result has been the development of an incredibly modern and uplifting place for the children and staff of the centre,” Dr den Hollander said.

Light, warmth, bright colours and space are the overriding features inside and the outdoor areas, play equipment and gardens are equally brilliant.

“The philosophy of UWA Childcare has not altered but the better designed and more efficient resource will allow that to happen in a more effective way,” Dr den Hollander said.

UWA Childcare is a chemical-free site so all cleaning and sterilising is done using non-toxic agents. And the children’s food is specifically balanced.

It’s not just fun but good for you!

Andrew Lawson, Charlie Roberts and Ting Liu (who likes to be known as Luke) enjoy their new playground. Three-year-old Andrew Lawson happily farewells his Dad, Malcolm, who works in Microbiology.
Neuroscience

Associate Professor Alan Harvey (Anatomy and Human Biology) and Professor Lyn Beazley (Zoology) said that neuroscience graduates’ research could eventually significantly reduce neuroscience-related problems.

The graduates will work in areas ranging from research in Alzheimer’s disease and stroke, to biomedical engineering, design of therapeutic drugs, retraining, and artificial intelligence.

“We see our honours year as a breeding ground for Australian medical research,” Professor Beazley said.

The neuroscience group, co-ordinated by Associate Professor Matthew Martin-Iverson (Psychology, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science and Pharmacology) is delighted with the success of their program.

“The Eureka Prize will come next year when we see what the graduates do when they have finished their degrees,” Professor Harvey said.

The numbers of students have been attracted to the course — so much so that we have continued to impose a quota to maintain the quality of the lab classes.

The students are really high and, so far, 50 per cent of the graduates are doing honours, so it all points to a great success,” he said.

Two students, Helen Barbour and Ben Rae, are currently working on their honours projects and another two are due to start later this year.

“I feel we are trailblazers, showing the way for the pending restructuring of the University,” Professor Beazley said. “If you don’t evolve, you are at risk.”

She and Associate Professor Harvey see the development of this and other joint programs in the Faculty of Science as a forerunner for the reorganisation of science at UWA.

“We certainly have the academic drive, what’s important is to expand the resource base,” they said.

They see their neuroscience program and similar programs making science at UWA relevant to the twenty-first century.

In previous years, some of the top-ranking life science students tended to transfer to medicine. It is expected that more students will continue on in scientific research by choosing programs such as this new neuroscience degree.

“Honours student Helen Barbour had the last word. “I’m not interested in practising medicine. I’m interested in a research career and this program is just perfect,” she said.

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This coincided with the joint appointments, in the Departments of Psychology and Psychiatry and Behavioural Science, of Associate Professor Martin-Iverson and Associate Professor Pat Michie.

They became the trigger for bringing it all together, and the group, including Associate Professor Barry Madigan (Pharmacology), achieved the difficult task of creating a course that spanned five departments across three faculties.

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Raine Visiting Professor Paul Fletcher (pictured) is interested in brain function.

Until ten years ago, the only way he could study this was by creating a lesion in an animal’s brain or looking at the brain of a human which was damaged by, for instance, a stroke.

“Oh, otherwise, you could only learn about the structure of the brain, not the function,” he said.

But over the past decade, new techniques have been developed which allow scientists to look at healthy human brains and work out what parts are performing which functions.

“The new techniques have reawakened a lot of interest in neuroscience...”

Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI) uses changes in the magnetic properties of the brain to track small changes which signal different functions.

Professor Fletcher, a Wellcome Advanced Fellow at the University of Cambridge, specialises in functional neuroimaging and has just spent three weeks at UWA’s Department of Psychiatry andBehavioural Sciences, helping fellow research scientists to get the most out of their fMRI scanner.

“It takes a lot of expertise from physicists and radiographers to reset a scanner, depending on what you are looking for in a brain,” Professor Fletcher said.

“It’s difficult work but it is very well set up at QEII and you have excellent Departments of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science and Psychology to back it up.

“There’s nothing magical about fMRI. It’s useless without good solid psychological questioning”

Professor Fletcher said he was very taken with psychiatry in the late 1980s when there was a lot of argument about social and psychological vs biological brain function.

“I saw them as being inextricably linked and so my fascination began,” he said.

The early Magnetic Imaging scanners were quite scary for patients: having to stay in a dark, noisy tunnel, developing claustrophobia in the time it took to capture images.

But the new fMRI scanners are much quicker, needing only four seconds to take an image.

“The new techniques have reawakened a lot of interest in neuroscience,” Professor Fletcher said. “It is one of the last real battlefields of philosophy: the physical vs the mental.

The questions we are asking are many centuries old, even through, now, they are much more specific.

“These machines won’t tell us all the answers, but they give us lots of vital information about the systems in the brain that give rise to consciousness.

“It is one of the last real battlefields of philosophy: the physical vs the mental.

The questions we are asking are many centuries old."

“For example, we can look at the difference between personal, emotional memories and general emotional memories and dissect out these differences. Clearly you can’t do that with animals.

“As a clinical tool, functional imaging is yet to have an impact. But if the technique fulfils its potential I can see it eventually being part of the diagnosis and treatment of patients.

“But first, we are still learning what’s normal, before we can go on to figure out what’s abnormal.”

Professor Fletcher’s goal is to understand how the frontal lobes, which control the other areas of the brain, work and what goes wrong there when mental illness occurs.

To language pedants, it’s sloppy speech. To linguists, it’s an interesting, evolving change.

You have probably noticed it and been irritated by it, especially if you listen to commercial radio. It’s the changing nature and use of the present perfect tense in the English language.

For example: “Police confirm that at 16.30 hours yesterday the body of ... has been located” (92.9FM radio news report, March 17, 2000); and “A man has been injured when the tavern he was drinking crashed into...” (96FM radio news report, August 24, 1998).

Australians are tending to use the present perfect or the “I have done” tense instead of the simple past tense “I did”.

Australian English is already described as a separate dialect from other varieties of English, but so far the main differences noted have been in vocabulary and pronunciation.

Dr Marie-Eve Ritz, linguist and lecturer at the Graduate School of Education, says this is the first time a grammatical change has been observed.

“When I came to Australia from France a few years ago, I was confused about what I was hearing,” Dr Ritz said. “At first, I noticed it in colloquial speech, then I began hearing it in news reports, reading it in newspapers and magazines and I have even found it in a David Ireland novel.”

Dr Ritz met English colleague Dr Dulcie Engel of the University of Wales, Swansea, at a linguistics conference at Oxford 18 months ago and they discovered a common interest in what was happening to the English language.

Dr Engel has just spent two weeks working with Dr Ritz at the GSE, with the assistance of a small ARC grant, on a project examining the grammatical changes. They will present a joint paper on their findings at an international linguistics conference in France later this month.

“To a British English speaker, it sounds wrong. This is not new happening so much in Britain. But nothing wrong to a linguist. It’s merely interesting. We try to be scientific, not judgmental,” Dr Engel said.

“It’s fascinating to see something in the process of happening,” Dr Ritz said.

They said that English speakers in the United States used a simple form of the past tense, even when we would expect the present perfect. For example, just before a meal, a mother would tend to say to her child “Did you wash your hands?” Instead of “Have you washed your hands?”

Dr Engel said there was evidence from many languages that the perfect was an unstable grammatical category.

“It has happened in French, and, to a lesser extent, Dutch and German,” she said.

Dr Engel and Dr Ritz’s research assistant, Helen Majewski, who is now doing a master’s degree in linguistics in the Department of Linguistics, has been collecting examples of the changing use of the tense.

“Radio Triple J has been the best!” she said.

– The UK Experience –

A lecture by Detective Superintendent

ROBIN NAPPER

A fascinating look at the forensic world behind the scenes at the National Crime Facility in the UK. Robin Napper has spent the past 18 months seconded to the NSW Police, where he has been setting up a crime facility similar to the one he established in Britain. He believes that scientifically-based investigation, particularly the power of DNA, is revolutionising the way police work and that the recent introduction of CrimTrac, if fully implemented, will make Australia a world leader in crime intelligence and produce a dramatic improvement in case clean-up rates.

Wednesday 24 May 2000 6pm
Social Sciences Lecture Theatre

All WELCOME  ADMISSION FREE
**Monday 15 May**

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
“Tetramethane”, Dr. Shankar Bala, University of Christchurch, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

**SCIENCE FILM SHOW**
“Scientific Values”, This program incorporates stunning images to illustrate the mystery and physical properties of the natural world. Screening in Lecture Theatre 1.15.

**HISTORY SEMINAR**
“Idie hands and idle lands, gender, geography and boys’ employment in the 1930s Australia”, 10:00 to 10:37”, Kelise Abbott, 4:30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall. All welcome.

**INSTITUTE FOR CHILD HEALTH RESEARCH**
Alessandra Ormata
“Rennett’s Loutosis and redescending community”, Dr Ruth Shean, CEO Disability Services Commission, 6pm, Aturium, Institute for Child Health Research. Refreshments served at 5.15pm.

**Tuesday 16 May**

**AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCES SEMINAR**
“Essentials of obligations”, Associate Professor David Godkin, University of Sydney, 11am, Clima Seminar Room.

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOOTALK**
“Stephen Scourfield on Glossy”, Stephen Scourfield, from the UWA’s Western Australian art collection will speak on his experiences of working in the media on the theme of Glossy and personal images, 6pm.

**GUILD COURSE-RELATED FILMS**
Rup Fenton, directed by Ghuori Tarabani and starring Samuel L. Jackson and Jeff Goldblum, 6pm. In two of mob hit men, a boxer and a pair of diner druggers in four tales of evil. Related to English 213/313, 2pm, Guild Cinema, Cinema Hall (above Tavern).

**MUSIC MASTERCLASS**
“Acclaimed cellist Cameron Retchford presents a selection of solo and chamber music”, 7:30pm, University Library Music Auditorium.

**FRIENDS OF THE UWA LIBRARY LECTURE**
“William Dampier in New Holland”, Alex George (scientist and author), 8pm Library Training Room Red Library. Booked at 7:30pm and 6:30pm of Annual General Meeting.

**LAJOSIKA ACADEMIC LECTURE**
“The journey of St Paul to Antioch in Psalms”, Dr Robert Taljaard, Curator of the Yaxley, Archeological Museum, Ipsart, Turkey, 4pm, Austin Lecture Theatre. Free and open to the public.

**Thursday 18 May**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT**
“Visiting Artists Helene Rathbone (violin) and Cameron Retchford (cello)” in recital. Works include Delius Sonatas for Violin and Cello and Bach Suite for Cello. 12:30pm Orangery Theatre.

**ZOOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Multiple paternity and mating system function in the Western Australian frog Crinia georgiana”, Dr Dale Roberts, Zoology, 4pm Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

**STATISTICS SEMINAR**
“Statistical analysis of air quality time series with long range dependence and intermittency”, Dr Jill Gao, Mathematics and Statistics, 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

**Saturday 20 May**

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Closing the Bacillus anxiety gene in the mouse model”, Dr Nadia Urosevic, Microbiology, 9am Seminar Room 1H11, First Floor, L Block, OSHSC.

**AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCES SEMINAR**
“Australian agricultural economics in the last quarter of the twentieth century”, Associate Professor David Godkin, University of Sydney, 11am Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Social and cultural factors of alcohol use and abuse in New Guinea”, Dr Martina Toowiss, on ext. 2002, or by email at rmpotou@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

**ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR**
“Child labour in the Japanese coal mining industry”, Satchiko Sato, 1 to 2pm, Room 501, First Floor, First Block, OSHSC.

**BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
“Fuel utilisation during sustained intermittent, intense exercise”, Mike Christmas, 1pm Seminars Lecture Theatre.

**ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP**
“Industry and market characteristics in oil flow and trades”, Dr Hock Ng, Accounting and Finance, 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.63, First Floor, Economics Building.

**TUESDAY 23 MAY**

**THE AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (VA) INC.**
“Changes to the medical curriculum”, Associate Professor Judith Sturt, Public Health, 1pm, Room 1.63, First Floor, Building 91.

**GREENLAND-RELATED FILMS**
“Sue Kjaer on the search for the lost Greenlandic villages” on DVD, 5pm, Macmillan Room.

**THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**
“An introduction to virtual reality technology”, 2pm, First Floor, 1.61, Arts Lecture Theatre.

**Wednesday 24 May**

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**

**PHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR**
“Nitrogen acquisition by native plants”, Dr Matthew Turnbull, University of Canberra. 4pm, Seminar Room 1.23, Botany.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR**
“A soil scientist in Australian women’s hockey? The similarities between soil and sport research”, Yoshi Turnbull, University of Canberra. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre, Room 1.1, First Floor, Building 91.

**ONE-DAY CONFERENCE: CONSTRUCTING A COLONY: THE CONVICT LEGACY**
This one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for Western Australian History (UWA) and the Fremantle Prison, marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of convicts to Western Australia. Bringing together historians, genealogists, researchers and the interested public, the conference will explore the historical and contemporary impact of the convict system on Western Australian society, its cultural heritage, and environment. 9am to 5pm, Fremantle Prison, Early registration before 19 May—Full: $45.00 Concession: $25.00. (Prices include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.) For more information and registration forms, please contact: Dr Helen Merrick, ADirector, Centre for Western Australian History. Phone ext. 2143 or email: hmerrick@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

**Thursday 25 May**

**ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP**
“The digital Middle Ages and the early modern web”, Dr Toby Burrows, Scholars Centre, Reid Library, and Penelope Jones, 1pm, Red Library, Training Room. All welcome.

**SCIENCE FILM SHOW**
“Dying for a meal”, 4pm, Sixth Floor, First Block, OSHSC.

**MUSIC MASTERCLASS**
“Debussy Sonata”, Andrew Kennedy. 1pm, Lecture Theatre 2, Department of Music.

**Monday 29 May**

**BOTANY SEMINAR**
“Hydropneumatin signalling and line switch genes”, Professor Philip Brown, Department of Anatomy and Physiology, 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.63, First Floor, Economics Building.

**CML AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING LECTURE**
“Modelling of jup-sexed structures subject to random ocean waves”, Dr David Mark Dredge, Room E513, Civil Engineering Building.

**ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP**
“The influence of cultural factors on prize culturing decision-making in Asia-Pacific stock markets”, Professor Philip Brown, Accounting and Finance. 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.63, First Floor, Economics Building.

**Tuesday 30 May**

**ADVANCE NOTICE**
**Monday 29 May**

**WEDNESDAY 31 MAY**

**PHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR**
“Genetic variation of the mitochondrial murrnas in the pig”, Jasmine Lamb, 1pm, Physiology-Seminar Room.

**Saturday 3 June**

**THE MOYAL LECTURE SERIES ON MATHEMATICS, PHYSICS AND STATISTICS**
Macquarie University is pleased to sponsor the first in a series of annual lectures in honour of the late Professor Joe Moyal, one of Australia’s most remarkable scientists and former Professor of Mathematics at Macquarie University.

Each year, a person who has made a distinguished contribution to at least one of the three fields of Mathematics, Physics and Statistics will be invited to give the Moyal Lecture and be presented with the Moyal Medal for their contribution to research. This year the Moyal Lecture will be the Professor of Statistics at the Australian National University, Professor Joe K Berlin.

The lecture series aims to influence and interest graduates who research in areas across these disciplines as well as to provide a meeting ground for researchers in these disciplines from universities in the region.

The lecture will be held at 7.30pm in E6A Lecture Theatre, Macquarie University. It will be followed by a discussion session, supper and drinks.

Bookings are not essential but if you would like more information please contact Associate Professor John Corbett at Macquarie University on (02) 9880 8945.
You can find art in the most unexpected places — under a microscope, inside a computer or even in a maths equation.

The University's Gallery is offering the opportunity for departments and research centres to mount exhibitions of their art, under the Access Exhibition Program. The Gallery facilitates up to three exhibitions a year in collaboration with departments. New Gallery manager, Kate Lewis, said the program promotes skills of learning through exhibitions and, in a broader sense, is part of the University's commitment to innovation in teaching and learning.

Under the program, the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery provides gallery space, security and gallery staff, exhibition advice and costs of installation — at no cost to the department.

The department or centre must select, supply and frame its works of art and supply photographs for publicity purposes.

The Gallery and the department work together on promotion of the exhibition and development of any public programs related to the subject material (lunchtime talks, school visits).

Kate Lewis is keen for University staff to take the opportunity of using the Gallery for its prime purpose. "The Gallery has become an increasingly popular venue for holding special University functions such as prize givings, welcomes and launches. However, it's first and foremost a working gallery and so our primary objective is the exhibition program. We would very much like to encourage contact from departments and centres who feel they could contribute to this through the Access Exhibition Program," she said.

Written applications for mounting an exhibition in the 2001 academic year must be at the Gallery by Thursday June 1.

Review by peers works well

Most UWA staff who apply for a reclassification of their position are successful.

The Classification Review Committee, a group of eight staff members from a broad spectrum across the campus, say that there is almost a 90 per cent success rate for reclassification applications.

Last year, 41 applications for reclassification were received, of which 35 were successful.

The committee, whose membership changes annually (but not all members change each year) has been in operation for more than three years. As each decision is made by the committee and not by a single person it is a much more democratic method of assessing University staff's duties and responsibilities.

Committee members have experience in a wide range of different fields, and on joining the committee are provided with extensive training in the area of classification and work-value assessment.

The committee meets on the first Thursday of each month but a sub-committee can make assessments on new positions if these need to be urgently classified. Applications for reclassification are generally dealt with within two months, consistent with the University's Enterprise Bargaining Agreement.

The certification of the General Staff Agreement 1999 has seen a change in the appeal process. Any appeals against the committee's decision will now be referred to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who will have access to all the material submitted by the applicant and/or department. If the appeal is dismissed, the applicant may refer the matter to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission.

Human Resources staff are always happy to assist other staff who are considering applying for reclassification. The classifications section can be contacted on ext. 1239 or 2155. There is also information on the web at http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/hr/policy/att07/attachment88_sch01.htm.


How's your timetable looking?

Time is changing this year should be making the most of the campus' venues and should be more convenient for staff and students.

How successful these changes to centralised timetabling are will be reviewed by a small working party, which the Teaching and Learning Committee has established.

The group will assist Syllabus Plus Project Manager, Dr Michael Partis, and consider input and feedback on any difficulties arising in the first semester, so that adjustments and modifications might be made for second semester.

The working party is: Professor Colin McLennan, convenor, and Head of the Academic Board; Tim Huggins, Guild President, representing the students; Judy Allen from the Law School; and Dr Armando Scolara from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

Dr Partis and his team spent most of last year working on the new centralised timetabling trying to keep changes to the minimum but benefits to the maximum.

Syllabus Plus Project

Put your work on the walls

You can now promote your work to all University House residents, through their newsletters, or in the University House Noticeboard.

LWAG's new manager, Kate Lewis, is in Canberra, editing the diaries of Australian artist Donald Friend.

"It's a great honour to be invited to spend a year at the National Gallery and undertake this important work," Dr Gray said before she left in March.

"It's an ambitious and exciting publishing project — compiling 44 volumes into four! During his long and notorious life, Donald Friend kept detailed diaries, lavishly illustrated with exquisite drawings.

"He wrote in the back of one of his first diaries: 'I am Donald Stuart Leslie Friend, and am 16 years of age, being blessed with a genius for art and a talent for writing.'"

"He was in the lack of one of his first diaries: 'I am Donald Stuart Leslie Friend, and am 56 years of age, being blessed with a genius for art and a talent for writing.'"

"He's an acute observer, expressing a very strong sense of life lived to the full. His diaries form an impressive chronicle in words and pictures of the life and times of this remarkable artist, who was also a published writer — a rare combination of talents."

The project is funded by the Morris West Trust Fund and the University has given Dr Gray a year's leave without pay to take up this prestigious fellowship.

Kate Lewis, an experienced arts administrator, was previously Executive Office to the Vice-Chancellor.

McKenzie has taken over the management of the Gallery for a year while its Director, Dr Anna Gray, is in Canberra, editing the diaries of Australian artist Donald Friend.

"It's a great honour to be invited to spend a year at the National Gallery and undertake this important work," Dr Gray said before she left in March.

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Champion of country practice recognised

Professor Max Kamiens has won the biennial Louis Arriotti Research Award, which recognises innovative research in rural and remote health in Australia.

The Foundation Director of the West Australian Centre for Remote and Rural Medicine, Professor Kamiens has made exceptional efforts to expose medical students to country practice. His work in training doctors for rural areas has had a beneficial impact right across the state.

Professor Kamiens is now the Head of the Department of General Practice.

The Louis Arriotti Award was made at the Australian Rural Remote Health Scientific conference and is sponsored by the Toowoomba Hospital Foundation.

Still keeping an eye on the time

A clock has been chosen as the most fitting memorial to Margaret Knight, who worked so loyally at University House for 23 years until her death last year.

University House Manager, Cathy Tang, said one of Margaret's greatest concerns was to ensure that members got back to work on time after lunch.

"It was Margaret who set all University House clocks five minutes fast!" Mrs Tang said. She said, apart from its appropriateness, a clock would be something that could fit into the present University House or the new one.

About $400 has already been donated by members. If you would like to contribute to the Margaret Knight Memorial Fund, donations can be made at the office.

The current Classification Review Committee (standing Professor John Cordery—Head of the Department of Organisational and Labour Studies and Vice-Chancellor's rep; Bob Farrelly—Director, Human Resources; Mary MacPherson—Industrial Officer; Iris Gribbon—Assistant Industrial Officer (Classifications). Seated: Rob McCormick—University Stabilisation, CFSU rep Shirley Oakley, Associate Librarian and General Staff rep; Steve Parkinson—Chief Technician, Anatomy and Human Biology and General Staff rep Matthew King—Electrician, AH&MMU rep.
Cycling - be in it with or without a motor

Technology Association, WA Branch, (ATA) and he and his fellow members imported half a dozen kits to transform ordinary bikes into electric bikes, a year ago.

"After trials and research into other kits, we have decided to import for sale some kits from China, which will transform any old bike into an energy-efficient and easy-to-ride electric bike for around $800," Mr Thwaites said.

As long as the electric motors are 250 watts or less, the electric bikes can be ridden anywhere a leg-powerd bike can be ridden, and by the same people.

"We are bringing in the kits so we can offer a legitimate alternative to petrol engine-powered cars, not to make big profits," he said.

He rides in to University from Cannington at a speed of about 20kph and plugs the battery into a recharger in his office for a couple of hours, before riding home again. He has calculated the energy cost at around 10 cents. At home, he recharges his bike battery on his solar panels.

"You can pedal a bit when you’re going uphill, to help the motor, but it only feels like riding on the flat. Most of the time, you just sit and steer and don’t need to move your legs at all. You get some fun looks from other people, especially other cyclists you pass," Mr Thwaites said.

He uses his electric bike on campus to save time walking between Zoology and QEII and everywhere in between.

If you would like to find out more about the electric bike conversion kits, call Jonathon Thwaites on ext. 7432 or email him at jthwaites@admin.uwa.edu.au.

Meanwhile, the University is again taking part in the Department of Environmental Protection’s Cycling Project 100.

For their achievements in hockey, a law and commerce student, he has represented the state several times in hockey and has been selected in the WAIS hockey program.

Ben Hopkins has represented WA and Australia in rowing. He was a member of the eight which won the King’s Cup last year and the Oxford and Cambridge Cup in 1997.

Ben, studying Human Movement, has been named State Champion at many regattas.

"The University administration can take only part of the credit for those facilities. He acknowledged the work of the sports clubs and the UWA Sport and Recreation Association."

Gordon Walsh, UWA’s Environmental Manager, who co-ordinates the project, said the equivalent of 28 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions had been saved.

Another team of 17 UWA staff has signed up for the project this year. There are still a couple of positions left, so if you live between five and 15 kilometres from campus and would be prepared to ride to and from work two or three times a week for a year, give Gordon Walsh a call on ext. 3534 or email him at gwalsh@acu.uwa.edu.au.

Lee Carter, from the Department of Philosophy, said she thoroughly enjoyed her year of cycling last year and the benefits were great.

"I became fitter, felt fantastic … I loved to see the environment I was cycling past and to feel the wind, sun and rain on my skin. Even in the windiest weather, I still wanted to cycle because I loved it so much," she said.

Ms Carter’s beloved bike was stolen from the Arts Building recently, so she advises all cyclists to invest in the strongest possible lock.

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

For appointments, please ring David Thomson on 9382 1300 or if urgent 9480 4724. Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/eap

University Physiotherapy and Sports Podiatry

Physiotherapists
Sally Bignow and Hurst
Podiatrist
Clayton Byrne

UWA Recreation Centre

9380 2316
Sports Card Holders 20% discount

Redundant Equipment for Sale

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Bids should be accepted by Monday 29 May with department to have first option.

WANTED: AWARD WINNER

Departmental staff are reminded that the Teaching and Learning Committee is offering a $20,000 award for Distinguished Departmental Teaching and Learning. The aim of the award is to promote and reward excellence in teaching and learning at the departmental level. The award is open to all teaching units and departments and is judged on the submission of a departmental teaching portfolio.

To be considered for this award a departmental teaching portfolio should be submitted by Friday, 28 July 2000.

Details and guidelines are on the web at: http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/teach/ dlta/2000/dlta.htm

For further information contact Sue Smurthwaite, Executive Officer, Teaching and Learning Committee, ext. 2499, email: susmurr@uwa.edu.au

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EDITOR IN CHIEF/PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Colin Campbell-Fraser
Tel: 9380 3029 Fax: 9380 1162
Email: cam@acs.uwa.edu.au

EDITOR/FEATURE STORY WRITER
Lindy Bruphy
Tel: 9380 2052 Fax: 9380 1162
Email: lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au

COPY EDITORS
Jo Thompson
Tel: 9380 3029 Fax: 9380 1162
Email: jo.thompson@uwa.edu.au

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UWA News
Where indeed are we going at UWA?

I have recently returned from a quick trip to a NASA conference in the USA and a visit to research colleagues in Virginia. At the risk of being dubbed an instant expert on United States academia, I would like to make a few comments.

The morale of the American academics at our conference seemed far better than that of Australian academics. Our academic siblings there were not complaining about their job prospects, nor fearful of possible redundancy, nor preoccupied with early retirement packages and their family’s future. These concerns seem to be the norm at Australian conferences. Why the difference?

There seem to be some obvious differences. The Republicans are promising 15 per cent more university funding and the Democrats look like promising more. Sure, the American economy is booming, but more importantly, the Federal Government and State Legislatures seem to believe that America’s high technology and general industrial well-being is firmly underpinned by high-quality fundamental science and other traditional areas in the universities. Despite the allegedly utilitarian features of US society, unlike Australia, they seem to have adopted a much broader and more mature view of what ultimately makes society tick.

Now, I know that many will say that the United States is a cut-throat, ultra-competitive, ultra-capitalistic, economic rationalist society. However, as far as universities go, is ours any better or is it maybe even worse? I think it might be worse. The career options and job security for young academics are absolutely pathetic in Australia. I know that the tenure track process in the USA is quite stringent and demanding, but at least there is real tenure at the end of a path. And a real prospect of a well-remunerated career with good prospects of research grants for hard-working academics. Dare I say, less dependence on the quirky idiosyncrasies of promotional structures which we seem to have inherited from the British system.

I honestly think that the comparative remuneration and lack of ultimate job security and opportunity provided by the present Australian university system create an even more stressful environment for academics than is found in the United States system. I wouldn’t have said this 20 years ago.

What then is my message? Should we all seek green cards in the USA? It is hard to say “no” if one is asked this question by a young academic or PhD student and it is indeed a tragedy for the Australian university system that this should be the case. Unless the Federal Government injects very large sums of money into public tertiary education the answer to the above question will soon become emphatically yes. And furthermore, we might have to start saying something similar to even our potential undergraduate students.

Full marks to Vice-Chancellors and governing bodies who try to raise additional sources of supplementary funds from alumni, industry and overseas sources. However, in my opinion this is just tinkering at the edges. The further option of charging full fees for all Australian students is an obscenity and I hope that UWA is never reduced to that level.

Unless Federal funding is properly restored, we might as well inter the Australian university system with a decent burial. If that happens, the gravestone will surely have engraved on it the words: “courtesy of John Dawkins, David Kemp and the Labor and Liberal Governments.”

Let’s finish with a riddle. “How do you convert a good university into a bad university?” Answer: “Replace administrators by managers, indulge in micromanagement of every activity, and prevent the rank and file from expressing their opinions publicly.” At least the presence of this column shows that all is not lost.

Dr Terry Quickenden
Senior lecturer in Chemistry
and Senate member