The children of UWA students and staff often start their friendships while toddling around University child care centres.

For swimming stars Rachel Harris and Jonno van Hazel, it was in the Human Movement swimming pool.

It was here that they learned to swim soon after they learned to walk. Their fathers are both UWA medical graduates and Rachel’s Dad was working part-time as the pool lifeguard when she started swimming at the age of three.

Both are now students at UWA. Jonno will complete his commerce degree this year and a degree in environmental engineering next year. After a year in the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science, Rachel is now pursuing a science career, studying chemistry.

But they see more of each other at Beatty Park or Challenge Stadium than on campus, where they train up to ten times a week. Rachel and Jonno both competed in the Olympic swimming trials last month.

Jonno was “pleasantly surprised” with his fifth placing in the semi-finals of the 50m freestyle. And of course, Rachel, who was the second swimmer to qualify for the Olympics, will be representing Australia in the 400m individual medley and 800m freestyle events in Sydney in September.

Rachel and Jonno were some of the earliest participants in Uniswim, along with swimmer Helen Denman and water polo star Christian Hoad. Professor Brian Blanksby and his wife Jeanette, who started Uniswim, taught all four of them.

Professor Blanksby is delighted that Rachel and Jonno are pursuing their “other” careers at UWA. Helen Denman is expected to transfer to UWA next year from South Australia.

“They are great kids and their parents, most of whom are UWA graduates too, are part of what we call ‘the family’,” he laughed.

Professor Blanksby coached Jonno’s mother Annette and uncle Phil Gorey (after whom the Royal Life Saving Society’s Gorey Cup is named).

Jonno and Rachel are now coached by Bernie Mulroy. While Rachel is not looking too much further than the Sydney Olympics, Jonno is already in training for the short course nationals in October with thoughts of the next Commonwealth and Olympic Games further down the track.
An increasing nightmare or portent comes to me in 2000 ... the Olympics will simply expand to become a permanent world event — not every four years but every year, every day! This alone will meet the apparent obsession with Olympic Sport, or Olympic events — the Opening Ceremony has surpassed sporting prowess as entertainment.

Certainly, it already begins to feel as though the Olympics had already begun, if you follow our TV programs and print media. And our national obsession with sporting champions reaches a new frenzy in 2000.

No, I am not a sports wowser — last week I cheered the Glory and mourned the Brumbies. I shared in the way the amazing ‘Thorpedo’ mesmerised us all. But I do wonder and worry about our public culture, in which other forms of individual or team achievement are ignored or marginalised.

Where are achievements of the mind? ‘Knowledge-based economies’ are held up as the model for successful cultures and nations. And yet how well do we celebrate research? Universities are critical as the powerhouses of new knowledge. But when are they held up for praise?

Over the past few months, a time of graduations, prize-giving ceremonies, and major UW A advances, I have felt great admiration at the sheer excellence of staff and student achievements. We have some exceptional students and researchers, as well as professional staff of excellence —

• We now have nearly 50 Australian academicians with the recent election of two new Fellows of the Academy of Science (Professor Adrian Baddeley, Department of Mathematics and Statistics; and Professor Mark Randolph, Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems) while we achieved the rare distinction of a second Mawson Medal (to Professor Chris Powell of Earth Sciences). A prestigious international W akefields Trust Senior Medical Research Fellowship is also coming to UWA (to Dr Mariapia Degli-Esposti, Department of Microbiology) and the 1999 Achiver of the Year in the W A Australian IT & T Awards has gone to Professor Tony Cantoni, Director of our Australian Telecommunications CRC. The Chancellor’s Medal has been awarded to Professor lan Constable in recognition of his remarkable 25-year achievement in creating the world-class Lions Eye Institute at UWA.

• The creation of an exceptional global partnership with the Royal College of Surgeons (England), the Australian College of Surgeons and an international company, has brought us a new $17.5 million medical and surgical skills training centre, opened by Her Majesty The Queen, and hailed as the best such facility in the world.

• The establishment of a state-of-the-art dentistry research centre, involving partnerships with the state and industry to the value of $35 million is now under construction for opening in 2003.

• New industry partnerships have included an exciting joint venture with SSC (Samsung Corning of Korea) which will focus on commercial development of mechanochemical processing technology, first pioneered at UWA.

• Several significant international collaborative agreements, including a notably wide-ranging arrangement with one of China’s top seven national universities (Nanjing).

• The opening, by the Premier, at Gingin of The Australian International Gravitational Observatory, which places UW A in a global network of such fundamental research installations.

• As part of its Hackett Foundation campaign, towards a second endowment, we have received an exceptional bequest of at least $3 million from a distinguished WA philanthropist (Dr Harold Schenberg) towards UW A cultural resources and scholarships.

And such a list could be hugely expanded if we took up the whole of the UW A News. I have merely commented upon the most notable recent instances of achievement rather than attempting a synoptic balance over say 1999 to 2000. (So do not feel miffed if you are not mentioned!)

At graduations, prize-givings, departmental occasions, meetings with the Guild of Students, Reconciliation ceremonies, gallery openings, farewell ing graduate students for overseas study, book launches, theatre and music evenings, at these and many more . . . sheer achievement and commitment to excellence, kept presenting themselves.

When in Australia we at last develop a real ‘knowledge-based economy’ it will be as a result of the role of our campuses, with their research and professional capacities.

You may not win an Olympic medal for your achievements. But you also deserve the cry of Gold! Gold! Gold!

Professor Deryck M. Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
First-year Political Science students just couldn't understand how the United National Security Council could take so long to make a decision.

To help them, Political Science lecturer Dr Samina Yasmeen and the Faculty of Arts' Multimedia Centre came up with a winning solution.

'Secret Diplomacy', a web-based simulation exercise on international politics has taken students a long way to understanding how complicated foreign policy is, at the same time winning a national award for the Multimedia Centre.

The exercise, developed by Dr Yasmeen with Dr John Kinder and Mike Fardon from the Multimedia Centre, won the award for Best Internet or World Wide Web Usage in 1999 from the Australasian Society for Computers in Learning In Tertiary Education (ASCILITE).

The previous year, Dr Yasmeen had conducted the simulation exercise without the use of the Internet. She had asked the students to engage in secret diplomacy, each of them taking the part of a country or organisation, in the pursuit of a solution to an international problem.

“But the students had problems,” Dr Yasmeen said.

“They would come to class and complain that they couldn’t contact China or that the United States wasn’t returning their calls! Then, later in the project, when group reports were due, some students complained that others in the group hadn’t contributed.

“I needed to find another way of delivering what I knew was a good course,” she said.

Dr Yasmeen took her idea to Dr Kinder and Mr Fardon, who, at first, labelled it outlandish.

“It was a challenge for us to develop new mechanisms in the bulletin board to support and enhance the simulation project,” said Mr Fardon.
Chinese students return to their roots

Two fortunate first-year students in the Department of Asian Studies have been selected for the China Synergy Program.

It is a chance for outstanding students from around the world to visit China for 17 days of exploration and exchange activities.

Only ten students from Australia have been chosen for the July trip and they include Tamara Heng and Felix Ho, who are both studying Chinese language at UWA.

Dr Wang Yi, their lecturer, said it was a fantastic program and she was very proud that two of her students had been chosen.

Tamara and Felix said their school reports, certificates, extra curricular activities and community service were taken into account by the Organising Committee of the Program for Outstanding Youth.

Tamara was head girl at her school and she and Felix had both achieved good academic results.

They will visit Hong Kong, Xian, Shanghai and Beijing, meeting with both government officials and outstanding Chinese youth.

They will visit local households, engage in activities with undergraduates and tour major socio-economic, technological and cultural development projects.

The program is designed for ethnic Chinese undergraduates to give them the best start in their studies wherever they may be around the world.

Continued from page 3

Secret diplomacy attracts public award

“They quickly learned that, in real life, some resolutions never see the light of day,” she said.

“They also learned what negotiations like these tell us about sanctions, power distribution and human rights.”

Dr Yasmeen posted press releases on the bulletin board about what countries were doing with other countries. Just as real negotiations never take place in a static world, so the students had to keep up with what was happening and constantly reassess their alliances.

At the end of the three-week course, the members of the Security Council (students in the tutorial) presented their resolutions.

Dr Kinder, who has now returned to the Department of Italian full-time, evaluated the course with tutors, students and Mr Fardon. He, Mr Fardon and Dr Yasmeen then wrote a joint paper on the project — which eventually won the ASCLITE award.

“It was thanks to a CUTSD grant to find better teaching methods that I had the resources to create this program,” Dr Yasmeen said. She is also grateful to the Faculty of Arts for the time and energies of Dr Kinder and Mr Fardon.
Understanding cell death leads to better life

Many roads are taken in health sciences in the hope that they will lead to cancer cures.

The research routes are varied and there are highlights along the way that make the journey worthwhile even if the final destination is not achieved.

One such journey is that taken by Associate Professor Arun Dharmarajan (Dharma) and his team — one of the biggest research groups in the Department of Anatomy and Human Biology.

They have been studying apoptosis, or cell death, for several years and their work has spawned collaborations both within UWA and overseas (USA, Switzerland, Singapore, India).

One of the latest joint studies is being undertaken with Rekha Rao at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

“She has isolated a gene in the human placenta which is only expressed when the pregnancy is at full term and its presence is a mystery,” said Associate Professor Dharma.

“When I was on sabbatical in India I suggested that the gene may be playing a role in the process of apoptosis. “So she is pursuing studies along these lines and we are helping her find the reason for its presence.”

His group of PhD students, master’s students and honours students have also been working on several signalling molecules involved in apoptosis and ovulation. In collaboration with Professor Bob Friis, Switzerland, they are continuing to explore the role of a gene known as Y81, which is expressed in the corpus luteum, prostate gland and also in breast tissue.

“It is maximally expressed during the time of regression of the corpus luteum (CL), which is an endocrine organ that controls reproductive function,” he said.

“It is also found highly regulated after hormonal withdrawal in the prostate gland (after castration) and the mammary gland (post-weening).

“We hypothesise that the role of Y81 in the physiological regression of the CL is to either induce or enable apoptotic death, when the function of the CL is no longer required.”

The group is using many well-established techniques to measure survival/apoptosis and determine activation of particular signalling pathways and molecules. They include DNA 3’end labelling, single cell electrophoresis (COMET), cell culture and transfection.

Associate Professor Dharma says that results from these experiments will increase their understanding of the hormonal and intracellular signalling events that promote or suppress apoptosis in CL.

“The CL controls reproductive function and is critical for the establishment and maintenance of pregnancy. Disruption of CL function results in infertility and recurrent pregnancy loss.

“The clinical implications for these studies are the identification of mechanisms responsible for recurrent pregnancy loss and infertility or possibly the development of novel postovulatory contraceptives.

“In addition, these studies will enable us to further strengthen our understanding of Y81-Wnt pathways and their role in cancer,” he said.
Proteomics to solve cold rice problem

One of the biggest problems for the Australian rice-growing industry is under the microscope at UWA.

University Postdoctoral Fellow Dr Harvey Millar (pictured) is using a new technology called proteomics to understand the process of respiration in plants.

“We already understand many aspects of respiration at a physiological level but my main interest is in understanding how mitochondria (the organelles responsible for respiration and energy production) work,” said Dr Millar, whose fellowship has brought him home to Australia from the University of Oxford.

He is using rice and a laboratory plant called Arabidopsis thaliana (the plant world’s laboratory rat) as both of them are close to having all their genes sequenced, which makes it much easier to work on them.

“We already know that mitochondria contain about 600 different proteins and I’m separating them out and making a two-dimensional map of them. This map of all the proteins is called a ‘proteome’, the study of it is called ‘proteomics’.

“Now we can take one of those proteins and work out which gene it’s encoded by. This means that, for mitochondria, we can feasibly work out which genes encoded the information to make each of these proteins,” Dr Millar said.

It’s a laborious process but that’s where the rice-growing problem comes in.

Mitochondria are involved in processes other than respiration. They are involved in the making of folic and ascorbic acids, among other processes, and mitochondria also play a role in programmed cell death, the suicide of a cell for the betterment of the organism as a whole.

“Unravelling the proteome of mitochondria and all its novel functions is important to understand the development of plants but also in understanding how plants survive disease and other environmental stresses,” Dr Millar explained.

One of the environmental stresses on the rice plant’s system is low temperatures.

“The rice plant doesn’t like cold and will just stop growing when the temperature drops. And that, of course, is a big problem for the Australian rice industry.

“Flooding can be another problem for some cultivars of rice. Rice usually tolerates being under water, but problems can occur when the water drains away and the plant finds it has too much oxygen available to it.

“Different cultivars have different resistances to cold and flooding and I aim to apply my research to identify the proteins associated with these differences, to find out what the differences are at a molecular level,” Dr Millar said.

He said the proteomic technique was a powerful tool for functional genomics: working out the function of genes in biological systems at the molecular level.

“We used to look at things, as scientists, at a macro level. And then we got interested in the other end of the scale, at a molecular level. But you really need both perspectives and I think it’s through the genome project that we’ve now worked out how to work at a molecular level in a holistic fashion.”

Dr Millar’s laboratory is in the Department of Biochemistry but he is working jointly with this department and the Plant Sciences group in the Department of Agriculture.
Mariapia Degli-Esposti speaks quietly but excitedly about her research and often interjects praise for her colleagues.

Her work and her research team take precedence over her prestigious fellowship. Dr Degli-Esposti is the first Western Australian ever to be awarded a Wellcome Trust Overseas Senior Research Fellowship in Biomedical Science.

It is the highest international research award made by the UK medical trust, a five-year senior medical research fellowship.

Born in Italy, Dr Degli-Esposti came to WA at the age of 18, studied at UWA and left with a PhD in immunology for postdoctoral work in the United States.

After four years with a biomedical company in Seattle, she decided she would return to Australia and Professor Geoff Shellam, in Microbiology, asked her to take up some research at UWA and offered her 18 months’ funding.

“I applied for support under a Wellcome program designed to encourage scientists from Australia, New Zealand, Africa and India to take their skills back to their own countries rather than staying in the UK and the US,” said Dr Degli-Esposti.

She was thrilled to receive the senior fellowship.

Dr Degli-Esposti is an immunologist but has joined a laboratory of molecular virology at QEII.

“My real interest now is in understanding how viruses interfere with host immune responses and especially those resulting in cell death,” she said.

“There is usually a balance between cell renewal and cell death but viruses interrupt and damage that balance.

“A virus is an intracellular pathogen and, therefore, by committing suicide, the infected cell can stop the virus from being transferred to other neighbouring cells.

“But viruses are very smart — smarter than cells. When they realise what the cell is doing they make their own proteins to interfere with that cell death. We are trying to find out how they do that so we can work out how to stop them,” Dr Degli-Esposti said.

She and her team are using murine cytomegalovirus, a mouse pathogen, as a model for human cytomegalovirus infection.

“It’s exciting to work with this virus, knowing that there will be clinical applications for human disease,” she said.

Cytomegalovirus, while not causing disease in many humans, is potentially lethal in people with ineffective or already damaged immune systems, such as newborn babies, transplant recipients and individuals who are HIV-positive.

“Understanding what causes cancer, and therefore how to potentially cure this disease, is one of the ultimate goals of our research,” said Dr Degli-Esposti. “By understanding the processes of apoptosis (programmed cell death) we may understand how cancers occur. And by understanding how viruses interfere with these processes we may learn how to cure cancer. But it is a very long process and scientists need to be patient.

“There can be exciting goals along the way and we are in a good position just now, where we can see results from our work. But it’s not headline-grabbing discoveries every day.

“At the same time, I think it’s a really exciting time for young people to think about a career in science. The technology available is the best in years and soon we will have access to information, such as the human genome sequence, which really paves the way for biologists to get answers for their questions.”

Dr Degli-Esposti praised the researchers, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, in her lab.

“They are a fantastic bunch of people, so dedicated and hard-working. Last year, when our funding was running out and I didn’t know if I’d been awarded new funding, they just kept working hard right up until the last day. They could have gone out and looked for positions in other laboratories where funding was more secure but they stuck by me,” she said.

Dr Degli-Esposti also spoke very positively about the Wellcome Trust, the world’s largest medical research charity.

“The mission of the Trust is to promote and foster research with the aim of improving human and animal health. However, they don’t put any impositions on your work and they will fund curiosity-driven research even before that research has clear clinical applications. I am very fortunate to be funded by an organisation with that kind of foresight.”
Monday 12 June

HISTORY SEMINAR
“Pictures of progress: images of eastern Australian ports in nineteenth-century illustrated periodicals”, Cindy McCreery, University of New South Wales. 4.30pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

Tuesday 13 June

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
“So many worlds: Tony Ashby on the front lines of photo-journalism.” Tony Ashby works for The West Australian as a photo-journalist and has won two Walkley Awards for his photographs documenting wars. In the context of the exhibition So Many Worlds Tony will discuss the role of the photo-journalist and show some examples of his own work in international crisis points that have shaped international history in recent decades. 1pm, LWAG.

Wednesday 14 June

ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
“Modelling deep water oil/gas spills under conditions of hydrate formation and decomposition”, Professor Poojitha Yapa, Gledden Senior Visiting Fellow and Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Clarkson University, Potsdam, New York. 4 to 5pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

PATHOLOGY SEMINAR
“A possible mouse model for Alzheimer’s disease”, Dr Terry Robertson. 1pm, Pathology Conference Room, G14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEI.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
“Towards a computational neurolinguistics”, Professor Michael Arbib, University of Southern California. 2 to 4pm, Computer Science Room 1.24.

FRIENDS OF THE UWA LIBRARY MEETING
“William Wales: mathematician, navigator and astronomer”, Chris Jeffery. Chris Jeffery has worked for the Library and Information Service and the Fremantle Arts Centre Press. She has also published a number of historical articles and books. The subject of her talk, William Wales, was sent by the Royal Society to Hudson’s Bay in 1769-70 to observe the Transit of Venus. In 1772 he was engaged by the Board of Longitude to accompany Captain James Cook on his second voyage around the world. Wales made astronomical observations and used a copy of the Harrison clock to ascertain longitude. In 1775 he was appointed mathematics master of the Royal Mathematical School of Christ’s Hospital, a post he held until his death in 1798. Wales was the author of a number of books now held in the British Museum. The lecture will be held at 7.30pm in E6A Lecture Theatre, Macquarie University. Bookings are not essential but if you would like more information please contact Associate Professor John Corbett at Macquarie University on 9850 8945.

Thursday 15 June

STATISTICS SEMINAR
“Comparisons of methods for choosing the regularisation parameter”, Dr Mark Lukas, Murdoch University. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.
Wednesday 21 June

FREE LUNCHTIME LECTURE
"One big happy family or a menage a quinze? The impact of the super natural structure of the European Union on national constitutions — a Danish case study", Professor Henning Koch, Professor of Constitutional Law, University of Copenhagen.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
"A critique of universal grammar", Professor Michael Arbib, University of Southern California. 2pm, Computer Science Rm 1.24.

RICHARD WAGNER SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)
"Acts 2 and 3 of Die Walküre. Members: no charge; Visitors: $10/$8. 7.30pm, Room G5, School of Music.

Thursday 22 June

STATISTICS SEMINAR
"Models and inference for social networks", Professor Mark Handcock, University of Washington, Seattle. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

Advance Notice

Wednesday 28 June

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
"Beyond the mirror: biology and history", Professor Michael Arbib, University of Southern California. 2pm, Computer Science Rm 1.24.

Friday 30 June

CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY SEMINARS
"Who will have a good outcome among persons with psychotic illness?", Vera Morgan, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science. 3.30pm, Seminar Room 3, Gascoyne House, Graylands Hospital.

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Annual Report 1999 online

The Annual Report 1999 can now be accessed at the following web site:
http://www.publishing.uwa.edu.au/annualreport/

Calendar update launched online

The 2000 update of the Calendar has been launched online and can be accessed at the following web site:
http://www.publishing.uwa.edu.au/calendar/

The online copy, in PDF, allows hard copies to be easily printed out if required. A comprehensive Table of Contents is provided with direct ‘clickable’ links to different sections of the publication.

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GUILD NEWS

your on-campus news agency

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- Cassettes, Disks and heaps of other stuff

located to the right of the North entrance to the Guild Village Courtyard

Call Laura on extension 2283 or email your requests to laura@gu.uwa.edu.au
Congratulations!

The following staff and students’ achievements have been recognised recently with awards, honorary degrees and election to academies. Congratulations to all of them.

**Professor Brian Stone**, from the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, judged one of the country’s best university teachers, has now been recognised by the University of Bristol.

He has been awarded a Doctorate of Engineering by Bristol, which is all the more prestigious, as that university is one of UWA’s benchmark institutions.

The Director of the Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science (COVS), **Professor Ian Constable**, will be presented with the Chancellor’s Medal at the next graduation ceremony.

UWA Chancellor Clinical Professor Alex Cohen announced the award while congratulating Professor Constable on 25 years as the Lions Professor of Ophthalmology. His Chancellors’ Medal will be awarded for his service to the University and the community.

Perth dermatologist and UWA benefactor **Dr Harold Schenberg** will be conferred an honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University.

The degree is in recognition of his distinguished service to the community through his significant and ongoing contribution to the arts over a long period.

Dr Schenberg recently committed a generous gift of $3 million to the University, some of which will create the Dr Harold Schenberg Art Centre and some which will institute two annual prizes for painting and jazz.

**Associate Professor Tom Riley**, from the Department of Microbiology, has recently been elected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. More than 1500 academy fellows from 35 countries have been elected and each has demonstrated “scientific excellence, originality, leadership, high ethical standards and scholarly and creative achievement.”

Law students who wanted to “give something back to the community” were rewarded recently by winning the Law Society’s 2000 Law Week Youth Community Service Award.

The Executive Committee of the Law Students’ Community Support Group won the award on behalf of the 70 students involved with community activities.

The students have been visiting high schools and talking to the teenagers about how laws affect them.

Co-ordinator James Fletcher said the $500 award would help to spread the word that the law students were available for more community work.

**Sri Lanka after the crisis**

“A timely contribution towards the quest for a mutually reinforcing and integrated process of economic and social development...”

This is how Emeritus Professor Laksiri Jayasuriya’s latest publication, Welfarism and Politics in Sri Lanka, was recently described.

Essays on the experience of a Third World welfare state are set against the background of the Asian currency crisis and the social hardships experienced by some east Asians countries following it.

They pose the question: Has the Sri Lanka development experience, in pursuing equity and justice within a framework of social democracy, any relevance for other developing nations?

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, said he felt sure that the essays would strengthen the goodwill that exists between Australia and Sri Lanka and stimulate further cross-disciplinary interest from researchers within Sri Lanka as well as in Australia and elsewhere in the world.
The Sea of Hands on the Oak Lawn grew every day during National Reconciliation Week.

The brightly coloured paper hands were signed by hundreds of University students and staff to say “sorry” to Aboriginal people for their mistreatment.

At the beginning of the week, a lunchtime launch featured Aboriginal speakers and entertainers. Robert Isaacs from the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation served notice that the Aboriginal people had “given up on the Federal Government.”

He urged all Western Australians to join with the (state) Legislative Assembly, which expressed its deep regret for hurt to the Aboriginal people on Sorry Day two years ago.

Third-year law student, mother of five and Nyoongah, Gningala Yarran-Clanton said she was able to study at UWA only through the sacrifices of earlier generations.

“People say Australia was built on the sheep’s back. I say Australia was built on the back of blacks,” she said.

Mrs Yarran-Clanton said that, in the twenty-first century, there was still a huge divide between indigenous and non-indigenous people.

“Let us celebrate what has been achieved and let us work hard to influence authorities, governments and the people of Western Australia to join with us in this vital process for our nation.”

Messages of sympathy are added to the ‘sea’ of hands on the Oak Lawn.
The explosive growth in digital media technology has created the problem of protecting an original image.

One approach is the introduction of an invisible or hidden signal, known as a digital watermark, into an image.

Digital watermarking is just one of many diverse subjects which will be covered in an international Visual Communications and Image Processing (VCIP) conference, hosted by UWA.

Associate Professor King Ngan is the joint chair of VCIP2000, which will be held at the Parmelia Hilton from June 20.

A total of 173 papers will be presented in oral or poster form, describing novel approaches and the latest developments in areas such as image and video coding, image sequence analysis, segmentation and tracking, wireless video and VLSI implementation and application systems.

As well as the regular sessions, special sessions have been organised on current ‘hot’ topics, including Internet video, image-based rendering, face segmentation and error-resilient coding, to address the rapid advances in these important research areas.

This conference is the 15th in a series which originated in Boston. Keynote speakers will be Dr Kai-Fu Lee of Microsoft Research, China, Professor Edward J. Delp III, of Purdue University, USA, and Dr Thomas Sikora of Heinrich-Hertz-Institut, Germany.

It has been organised by Associate Professor Ngan and his staff in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

The School of Architecture and Fine Arts has hatched a new generation of fledgling artists.

Four of them are featured in an exhibition of works by 65 graduates from around Australia. The exhibition, Hatched, is at the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art (PICA) until June 25.

Fine arts lecturer Jon Tarry says that UWA graduates Elizabeth Gratwick, Grant Taylor, Tremaine Egan and Antoinette Carrier confirm the depth of research and diversity of practice achieved by our students.

He describes their unusual, talented and unexpected creations:

“For Elizabeth Gratwick, a repetitive act fractures a rite of passage and an intensely private world is exposed to scrutiny in the most public of places. These are recorded on video and replayed in once-removed time sequences.

“Tremaine Egan opens with a question: To what extent is looking a conditioned and market-drive sensibility? The transformation that takes place in a video replay picture the differences between what the eye and the brain see.

“Grant Taylor interrogates the way fact and fictional text construct and frame identities and actual events. The blue light installation creates a super fictional experience of an event.

“Antoinette Carrier draws from an individual heritage triggered by intense memory to present codified recollections. Ideas and images of home are woven into existence through the discipline of tapestry.”
Eight years after establishing the Australian Centre for Geomechanics, Associate Professor Richard Jewell is stepping down from its directorate.

The centre, set up under the auspices of the Department of Civil and Resource Engineering, has doubled in staff size since 1992 and earned a reputation for its expertise in all areas concerning rocks and soil as they relate to the mining industry.

Associate Professor Jewell (right), as part of a semi-retirement process, will remain with the centre as a senior consultant but will hand over the reigns to Professor Yves Potvin (left), who has been co-ordinating research for nearly two years at the ACG.

The ACG team provides expertise, research facilities and education programs particularly in relation to tailings management, rock mechanics, ground support and mining methods as they impact on the dynamics of soil and rocks.

Professor Potvin has developed various underground rock mechanics programs and designed and implemented ground control training for underground mine workers.
CLASSIFIEDS

TO LET
BRAND NEW THREE-BEDROOM HOME in Scarborough/Doubling, near beach and shops and 15 to 20 mins from UWA. Unfurnished, ready to rent, preferably for long-term period. $240 pw. Call Jo on 9245 2530 (ah).

ATTRACTION MODERN THREE-BEDROOM DUPLEX in Dianella. Walking distance to shopping centre, 20 minute commute to UWA. Available 1 July, lease options 3 or 6 months with renewal possible. Contact Stephan Lewendowsky on ext. 3231 or on mobile: 0413 569 246.

WANTED TO RENT
HOUSE FOR ISRAELI FAMILY from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem coming to CSIRO in Floreat Park on sabbatical from September 2000 until July/August 2001. Four bedrooms required, preferably in Shenton Park/Baglish/Floreat/ Wembley area. Please contact Dr Nell Turner on 9333 6612 or via email: n.turner@ccmar.csiro.au

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSE/FLAT REQUIRED from August 10 to early December by family with three 11 to 12-year-old children. Close to UWA if possible. For visitor ex New Zealand. Please contact Bob Bucat at Chemistry on ext. 3158 or bucat@chem.uwa.edu.au or directly to Dr Tony Wright at A.H.Wright@massey.ac.nz

FOR SALE
CAMRY SILVER (1989) reliable and in excellent condition. $4500. Contact John on 9335 4734.

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Toshiba Notebook 430c/32/133/3Gb/Rom $950 3.5 2 Glenys W alter Economics 2920

Bids should be accepted by Monday 26 June with departments to have first option

CONDITION refers to the general condition of item (1 = as new; 2 = good; 3 = serviceable; 4 = unserviceable). AGE refers to the nearest year.
AGRICULTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA

- Prof John Anthony Considine. Plant Sciences: “Protoplast isolation and cell fusion techniques for the Chamelaucium Alliance” — $20,000.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL — SMALL GRANTS

- Dr Charles Anthony Musca. Electrical and Electronic Engineering: “The characterisation of doping mechanisms in reactive ion etching processed mercury cadmium telluride” — $15,600.
- Dr Aaron John Oakley. Pharmacology: “The complex of CHe and MScL: the molecular basis of osmotaxis” — $10,000.
- A/Prof Andrew William Hunwick. European Languages and Studies: “The founding of biblical criticism in seventeenth-century France” — $8051.
- Dr Marie-Eve Andrei Ritz. Graduate School of Education and Dr D. Engel (external): “The use of the present perfect in Australian English” — $8051.
- Dr Krish Prasad Thiagarajan. Oil and Gas Engineering: “Towards more efficient land based oscillating water column devices for renewable energy from ocean waves” — $10,742.
- Dr Yanru Wu. Economics: “Understanding China’s regional growth” — $9072.

ARC/DETYA

- Prof Edward John Jory. Arts and Prof J. R. Green (external): “Ancient tragedy, saby-play and pantomime: the maternal evidence” — $18,000 (2000); $19,000 (2001); $20,000 (2002).

AUSTRALIAN SOCIETY OF EXPLORATION GEOPHYSICISTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

- Dr Michael Charles Dentith. Geology and Geophysics and Dr A. Bevan and Dr W. Featherstone (external): “Geophysical characterisation of the Yalialie astrobleme, Western Australia” — $9500.

CRIMINOLOGY RESEARCH COUNCIL CANBERRA


DEPUY BIOLAND


GRAIN RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF WA

- Prof Johannes Thieo Lambers. Plant Sciences: “Exploiting chickpea’s potential to unlock phosphorus from P-fixing soils” — $22,896.
- Prof John Stewart Tate. Botany: “Use of carbon isotope signals and sugar concentrations in phloem sap in evaluating water use characteristics of annual crop legumes” — $16,600.

HAMERSLEY IRON PTY LTD

- A/Prof Mark Andrew Adams. Dr Pauline Francis Grierson. Mr Bradley PaulDegens. Mr Peter Alan Landman. Botany: “Mulga decline in the Pilbara” — $43,520 (2000); $44,252 (2001); $37,575 (2002).

MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND OF WA

- Dr P. Sacco, Dr Francis Louis Mastaglia and Dr A. G. Kermode. Pathology: “The neurophysiological basis of fatigue in multiple sclerosis” — $40,000 (1999).

NAT MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA


NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION


NHMRC


OphthalMIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

- A/Prof T. V. Chirila, A/Prof Piroska Rakoczy. Opthalmology and Visual Science: “Development and evaluation of a non-viral delivery system for therapeutic antisense oligodeoxynucleotides in the treatment of subrenal neovascularization” — $21,000.

WATERS AND RIVERS COMMISSION


Watch out for more Research Grants and Contracts in the next issue of UWA News.
expected to organise an appointment, conduct an interview and seek further contacts. They were expected to visit health care providers, meet other community members, interview shire staff and visit community organisations until they had developed a comprehensive picture of the structure of the town and the health issues of the people living in the town.

One hundred and thirty first-year students visited one of either Bridgetown, Harvey, Narrogin or Northam. Two fifth-year medical students accompanied each group as mentors, along with one or two academic staff and an administrative officer. I was in charge of the Bridgetown group, students varying in age from 17 to 32 years, some of whom had never been to a rural town before. Very few knew each other well and all were at least a little apprehensive about what to expect. Having co-written the program, I at least felt comfortable in my knowledge of what should happen. It was the fear of the unknown that concerned me.

I need not have worried. The students were wonderful. They embraced their independence and self-direction with vigour, and wore their name badges with pride. They were truly excellent ambassadors for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the University. They worked extremely hard, constantly surprising me with the depth at which they explored issues. They learned an enormous amount about rural life.

One of the beauties of student-directed learning is that the boundaries for learning are not pre-determined and I found the students generally achieved far more than I would ever expect.

A small group of students studying the elderly people discovered the recreation club for the elderly and spent several hours helping out, preparing lunch, sharing a meal and playing a few games of bingo. Others found the local community child and parent centre and spent a few hours face painting with the children and chatting to the parents.

One of the surprises of the week was the massive improvement in the students’ communication and interviewing skills. I hadn’t realised how inexperienced some of these students were in communicating with people outside their own community.

I shared a wonderful experience with the students in Bridgetown. We couldn’t have achieved this without great administrative support and the brilliant efforts of our fifth-year mentor students.

The people from Bridgetown were supportive, warm and welcoming. They made the students feel important. These reflections relate to my experience in Bridgetown, but in talking to staff from other towns, I know these are accurate reflections of everyone’s experience.

A student waiting to go home at the end of the week said to me “I had never thought of it before, but I wouldn’t mind being a country GP”. I felt we had achieved something.