Scientists are explorers looking for answers to the world's greatest mysteries. Finding solutions to these problems is a challenge and the rewards include the thrill of entering uncharted realms and participating in discoveries that impact on life and health. There is tremendous satisfaction in knowing that my work could eventually improve people's lives.’

The words of Dr Karin Eidne, the inaugural Keogh-Raine Senior Research Fellow, indicate an inspirational future for clinical research into reproductive medicine.

Dr Eidne has relocated from Edinburgh to Perth with the prestigious fellowship and has become the first scientist to take up residence in the QEII premises of the new WA Institute of Medical Research (WAIMR).

The Raine Foundation has joined with the Keogh Institute for Medical Research to establish a major $300,000 research initiative into reproductive medicine.

Back in 1977, the late Clinical Associate Professor Ted Keogh's work was acknowledged by the Raine Foundation, with a three-year fellowship. Now, more than 20 years later, the foundation is again supporting this important work by joining with the Keogh Institute to make one of the biggest individual awards ever offered to a scientist.

After a generous donation of $150,000 from the Raine Medical Research Foundation, the Keogh Institute, under the chairmanship of Clinical Associate Professor Don Gutteridge, raised the remainder with donations from 277 of Dr Keogh's friends, colleagues and patients, and the business community.

Dr Eidne is a graduate of the University of Cape Town with a PhD in medicine from Edinburgh University where she has been working as a senior researcher for 12 years. Before coming to Perth (for what she describes as a new challenge), Dr Eidne was Senior Scientist in the Medical Research Council Reproductive Biology Unit in Edinburgh. She was the team leader of the research program on 'pituitary G-protein coupled receptors and reproduction'.

She is an outstanding scientist who has been invited to serve on several international committees in Europe and the US and whose 66 publications over the past 15 years have mostly been in high-impact peer-reviewed journals in North America.

Continued on page 4
Charting the coast of Western Australia is an epic of modern maritime history. From the Dutch East Indian Company captains of the seventeenth century, the British navigators of the eighteenth century and the French Baudin expedition of the early nineteenth century, the European perception of the vast coast was gradually established.

Maps and map making were at the heart of their endeavour — just as our own journey into the new century relies on strategic plans, which map our future, and which also need refinement as new data comes to hand.

With enrolments, commencements and inductions all now behind us for the academic year, what are the directional features of our chart for 2000?

Over the last few years we have developed a UWA 'operational plan' to ensure that our University best navigates the educational, funding and internationalising environment in which we operate.

Our directional chart for 2000 takes the form of a UWA agenda of key actions — all readily understood by all of us, all posing challenges for all of us, and all open to enhancement by your ideas and contributions.

Most important of all, given our profoundly academic outlook and values, we shall be developing a new academic profile for UWA — a comprehensive audit of our academic activities, working towards defining the major areas of real international strength and opportunities in new knowledge areas. Funding will be aligned to reflect these 'peaks of excellence' from what I take to be a plateau of quality.

It then necessarily follows that we shall need to review the overall structure of all academic groupings to ensure that the organisational and funding features of UWA are optimal to achieve our research and curriculum goals. It is anticipated that we shall move away from the multiplicity of departments to work within bigger 'schools of knowledge', reflecting the core strengths of the academic profile.

We are a comprehensive university with our 11 major disciplinary areas that must be preserved, and enhanced, by maximising the capacity for cross-disciplinary work that is a feature of new knowledge formations today.

Once these big tasks are accomplished we will redraft our UWA strategic plan — a robust document that has served us well but which no longer reflects the evolving world of higher education and research in which we live.

Underpinning all our endeavours is, of course, the preserving of our University. We are all too aware of the pressure on institutions today. Our budget, of some $300 million, is simply too small and the 'gap' to maintain excellence is growing too large. A major income enhancement and income diversification strategy is now under way — ranging from the work of the Office of Development, to increases in research funding, overseas programs and overseas fee-paying students, to major industry partnerships.

A comprehensive new campus plan is in preparation (the existing Ferguson Plan is a decade old) and a draft will be circulated later this year to ensure that we have the right facilities — and the resources to support them — as our University develops key new research and teaching areas.

Within those core academic operations, I also look forward to our vigorous implementation of the recent major internationalisation report, led by the new Executive Dean for International Relations. And I am very pleased that significant progress will be made in supporting and expanding teaching excellence — through further investment in teaching infrastructure, enhancement of the research-teaching nexus, and development of distance delivery capability.

Considerable resources will be allocated to new technologies, and IT itself will become a defining feature of UWA excellence.

Coupled with that thrust, an Office of Industry and Innovation — a part of the University's research division — will be established to assist faculties and centres to maximise opportunities in 'IP' as our collaborations with the private and public sectors grow. We are now only a short step away from initiating a pioneer incubator company environment along the western precinct of our campus.

Positioning UWA — not just within the competitive national and local environment but internationally — has become a major aspect of our work and that too we shall advance in 2000 as we aim to fulfil the vision we have offered to our community and our graduates: of UWA being recognised as a world-class university within the next few generations of staff and students.

It is now frequently remarked in public discussions that unless institutions change as fast as the sector around them, they will ultimately fail in their goals.

I prefer our WA maritime image. We need to chart a bold course and sail to it with intelligence and spirit. That will define our autonomy, self-reliance and mission. The alternative is not worthy of UWA as a learning community of excellence — simply floating with the currents and the tides. That may look appealingly comfortable but in the end we shall be beached as a lost institution of learning. Or worse still … sink on a reef named 'DETYA'!

**Deryck M Schreuder**
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Yawn... another official opening. Polite speeches and the drawing of another silly little curtain to reveal a plaque...

Nothing so mundane for Physics' Professor David Blair!
The official opening of the first stage of the Australian International Gravitational Observatory (AIGO) at Gingin recently was an indication both of the exciting work that will be carried out there and the enthusiasm by Professor Blair for that work.

When the Premier cut the ribbon, it didn’t fall limply to the ground: it set in motion a huge swinging pendulum, part of the workings of the laboratory. And instead of a sedate curtain drawing, the snip of the scissors released the original Aboriginal painting designed for the event, which flew up to reveal a commemorative plaque.

It had the guests amazed and delighted, befitting such an important occasion.

The AIGO is a research facility being developed by UWA in conjunction with the ANU, the University of Adelaide and Monash. The group is known as the Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Deryck Schreuder described the opening as marking a significant day in the history of scientific endeavour in WA and the facility as another step towards a long cherished scientific dream.

Professor Blair, held in high esteem internationally for his work in this area, has won a $345,000 grant over three years to help pursue his gravitational wave detection work.

The specific research project attracting the funding relates to the development of a high performance, vibration isolation system, for use in interferometric gravitational-wave detectors.

International speakers at the launch talked of their admiration for the vision, energy and tenacity of Professor Blair who has been the driving force in establishing what will become the southern hemisphere link in a worldwide array of laser interferometer detectors which will use super powerful lasers to listen to sounds of the universe and to the “big bang” in which the universe was born more than ten billion years ago.

Gravitational waves are waves of gravity. They are vibrations of space itself travelling through space at the speed of light, more like sound than light. They have not yet been detected on earth.

Aboriginal elder Robert Bropho told the guests at the launch the story of some Aboriginal people who has escaped from the Moore River settlement and used the stars to guide them back to their own country at Leonora, despite the fact that one of them was blind but “still able to navigate by the stars”.

“My people, we represent the past in this land and this (AIGO) is the future we are going towards,” Mr Bropho said.
Her expertise is in the field of G-protein coupled receptors (GPCRs) which now belong to the largest single class of target molecules for drug therapy.

Dr Eidne talks about her research: “I study the molecular basis of cell signalling mediated by receptors.

“My goal is to understand the mechanisms underlying cellular responsiveness to hormones and other stimuli. My model system is the gonadotropin releasing hormone receptor (GnRH), a protein located in the pituitary which is pivotal in the control of the reproduction of all vertebrate forms of life.

“I am particularly interested in how these signalling mechanisms control the action of the GnRH hormone and how this can be applied to control reproduction.

“The GnRH receptor belongs to a class of proteins called G-protein coupled receptors, found on the cell's surface. When the body receives stimuli from its environment, such as light, odours or hormones, these G-protein coupled receptors recognise these cues and help translate that information into chemical messages that determine how a particular cell responds to a given stimulus.

“G-protein coupled receptors control many aspects of our daily life and the mechanisms associated with these receptors are pervasive in nature and are found in organisms from slime-mould and yeast to every cell of the human body.

“The mechanism to turn on and off responses to stimuli is just as universal and controls the duration and intensity of the body's response to environmental stimuli and internal responses to hormones.

“G-protein coupled receptors are important drug targets as they are targets for more than 50 per cent of all known medicines.

Dr Eidne’s research uses a PCR: an instrument for amplifying DNA.

For example, drugs to treat pain, asthma, migraine, heart disease and certain forms of cancer target G-protein coupled receptors.

“Although my focus is on molecular signalling, our goal in WAIMR is to build tools that will help us address fundamental issues in hormone action, tissue engineering and cell biology.”

Researchers here all seem to be in competition with each other for resources. The government just hasn’t put aside the funds necessary for research."

But, after taking up her Keogh-Raine Fellowship in August last year, Dr Eidne is only just returning to her research. She has spent six months seeking funding, setting up new laboratories and recruiting research staff.

“It has been a very big challenge getting everything up and running,” she said. “It has taken a lot longer than I anticipated. But now, thanks to Lotteries WA’s generous sponsorship, an NHMRC grant and funds from MEDWA, the infrastructure is in place and my energies can be redirected back to my research.”

Dr Eidne shares a common goal with the WAIMR’s director, Professor Glenn Begley: to create employment opportunities for locally trained scientists.

“I was part of the brain-drain from South Africa many years ago. I want to be part of a movement to stop it continuing here,” she said.

Dr Eidne said coming here from Britain, as a researcher, was very hard.

“Researchers here all seem to be in competition with each other for resources. The government just hasn’t put aside the funds necessary for research,” she said.

“The one big hope is WAIMR: to bring together all the scientists and generate a research environment that will become internationally recognised.

“To get to this point, we must pool our resources, instead of compete for them, and WAIMR provides the umbrella for that to happen,” she said.

Changes in name only

Senate has agreed to adopt new titles for the executive.

The changes do not alter the function of the positions but reflect the way the responsibilities attached to them have developed over the past decade.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder’s title will be Vice-Chancellor and President. The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, becomes Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost.

Professor Michael Barber, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) becomes Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) and Associate Professor Margaret Seares, Director of Community Relations becomes Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Development).
A most beneficial chat

About 80 young students helped each other with their language education recently — by simply having conversations and playing games.

Half the group were graduates enrolled in the Graduate Diploma of Education course. They are all studying TESOL Curriculum (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

The other half were Japanese students in Australia for an intensive three-week course learning to speak English. They were studying at CELT (the Centre for English Language Teaching).

Both programs are part of the Graduate School of Education (GSE).

Megan Ewing (pictured), TESOL lecturer, and CELT teacher Marlene Rattigan combined to co-ordinate the large group.

Margaret Jones, Director of Studies at CELT, said there were many students on campus, particularly those studying Asian languages, who were willing to meet and talk with CELT students, but trying to get them together in groups regularly was a timetabling nightmare. The fact that the TESOL students were located in the same building, and were able to accommodate the event into their study program was a real advantage.

It worked much better getting together two groups of students from the same discipline, especially as they could each practise their skills on the other.

“We arranged for our groups to spend two afternoons together, talking, undertaking various activities, playing games, having fun and it was a win-win situation,” Megan Ewing said.

“My TESOL students had the chance to work with English as a Foreign Language (EFL) students. It was also a great opportunity for them to work together in a group teaching situation. As an ESL (English as a Second Language) teacher for many years, I know how much teaching is done as part of a team, so this was a valuable part of the experience.

‘We arranged for our groups to spend two afternoons together ... and it was a win-win situation ...’

“It was great to develop closer links between the TESOL and CELT programs,” Ms Ewing said. “This project complements the innovations that are already happening in the GSE to make the students’ study more hands-on early in the course.”

Margaret Jones said CELT was also working towards a closer relationship with the GSE, after running as a more separate program up until now. Both groups are keen to repeat the experience later on in the year.

Little wonder a prize winner

It might not be everybody’s idea of fun but Marjorie Apthorpe takes great delight in her studies of the single-celled animal-type organisms, foraminifera.

And it has — indirectly — won her a prize.

Ms Apthorpe is a palaeontologist who is working on her PhD in the Department of Geology and Geophysics.

During last year, she frequently used the electron microscopes in the Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis, often entering her images in the centre’s weekly competition.

Recently, the centre announced the best image submitted in 1999 — and it was one of Ms Apthorpe’s.

“But it was actually the background of one of my images of forams: some single-celled plant-like organisms called diatoms, which are a food source for forams,” she said.

It didn’t worry the centre that the year’s best image actually had nothing to do with Ms Apthorpe’s PhD research. They presented her with a big framed print of the image.

Ms Apthorpe is so intrigued by the habits of forams that she keeps some at home in an aquarium. It was an image from her fish tank that captured the judges’ winning votes.

Other entries included images of shark skin, copepods, seeds and retinal vein imaging.

All the weekly winning images from 1999 are on display in the centre and visitors from the campus are welcome at any time to see them and to come and see the marvels that are only visible through the use of electron and confocal laser microscopes.
More than 700 years after his
death, Dante's writings are still intriguing
and fascinating his students.

Emeritus Professor John Scott, a senior honorary
research fellow in the Department of European Languages
and Studies (Italian Studies) laughs as he says that there is
still more to be discovered from the works of the great
philosopher and writer.

"I am working now on what I call my last will and
testament: a big book on Dante, his writings and the
background of his times," Dr Scott said.

"It will be in English and I hope it will help to bridge the
gap between the American and the Italian Dante scholars."

He said the powerhouse of Dante scholarship were in
Italy and the US and both have recently honoured Dr Scott.
The Italian Government has awarded him its highest
honour, Commendatore nell' Ordine al Merito della
Repubblica Italiana, or Knight Commander of the Republic of
Italy. It was presented on board the Italian ship San Guisto
in Fremantle, as the ship was on its way home after operations
in East Timor.

"It's a great honour, but I feel just as honoured, if not
more so, by the recognition of the Dante Society of America,
which has recently made me an honorary life member," he
said.

Emeritus Professor Scott has been a member of the
society for more than 40 years and joins the elite ranks of
only 12 life members: himself, one American and ten
Europeans.

"I have always been fascinated not so much by languages
but by different cultures. I taught myself Italian at the age of
15, so I could discover as much as I could about Italian arts,
literature and culture in general," he said.

Dante, whom Dr Scott describes as "the flavour of a
generation" has become more
accessible since an American
scholar put all his works and
several hundred years of
commentaries, in several
languages, onto an
electronic database.

"This makes it so
much easier for we
Dante scholars to
keep on foraging and
making new
discoveries," he said.

Emeritus Professor
John Scott wears his
Knight Commander
medallion with pride.

First-year Commerce/Engineering student Carl Jones and mentor
Gina Lawrence (fifth-year Commerce/Engineering student).

Professor Schreuder was impressed by the fact that about
700 mentors had volunteered to help a similar number of
first-year students with advice and encouragement as they
eased themselves into University life.

"What the scheme will achieve is to help you feel more
connected to the University as you weave your way through the
maze of first year," Professor Schreuder told students gathered
in the Sunken Garden recently for the launch of the scheme.

He added that it would be particularly valuable to
students from overseas, or from country areas, who faced
additional challenges in getting to grips with a new
environment.

Mentor Tung Nguyen, who benefited from mentoring last
year and is now involved as a mentor in the newly-launched
scheme, told the students that he had felt left behind in work
and overwhelmed before finding a mentor last year. Fifth-year
mentor Gina Lawrence confirmed that mentors also bene-
fitted from the scheme by sharing their experiences, extending
their friendship group, and developing additional skills.

Barbara Goldflam, co-ordinator of the scheme run by
Student Services, said that the University put a high value on
developing generic skills — such as leadership and
communication — among its students, all of which were by-
products of mentoring.
U niversity women celebrated International Women’s Day recently with more than just great cake and good music.

A new database to gather the skills and experience of women at UWA was launched at the morning tea at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Development) Margaret Seares launched the project saying it was an initiative aimed at improving the participation of women in all areas of University decision making.

“There is an enormous level of expert knowledge and experience across the University which we could be tapping into but are not effectively utilising in policy development and strategic directions,” she said.

The database is an initiative of the Senior Women’s Network which realised that women were not being represented on key decision-making committees.

Dr Seares pointed out that committee chairs were often not aware of the expertise of women from a wide range of areas, backgrounds and levels.

“For example, people at the University always think of me in the realms of the performing arts. But how do you know I don’t have an incubator in my backyard?” she said.

Women often have expertise and interests outside their University roles, through participation in the community and external bodies.

The database will allow women to provide details of their skills, qualifications, experience and interest in participating in University committees.

Associate Professor Robyn Owens, Head of the Department of Computer Science, demonstrated the database at the morning tea. The groundwork had been done by Marjan Heibloem, who is now working in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, and the programming completed by Chris McDonald from Computer Science.

The project is co-ordinated by the Equity Office. Sandy McKnight, manager of the Equity Office, said all female staff would soon be contacted about the database and encouraged to fill it in. It will be on-line and you simply click on boxes to reply to questions.

“It’s important that women take up leadership roles in the University,” Sandy McKnight said.

You can find out more about the database at http://www.acs.uwa.edu.au/run/equitydb

Billie Court’s songs were a hit with the audience, even inspiring some to dance... including ECEL’s Janette Barrett, who celebrates her birthday on International Women’s Day.

G uild edges VC’s XI

The traditional annual student vs staff cricket match was reinstated this year and a glorious late summer sun was ordered for the Friday game.

The Guild President’s XI was too strong for the Vice-Chancellor’s XI, easily passing their 148 runs in the limited overs match.

Here the Guild President’s XI wraps up the batting but the VC was gracious in defeat, sharing a beer with the students after the game.
Monday 3 April

HISTORY SEMINAR
"On writing a short history of the Northcliffe Region", Trish Crawford, 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

BOTANY SEMINAR
"Genetic engineering of crops for fungal resistance at ARC-Rooideplaat, South Africa", Dr Dave Berger, Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute, Agricultural Research Council, Pretoria, South Africa. 4pm, Room 2.14 (Seminar Room—Top Floor) in the Department of Botany.

Tuesday 4 April

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
"Australian landscape and modernist transformations", Professor Dennis Haskell, English. Professor Haskell will take paintings by Sidney Nolan currently on show at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery as a starting point for a discussion of Australian modernism in landscape and literature. 1pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION
"Research and development—a perspective from an agribusiness company", Dr Stephen Carr, Mathematics and Statistics. 2.15pm, Blakers Lounge, Hackett Hall.

Wednesday 5 April

PATHOLOGY SEMINAR
"Do T-cells acquired following antiretroviral therapy protect the host from secondary infections?" Dr Patricia Price, Pathology. 1pm, Pathology Conference Room, G.14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEII Medical Centre. Light sandwich lunch is available.

ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
"Internal gravity waves in a plume ‘filling box’", Dr Graham Hughes, Research School of Earth Sciences, The Australian National University, Canberra. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

Thursday 6 April

STATISTICS SEMINAR
"The number of near-maximum observations for thin-tailed populations", Associate Professor Tony Pakes, Mathematics and Statistics. 2.15pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

ZOLOGY SEMINAR
"Population dynamics and viability of New Zealand birds reintroduced to islands", Dr Doug Armstrong, Massey, New Zealand. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

TECTONICS SPECIAL RESEARCH CENTRE/DEAN’S LECTURE
"Can geology predict global economic collapse?" Professor Eldridge Moores, University of California. 5pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 2.

Friday 7 April

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
"Mechanisms of cell mediated immunity against Burkholderia pseudomallei", Dr Gregory Bancroft, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, U.K. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII Medical Centre.

ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR
"Marginalisation, resistance, celebration: cultural identity in a farming community", Stephanie Hammill, Anthropology. 12 noon, Anthropology Conference Room (First Floor, Social Sciences Building).

ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR
"International marriage agencies in Japan", Tomoko Nakamatsu. 1 to 2pm, G.25 Seminar Room, Ground Floor, Social Sciences Building.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP
"The effects of time budget pressure, audit risk and type of audit test on auditor performance" Paul Coram, Accounting and Finance. 2pm, Research Centre, Room 1.93, Accounting and Finance.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR
"Insights gained from low budget pile testing experiments", Dr Barry Lehan, University of Dublin, Ireland. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil and Resource Engineering Building.

Saturday 8 April

ST CATHERINE’S COLLEGE SEMINAR
"Drugs know no boundaries". This seminar will focus on educational issues in drug use and will include a number of key speakers. Iain Cameron from the WA Drug Strategy Office will provide an overview in his presentation, "Tackling drug abuse in WA". Health Department of WA representatives Melanie Chatfield and Eleanor Costello will discuss "Preventing drug abuse through education". The use of drugs by women has been included for discussion since there are definite gender differences in the patterns of drug use. Gemma Dale, who has recently been appointed the Drug Project Co-ordinator with Sports Medicine Australia (WA Branch), will discuss the drugs in sport issue. Melanie Hand from the WA Drug Strategy Office will describe the "Community Support Services" available. The seminar will focus on the abuse of alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs rather than on illicit drug use. 8.30am to 1pm, St Catheine’s College, 511 South Terrace and includes morning tea. Enquiries to Dann on 9386 5847 or email scats@cygnus.uwa.edu.au

PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE ALBANY CENTRE
"The sculptures of the Parthenon", Associate Professor John Melville-Jones, Head of Classics and Ancient History. 12 noon, Albany Centre.

Monday 10 April

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP MEETING
"Fathers and identities in early modern England", Professor Patricia Crawford, History. 1pm, Postgraduate Common Room, Hackett Hall. All welcome.

HISTORY SEMINAR
"Socialists versus National Socialists: class conflict and ethnic solidarity in Fin de Siècle, France" Rob Stuart, 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

BOTANY SEMINAR
"Benthic Chambers measure nutrient fluxes in an estuarine seagrass meadow", Bernard J Dudley, PhD Student, Botany, 4pm, Room 2.14 (Seminar Room—Top Floor) in the Department of Botany.

Tuesday 11 April

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
"Sculture on campus at UWA: an overview", Robert Cook, Curator of West Australian Art, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. 1pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION
"Enhanced biodegradation of metham sodium soil fogulant — implication for Australian horticulture", Dr Ben Warton, Entomology. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 12 April

PHYSIOLOGY RESEARCH SEMINAR
"Anatomy, physiology and pharmacology of the regenerating optic projection in reptiles", Dr R. Victoria Stirling, Zoology. 5pm, Physiology Seminar Room.

PARAGONS OR PRESTITUTES? - A DISCUSSION OF NEWSPAPERS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA
John McIlwraith will examine the sweeping changes that have occurred in the media in the past few years, and where its future might lie.

John McIlwraith has been a journalist, in all aspects of media, throughout his working life. For the past 30 years he has specialised in finance and politics, including the Press Gallery in Canberra and Western Australian politics, State financial affairs and particularly resources.

John writes, or has written, for many Australian and overseas magazines and newspapers (including The Times, Financial Times, International Herald Tribune, Australian Business Monthly, the Sydney Morning Herald, the Canberra Times and many technical and specialist financial journals). Much of his work now appears in The Australian. He has written six books and a number of monographs, mostly on minerals and other resources. John has been awarded a number of prizes for journalism and is a judge for The Lovekin Prize.

Friends of The University of Western Australia Library, 8 pm, Scholars’ Centre, Reid Library.

Thursday 13 April

FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT
Commemorating the 250th anniversary of the death of J. S. Bach, Stewart Smith performs Bach organ works on WImthrop Hall’s Hackett Organ. 11.00pm, Otagoan Theatre.

ZOOLOGY SEMINAR
"Go and no-go signalling during optic nerve regeneration", Associate Professor Sarah Dunlop, Zoology. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.
Friday 14 April

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
“Sponge sex and symbiosis”, Kayley Usher, Microbiology. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII Medical Centre.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING
“The effects of cigarette placements in a film on late teens and young adults”, Professor Dick Mizerski; Information Management and Marketing. 11.30am, Social Sciences South Resource Room 223.

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
“Investigating the mitochondrial proteome in plants: a tool in bottom-up and top-down analysis of respiration”, Dr Harvey Millar, Biochemistry. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre, GP3.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR
“Estimation of pile base capacity from cone resistance”, Associate Professor Rodrigo Sagado, Purdue University, USA. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil and Resource Engineering Building.

THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY MEETING
“The ghosts of departed quantities”, Hartley Slater. 4.15pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

CENTRE FOR MUSCULOSKELETAL STUDIES LECTURE
“Spinal biomechanics and new implant technologies for spinal stabilisation”, Professor Vijay Goel, Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Director of the IOWA Spine Research Centre. This lecture will be of interest to all clinicians and researchers who investigate or treat the human spine. 7pm, F. J. Clarke Medical Lecture Theatre. Enquiries to Associate Professor Kevin Singer on 9224 0219.

Saturday 15 April

AUSTRALIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (WA) WORKSHOP
“Essentials of conflict resolution”. The discussion will be led by Dr Jenny Mills and includes a video made by the Conflict Resolution Network. 10.15am to 12 noon, M. E. Wood Room, St Catherine’s College. Donation to defray expenses.

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY
“Music and the dramatic muse”. The WAIM Symphony Orchestra, directed by Peter Moore, will perform a program exploring the relationship between music and drama. The program will include Dvorak’s Symphony No. 9, From the New World. Tickets are available at $18.50 and $13.50 and can be booked on ext. 2440. 8pm, W ithnup Hall.

Tuesday 18 April

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
“Fame and fashion: Holly Wood on Glossy”. Holly Wood, radio personality and social columnist for The Sunday Times, will talk about fame, fortune and fashion in Glossy, an exhibition of celebrity photographs from magazines currently being shown at the gallery. 1pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION
“The significance of soil microporosity”, Professor Jim Quirk, Soil Science and Plant Nutrition. 4 pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Advance Notice

Wednesday 19 April

STUDIES LECTURE
“Spinal biomechanics and new implant technologies for spinal stabilisation”, Professor Vijay Goel, Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Director of the IOWA Spine Research Centre. This lecture will be of interest to all clinicians and researchers who investigate or treat the human spine. 7pm, F. J. Clarke Medical Lecture Theatre. Enquiries to Associate Professor Kevin Singer on 9224 0219.

Thursday 20 April

INTERNATIONAL OLIVE SCHOOL 2000
This six-day live in school, which costs $1000 per person and includes all meals and accommodation, will be held at New Norcia from Sunday June 11 to Friday June 16. The school covers all aspects of olive growing, olive oil and table olive products. Both didactic and hands-on activities will be presented by national and international olive specialists.

4TH OLIVE CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM
This three-day live in symposium, which costs $370 per person and includes all meals and accommodation, will be held at New Norcia starting at 7pm on Friday June 16 and finishing 4pm on Sunday June 18. Saturday only registration is also available. International, national and local speakers will present current information on olive growing, olive oil production and marketing of olive products. Much of Sunday 17 is set aside for practical demonstrations in the olive grove. Cultural activities include: visits to the New Norcia bakery, museum and historic buildings; Mass, prayers and coffee with the Benedictine Monks; and an Australian bush breakfast on Sunday.

For further information please contact Professor Stan Kallis at the Faculty of Agriculture. Tel: 9380 1644; fax: 9380 1108; email: skailis@agric.uwa.edu.au

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SUBIACO, lovely 2 bedroom apartment in the heart of Subi-Centre. Air conditioned, gas point heating, two courtyards, double garage, lots of storage and built-in cupboards, freshly painted and new carpets. Very private and secure. Either sub-let for 2 months or move in permanently. $240 p/w. Please call 6380 1705 (h) or ext. 4372 (wk).

FOR SALE
CAMRY (1998), white, 34,000km, auto, PS, CL, under new car warranty until mid 2001. Excellent condition, $19,900 ono. Call Sharon on ext. 2562 or 9305 3736.

UNIVERSITY PHYSIOTHERAPY AND SPORTS PODIATRY

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS
Sally Bigwood
Gerald Hurst

PO DIATRIST
Tracey Manifis

UWA Recreation Centre
9380 2316

STUDENT RATES
Sports Card Holders

20% discount

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Confucius hit the nail on the head when he commented on what we now call diversity. No matter how diverse people's habits are, they all deserve to be included in the same experiences.

Staff at UWA have been learning how to do this with the University's widely diverse student body. The Centre for Staff Development's findings have been published, following academic and general staff projects to achieve inclusivity. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, launched the publication recently at University House.

There are more than 400 students on campus who have disabilities. There are also 17 per cent of students who come from non-English-speaking backgrounds. Added to these are a diversity in race, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background and socio-economic status.

The most recent project, funded by the national Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development (CUTSD), focused on the development of general staff who have a responsibility for the provision of services to students, including staff who are a direct and often first point of contact for them.

This project complemented an earlier one on achieving diversity and inclusivity in teaching and learning.

The project was directed by Barbara Black, and co-ordinated by Maureen Callander, both from the Centre for Staff Development.

Action learning groups focused participants' awareness on issues directly relevant to their departments or positions.

Some of the projects undertaken in the action learning component were: identifying the types of problems experienced by older students with particular attention to the stresses imposed by technology; facilitating the academic adjustment of undergraduate mature-age students; and perceptions and awareness of disability among University reception staff.

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2001

**Raine Priming Grants**

Applications are invited for Raine Priming Grants in accordance with the Guidelines governing the awards, and include provision for New Project Grants as defined in the Guidelines. The Grants shall provide funding for research into any area of medical science that investigates the nature, origin and cause of human disease, and the prevention, cure, alleviation and combating of such disease.

Grants shall be offered for a two-year period, subject to annual review.

Grants may be used to provide funding, or part funding, of salaries for researchers and/or technical staff, computing, and consumables.

Major items of equipment will not be financed.

The research shall be carried out at, or in association with, The University of Western Australia.

Guidelines and Application Forms are available from:

**Raine Medical Research Foundation**

Suite 24, 95 Monash Avenue, Nedlands, WA 6009

Hollywood Specialist Centre

Telephone: 9386 9880

Fax: 9386 9522; email: raine@raine.uwa.edu.au

Web site: www.raine.uwa.edu.au

Application forms must be received at the above office no later than Monday 1 May 2000 at 5pm

* Raine Priming Grants are intended for: (a) less experienced researchers, (b) researchers wishing to move in a different scientific direction, and (c) new academic research staff to The University of Western Australia.
A work of art purchased almost by accident 73 years ago has become one of the most valuable and important parts of the University's art collection.

The Henry Holiday cartoons, now on display at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, have been returned to their original glory, after many months and many thousand dollars worth of restoration.

The set of jewel-coloured full size illustrations for stained glass windows in Yeovil (UK) church was the first work acquired for the UWA art collection.

Professor Walter Murdoch visited the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1927 to buy a cast of Donatello's statue of St George. While he was there, he was advised to visit the daughter of Henry Holiday. He had just died and his daughter was selling his casts.

But Professor Murdoch was attracted to the "exquisite" stained glass designs and paid 100 pounds for them.

For many years they graced the back of the stage in Winthrop Hall but were removed and put into storage in 1963 when the organ was installed.

The panels illustrate the text, 'There was war in Heaven', presenting opposing worlds: light and dark, order and chaos, good and evil.

Holiday was one of the leading stained glass artists of his time, actually making the windows as well as designing them. He designed windows for more than 400 churches and other buildings.

Years of storage took their toll on his panels and UWA art restorer Slobodan Binevski had to replace the original canvas backing and, as LWAG Director Anna Gray put it, "repackage" them completely, replacing the heavy but damaged jarrah frames with lighter palest grey frames which help the panels make the transition into the modern gallery.

Dr Gray discovered, on a research trip to southern England, how Holiday's stained glass panels were made and has had a local artist, Ledwina Butler, recreate a portion of the panels with glass and lead, with painting by gallery artist Kevin Robertson.

This work is displayed at the gallery along with the panels, lit magnificently to give almost the effect of stained glass. In the same exhibition is the plaster cast of St George that Professor Murdoch purchased at the same time but which has been rather overshadowed by the Holiday cartoons.

Dr Gray also discovered in her Holiday research that William Dampier, an early explorer of Western Australia, came from Yeovil, where the stained glass window designs began their life.

So there is a link, however tenuous, that points to WA being the best place for these panels. They will remain in the gallery until the end of the year. Where they will be exhibited permanently is still to be decided.

Dancer wins law scholarship

The third annual Ciara Glennon Memorial Law Scholarship has gone to a fourth-year Law/Arts student who has more in common with the late Ciara Glennon than a love of the law.

Like Ciara Glennon, scholarship winner Patricia Neurauter has a passion for dance.

She is a classical ballet dancer and a champion Spanish dancer and has used her skills extensively to help fundraise for less fortunate people.

The scholarship is awarded to a law student who has made a recognisable contribution to the community in a charitable, religious, cultural or sporting area; who demonstrates an active interest in an area outside the practice of law; who has a genuine concern for others and a demonstrated need for financial assistance to continue studies.

Patricia Neurauter accepts the Ciara Glennon award, under the watchful eye of Ciara's father, Denis Glennon.

The scholarship is sponsored by law firm Blake Dawson Waldron, where Ms Glennon was working when she died tragically in 1997. It was presented to Ms Neurauter by the Minister for Police, Kevin Prince, standing in for the Premier, Richard Court.
Stuart’s spending pays off

Some people have flowers or cards sent to them at work.

Stuart Mather, a laboratory technician in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, went one better recently and took delivery of a new car on campus.

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blic Health worksite researchers, Lorna Rosenwax and Anne Same, have been acknowledged for their outstanding efforts with the Jan Watt Prize for Excellence in Public Health Field Research.

The Jan Watt Prize was established by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry in 1997 to acknowledge the qualities needed by public health field researchers who administer questionnaires and take other health measurements on patients and the general public as their subjects.

The role provides an important interface between the Department of Public Health and the community. Sometimes research participants are anxious about an interview or upset about their illness. It takes sensitivity, tact and professionalism to ensure that their feelings and rights are respected.

With the right attitude and approach by researchers, the involvement of their subjects in a research project is remembered as a positive, affirming and enjoyable experience.

Jan Watt, who began work more than 20 years ago in what was the forerunner of today’s Department of Public Health, was a pioneer in the art of collecting data from the community for many important research projects, including case-control studies on cancer and other diseases.

She was much loved and highly respected by her co-workers and, following her death from cancer, a biannual award was offered in her name.

‘With the right attitude and approach … a research project is remembered as a positive, affirming and enjoyable experience …’

The second biannual Jan Watt Prize has been awarded jointly to Lorna Rosenwax and Anne Same for their dedication and exceptional field work in the Workplace Back Study, funded by the WA Health Promotion Foundation.

It was a longitudinal study of 2626 blue-collar shift-workers at 16 different worksites. The aim was to examine the relationship between psychosocial factors in the workplace and absenteeism for low back pain, a problem with major public health and industrial implications.

For two years, the Rosenwax/Same team were on site at odd hours (like 11pm, 2am and 5am) to make contact with research participants as they clocked on and off work. They developed an amazing rapport with their subjects and achieved a response to the research of 85 per cent, a figure previously unheard of in studies in these industry settings.

Apart from the scientific objectives (which are being pursued as Ms Rosenwax’s PhD), the field work team provided extensive direct feedback to managers on local workplace health problems. This resulted in a string of tangible improvements to working conditions, and praise from both bosses and workers for the commitment and genuine concern that the two public health researchers had shown.

The Head of the Department of Public Health, Associate Professor Matthew Knuiman, said that the role of field researchers was vitally important.

“With the right attitude and approach … a research project is remembered as a positive, affirming and enjoyable experience …’

The Holden Barina was a prize from his bank for simply using his credit card. All Westpac and Challenge Bank credit card users between November and January automatically went into a draw.

Mr Mather said it was the first time he had ever won anything and thought at first that it was a practical joke. Challenge bank staff present Stuart Mather with his prize.

By Professor D’Arcy Holman
MASTER CLASSES IN MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS

APRIL 23-28

by Terri-ann White

An exciting new venture is to be launched in April in the Faculty of Science that crosses over the disciplines of Physics, Crystallography, Chemistry, Botany and Pharmacology. Master classes in Molecular Biophysics is an initiative of the Department of Physics and is part of the Science at the New Millennium program for the Institute of Advanced Studies with both faculty and IAS support. Additionally, ten scholarships will be awarded to enable students from across Australia to participate.

In the first year of what is intended to be a regular meeting, the eminent biophysicist Professor Klaus Schulten of the Beckman Institute, University of Illinois, will co-ordinate the program. Four specific sub-topics will be covered; the format will be lectures in the morning by experts in the field, followed by workshops in the afternoon led by distinguished presenters.

This program is intended for researchers interested in fundamental biophysical techniques used in the study of molecular systems. The scope of the material covered makes these classes of interest to practising scientists wishing to keep abreast of the latest developments in the various sub-topics covered. The breadth of the presentations from introductions and summaries to the latest advances, makes the classes suitable for the non-expert as well as those experienced in the field. All students and practitioners interested in these areas of science and technology are most welcome to attend.

The student scholarships are being offered to interstate and international students in their third or honours year of a science degree through the support of the Faculty of Science.

This program offers an exemplary model of collaboration across disciplinary divides. It has been conceptualised and planned by a dedicated team of scientists over the last 12 months. More information is available from their web site at http://www.biophysics.uwa.edu.au/mcb2000/

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Presents monthly seminars in 2000 for

Land Place Culture and Identity: a cross-disciplinary program of inquiry

Monthly seminars in 2000

Lawrence Wilson Gallery, UWA. Wednesdays at 4pm

These are the first three, the second series will be announced later.

April 12: Opening session
A panel will present an introduction to the intentions of this cross-disciplinary program.

The social and cultural significance of land, and more generally of ‘place’, has become a major focus for investigation in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Current contributions derive in particular from the disciplines of anthropology, architecture, cultural geography, history and literary studies. Across diverse areas of enquiry it is increasingly recognised that people’s sense of place is a critical aspect of how they articulate their identities as individuals, families, ethnic groups and nations. The connection to place commonly serves as a strong reference point for the way people and collectivities of various kinds negotiate their material and symbolic interests.

Panellists: David Trigger, Gareth Griffiths and Terri-ann White

May 3: Endeavour and Hokule’a: the theatre of re-enactment and cultural identity.

“The World Encompassed” was Francis Drake’s, or maybe his ship’s secretary, Francis Fletcher’s, phrase for the global experience of his circumnavigation. There was a moment when the World Encompassed was compacted for Drake in one experience. He had driven the Golden Hind further south than anyone had ever sailed, to where, he wrote, “the Atlanticke Ocean and the South Sea meet in most large and free scope”. He was right. This sea at the bottom of the globe has no end as it eternally circles the earth. Drake, out of the totally particular and sensory experiences of wind, water and movement had an experience of — if I may invent a word — globalité, a sense of forces of large and free scope meeting the particularities of everyday life. I would like to reflect on the poetics of globalité. I would like to reflect on a double-visions globalité in Oceania, the globalité of the intruding strangers on Oceania in the eighteenth century, and the globalité of the native islanders who had encompassed Oceania for thousands of years. It is the theatre of historical re-enactment of two replicas, James Cook’s Endeavour and the Hawaiian voyaging canoe, Hokule’a, that prompts my reflection on the double visioned encompassment of Oceania and its relevance to cultural identities.

Greg Dening, Adjunct Professor, Centre for Cross-cultural Research. ANU, Canberra

June 7: Approaches and understandings of place.
A discussion between Kim Scott, fiction writer (Benang, True Country), Richard Woldendorp, photographer, and one other speaker (to be confirmed). This seminar will continue through to October.

To be informed of future events, please contact

Terri-ann White
Academic Executive Officer, Institute of Advanced Studies, 9380 2114
tawhite@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Dear Reader,

Are you going overseas or interstate (or even to Albany!) for work or pleasure? Now you can economise on your postcard postage by having your message printed in UWA News.

Staff, students and friends and associates of the University are invited to send postcard messages, be they humorous, heartfelt or just a seminar update to Public Affairs or via email: lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au

Hope to hear from you soon, Lindy

POSTCARDS HOME

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Bids should be accepted by Monday 17 April with departments to have first option

Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWA News. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2547 for details.

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


Associate Professor G. F. Watts, Associate Professor P. H. Barrett and Dr T. A. Morin, Medicine, and Professor T. G. Redgrave, Physiology: ‘Regulation of apoA-100 and chylomicron remnant metabolism with statin and fish oil on obesity’—$40,500 (2000); $41,400 (2001).

Dr F. M. Bockeim and Associate Professor F. T. Christiansen, Pathology, and Professor R. R. Taylor, Medicine: ‘Haplotypes in the apolipoprotein E gene cluster and coronary heart disease’—$36,000 (2000; 2001).

NHMRC


Dr P. D. Sly and Professor P. G. Holt, Child Health Research, and Dr K. S. Loh (external): ‘Effects of upper versus lower respiratory infections on the induction of atopic asthma’—$186,236 (2000); $191,655 (2001); $197,065 (2002).

Professor W. R. Thomas and Dr P. M. Watt, Child Health Research: ‘Mimotopes for the investigation and therapy of allergic disease’—$73,156 (2000); $61,816 (2001); $63,930 (2002).


Dr D. A. Knight and Associate Professor P. J. Thompson, Medicine: ‘Epithelial-fibroblast interaction in response to allergic airway inflammation’—$79,128 (2000); $74,513 (2001); $76,494 (2002).

Dr D. Trinder and Associate Professor J. Olynk, Medicine, and Professor E. Morgan, Physiology: ‘The pathogenesis of haemochromatosis in the HFE knockout mouse model’—$73,705 (2000); $75,686 (2001); $77,669 (2002).


Professor G. R. Shellam, Dr M. A. Degli-Esposti and Dr A. A. Salo, Microbiology: ‘Role of cytomegalovirus class I homologue in interference with host NK cell responses: a potential antiviral target’—$134,693 (2000); $134,389 (2001; 2002).


Dr P. Price, Dr C. S. Witt, Associate Professor F. T. Christiansen and Associate Professor M. French, Pathology and Mr R. J. Allcock, Biochemistry: ‘Fine mapping and characterisation of polymorphic immunoregulatory genes in the general MHC’—$171,665 (2000); $175,695 (2001); $179,525 (2002).

Adjunct Associate Professor T. Ratajczak, Pharmacology: ‘Protein targets for the steroid receptor modulators, cyproterone 40’—$120,298 (2000); $122,016 (2001); $123,731 (2002).

Associate Professor D. R. English, Dr B. Corti and Ms E. Milne, Public Health and Associate Professor D. Cross (external): ‘Kidskin: and intervention to reduce sun exposure in children’—$101,449 (2000); $169,564 (2001); $81,662 (2002).


Professor J. P. Newham, Mr T. J. Moss, Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Professor R. Harding (external): ‘Differential effects on fetal growth and development of repeated fetal or maternal corticosteroid treatments’—$117,706 (2000); $109,275 (2001); $110,990 (2002).


NHMRC (EQUIPMENT GRANTS)

Dr A. J. Bakke, Dr A. W. Everett, Associate Professor D. Robertson and Associate Professor H. W. Mitchell, Physiology: ‘Cairn microspectrophotometer and a zeiss epifluorescence microscope’—$40,000 (1999).

NHMRC (joint grant with the University of Melbourne)


NZ RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION


ROCHE PRODUCTS PL


RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION


THE NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMISSION


UNIVERSITY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS


WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION

Associate Professor S. R. Zubrick, Mr S. Silburn, Dr J. J. Kurinczuk and Associate Professor P. R. Burton, Child Health Research: ‘Rascals: investigation and early causal pathways of mental health problems’—$105,741 (2000); $108,284 (2001); $120,000 (2002).


Dr F. Bull, Dr M. Booth and Mr M. Rosenberg, Public Health: ‘Validity of self-reported accumulation of moderate-intensity physical activity’—$75,130 (2000).

Associate Professor J. Stratton, Ms L. J. Lambert and Associate Professor M. W. Knuiman, Public Health: ‘Hormone replacement therapy, hysterectomy and coronary heart disease risk’—$48,862 (2000).


WATER AND RIVERS COMMISSION

Dr A. W. Storey, Zoology: ‘Environmental water requirements for the Canning River’—$34,000 (1999).

More Research Grants in the next issue. Enquiries through Research Services on 9380 1776.
Summer study a great success

Recently I had the distinct privilege of co-ordinating the University’s Vacation Research Scholarship program marketed as UWA’s ‘West Coast Experience’. Nineteen students were recruited from interstate universities to come to UWA for six weeks during summer and engage in short research projects under the supervision of UWA staff. It was hoped to promote postgraduate study at UWA directly to the scholarship holders, and, more importantly, to recruit them as ambassadors who would help raise awareness about UWA in their home universities. They arrived very excited, somewhat nervous and eager to learn new skills, check out the University and see some of WA.

The outcomes of the project are outstanding: two students have commenced studies at UWA, and five more declared that they would “definitely” or “probably” return to UWA. All the students were very positive about their experience: many of them commented that they were surprised and impressed by the welcome they received, the quality of the research they saw and heard about, the standard of supervision from friendly, enthusiastic academics of high standing, the helpfulness of their postgraduate student mentors, the beautiful physical environment of the University, the quality and comfort of accommodation at St Catherine's College and the general flavour of life at the University.

The academic supervisors, other staff and postgraduate mentors in the 13 departments (across five faculties) who participated in the project did an outstanding job of ensuring that the students had a productive and educationally useful as well as an enjoyable experience at UWA. This is despite large variability in the students’ background and experience of research. About half had completed an honours year in 1999 and the others were at various stages of undergraduate programs. The students appreciated the time their supervisors spent with them discussing ideas, teaching methodologies and generally inducting them into research. On her last day, one student commented “UWA gave me my first job. Ever since I was 12 I’ve wanted to do research and this is the first time I’ve ever been paid to do what I love. I feel like a scientist now and that’s really important to me”.

A strong sense of camaraderie and shared discovery quickly developed in the group. There were expeditions to the Pinnacles, Rottnest and Margaret River as well as places closer to home and much of the enjoyment of the experience for me was seeing the University and the state through the eyes of visitors.

They also discussed their impressions of their departments at UWA and made frank comparisons between universities. On the whole, we came out pretty well — UWA staff may feel jaded and discontented at times but, to most of these visitors, this is a very attractive environment, academically and socially as well as physically. This is an extremely discerning group of students: they are used to the vigorous recruitment practices of interstate universities and were very aware of the purpose of the scholarship program. They readily took on the role of expert consultants and provided very useful ongoing feedback and advice on various aspects of the project, including the timing and structure, target group and marketing strategy. Their comments and suggestions form a large part of the report on the project.

Supervisors also rated the project positively and several have volunteered to supervise future projects. This is a strong endorsement indeed: departments funded stipends for the students and provided all resources and funds for the research, out of already agonisingly tight budgets. In addition, the supervisors gave generously of their time in January and early February, when many staff prefer to take leave and others concentrate on their own research. However, some supervisors and others in the University have reservations: money is tight and there are conflicting views about the most effective structure and target group for such a scheme. If it is decided that a similar program be offered in the future, the first task will be to resolve these arguments.

Of all the participants in the scheme, I am sure that none enjoyed the experience as much as I did. Six weeks in the company of 19 highly articulate, talented and enthusiastic students from a wide range of disciplines and personal backgrounds was both educational and refreshing. I recommend the experience.

Dr Sato Juniper
LEARNING SKILLS ADVISER
POSTGRADUATE OFFICER
STUDENT SERVICES