Scott White and his mentor Dr Bill Chapman...learning from each other.

Perfect Match meets Country Practice
by Lindy Brophy

Fourth-year medical student Scott White recalls, at the age of eight, telling his mother that he wanted to be a doctor “like Uncle Bill”.

Thirteen years later, he has just about achieved his dream and it is thanks, at least in part, to the mentoring of “Uncle Bill”, Booragoon GP Dr Bill Chapman.

Dr Chapman was a GP in the southwest town of Collie when he delivered baby Scott 21 years ago. He left rural practice about ten years later and, several years after that, he welcomed Scott as a first-year medical student into his suburban practice.

Medical students spend an increasing amount of time each year on GP attachment. Mrs Wendy Noris, undergraduate placement co-ordinator in the Department of General Practice, said she tried to pair students and GPs with similar rural backgrounds.

Dr Chapman said studies had shown that medical students from rural areas were likely to go back to the country when they graduated, so it was a good idea for them to be attached to a GP who had experience in the country.

Before his Collie days, he had worked as a GP at Ceduna, South Australia, where the nearest doctor was 1200km away.

He and Scott are both enthusiastic about the Federal Government’s recently announced bonding system for medical students who are prepared to work in the country.

“The $20,000 a year they intend paying these students is nothing compared to the cost of training and getting doctors into country areas,” Dr Chapman said. “In fact, I’d like to see specialists do a couple of years in the bush before they get their ‘piece of paper’. The community puts hundreds of thousands into training these doctors and it would be great for them to give something back.”

Scott intends to work in the country, hoping to settle in the southwest, and is also considering specialising in obstetrics or paediatrics.

Dr Chapman said having a student at his practice kept him on his toes, especially fourth-year students who were into diagnosis.
It is always a pleasure to have a good book or article recommended by a UWA colleague for reading and enjoyment.

Several of you said I must read J. M. Coetzee’s novel, Disgrace, as a wonderfully powerful book. You were right. Others pointed me towards significant articles recently in journals, ranging from Chronicle of Higher Education and the Economist to New Scientist — invariably to my benefit and pleasure. Thank you.

It is now my turn to recommend a ‘must read’ — albeit a local production — in the form of a UWA discussion paper which we are about to launch, Towards an Academic Profile. I know policy papers are not ideal bedside reading! But this one is a must for all of us involved with UWA in 2000, and who care about the future of our University. While it is a short paper, it sets out to stimulate debate on the ‘shape’ and the very ‘character’ of UWA in the years ahead.

Following that discussion, the University will move to put in place academic, budgetary and structural arrangements which define the UWA of the future. These changes will affect all departments, faculties and research areas.

In a world of change, UWA must itself change, creatively and purposefully. That change will not ‘overnight’ transform us into something we do not recognise and do not welcome. But it will, over the next decade, involve a substantial development of UWA, creating new balances and new features in a transforming university.

There will be constants within the changes. We presume several key characteristics as given about UWA today:

- a strong sense of academic values
- high quality as test in all we do
- a comprehensive coverage of major disciplines
- research intensity, integrated into a teaching-research nexus
- an international focus in content, growth and standards
- the new technologies suffusing and enhancing all activities
- being a community resource, with a diversified funding/support base

Yet we also presume key directional changes which will enhance UWA, and secure its future, by advancing the University’s agreed objectives (see our existing Strategic and Operational Plans).

Good universities are always in a condition of dynamic change. We have, for example, already begun to invest significantly in the new educational technologies, from the bio-technologies to the technology of flexible delivery across all teaching and learning activities. We are building up our professional and double degrees and pressing out international activities and programs in new environments.

The Academic Profile integrates all these initiatives, and proposes a quantum move forward for UWA, by significantly developing and directing resources preferentially to areas of particular strength, importance and opportunity.

Change will be underpinned by growth. Part of that will come from increased research, industrial, investment and benefaction income. But a major part can come from growth in student load, and changes to our program and student mix.

UWA enrolments have grown nearly 30 per cent over the past decade, yet UWA is not at optimum size or ‘balance’. A further 20 per cent growth is desirable in the years immediately ahead, with growth being focused on a significant increase in postgraduate numbers, not only in research degrees but also those in coursework programs. We should additionally, be enhancing the number of high quality, full-fee paying overseas students, particularly those eager to engage in UWA postgraduate level courses and degrees involving professional development.

There is an overall challenge to ‘grow our load’ in ways which grow our budget, while integrating the student increases into either the key priority areas of UWA’s generic academic development — new programs, new knowledge areas — or, in our burgeoning schools of professional studies, running from medicine, engineering and technologies, to business, law and public policy.

Finally, the Academic Profile should establish — after our usual healthy collegial debate! — some critical areas (perhaps only half-a-dozen or so) of relative strength, strategic opportunity and comparative advantage, to which we can direct a flow of funds from our projected growing budget base.

The ultimate test, for such strategic funding, is that selective development and resourcing is highly likely to generate distinctive, internationally-recognised leadership in the areas identified, and so take UWA to new levels of achievement and global recognition.

The draft Academic Profile will identify such areas, which will define the future UWA of the twenty-first century, as well as detail the proposed growth in student enrolments and mix. Please do read — make it your ‘must read’.

And then make your contribution to the debate in the campus forums we shall arrange — or in your faculty or division or student organisation. I really want us to take hold of our own future in ways which both build upon the successes of our past but are not limited by the constraints of the present. It is now our time to take up challenges and opportunities of our new century and its globalised environment.

Professor Deryck M. Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
If a sheep farmer discovers that his rams are not performing to the best of their ability, it's probably already too late to do anything about it.

Poor wool prices mean that increased lamb production (for the meat industry) is very important to sheep farmers but the most effective method of ensuring good reproductive performance probably needs to take place even before the siring rams are born.

The problems encountered by Australian graziers are the same ones faced by sheep farmers in Uruguay.

This is why Uruguayan animal scientist Raquel Pérez Clariget has chosen to take a year’s sabbatical from the Universidad de la República and work at UWA’s Faculty of Agriculture on an area that is of interest to both countries.

Dr Pérez Clariget has a Crawford Fund training award to hone her skills in radioimmunoassay (a technique for measuring hormones), ultrasound and molecular biology, giving her invaluable techniques to take back with her to Uruguay.

Her work focuses on whether reproductive performance of male sheep (capacity to produce sperm) is being affected by levels of nutrition either during fetal sexual differentiation or during growth from birth to maturity.

These two stages have been chosen because they are considered to be the periods when the potential productivity of the developing testis is being determined.

It is normal practice not to pay strict attention to the nutrition of pregnant ewes until the last trimester of pregnancy, but by this stage, fetal sexual development is completed.

This may be a contributing factor to the large variations in the reproductive capacity of sheep despite having similar genetic makeup and health status. (Extrapolating to human health, there is widespread international interest in the role of nutrition during fetal sexual development because in humans, constraints at this time can cause life-long problems, particularly with respect to susceptibility to disease.)

Working in collaboration with researchers at King Edward Memorial Hospital, Dr Pérez Clariget and senior technician Margaret Blackberry are using a technique by which they can identify the sex of an unborn lamb at 60 days (the normal gestation period for a ewe is 148 days).

Dr Pérez Clariget is full of admiration for the staff at UWA and KEMH, especially Associate Professor Graeme Martin and Professor David Lindsay.

“I met Graeme at a congress in Sydney back in 1996 and we realised then that we had a lot of common ground,” Dr Pérez Clariget said.

“We started corresponding and, then in 1998, he came to Uruguay to do some work on sheep production.”

Dr Pérez Clariget’s husband, Dr Alvaro López, also works in the area of sheep production and is doing research on sheep and emu semen at UWA’s Shenton Park facility.

“In Uruguay, we have merino sheep. We have the similar climatic conditions (I even work at the same latitude in Uruguay as you do in Perth — 32 degrees south). We have common problems. But what we don’t have is a fantastic animal research facility as you have here.

“It was that facility, as well as the very high international reputation of the animal science group and its techniques, that made me want to come here,” she said.

A colleague of Dr Pérez Clariget’s, Georgett Banchero, is doing her PhD under Professor Lindsay and Professor Martin, on lamb mortality.

They hope that their work here will be the first of many exchanges between Australia and Uruguay.

“It is a cultural, rather than a geographic choice, for most Uruguayan academics to go to Europe. I suppose it is going back to our Spanish roots. But it doesn’t make sense. There are so few countries in the southern hemisphere and we should work together,” Dr Pérez Clariget said.
Imagine crossing these boundaries

Imagination is not fantasy, though those who deal with the realities of human living, the natural environment and the universe sometimes suspect that it is.

A simple premise, but one that keeps historian and anthropologist Greg Dening constantly busy at the ANU’s Centre for Cross-Cultural Research (CCCR).

Although retired, Professor Dening’s goal (apart from his own research and writing) is to teach postgraduate students to use imagination in the presentation of their research.

“There is a line between fiction and non-fiction that I want them to cross. Fiction is not fantasy — it’s finding a way of intriguing and interesting your readers. Do we really only write our theses for two or three people (the examiners)?

“Imagination is catching a glimpse of the end of the trail when only the first step is being taken. Imagination is finding a word that someone else will hear, a metaphor that someone else will see . . . imagination is taking the cliche out of something that has been said over and over again.

“The creative imagination ultimately is giving things a new name, a new voice, new life.”

Professor Dening runs programs for students from all disciplines and from many different universities.

“These writers sometimes complain of the tensions created by the formalistic demands of their disciplines and the free flowing demands of their creative spirit. I try to get them to understand how to make a theatrical presentation of their research.

“I tell my students they need to perform their writing, not just throw it on the page.”

Professor Dening recently presented a seminar on the theatre of re-enactment and cultural identity for UWA’s Institute of Advanced Studies, as part of its Land Place Culture Identity program.

It’s a theme that is dear to Greg Dening’s heart. History and anthropology, place and culture are inextricably bound for him. The beach has always been the metaphor for his scholarly life.

“Marginal areas, edges of things, crossing boundaries between ocean and land . . . I have always felt the need to fight against the urge to polarise things and people. I like to be in between,” he said.

His wife, Associate Professor Donna Merwick, also a historian from the CCCR, accompanied him to Perth and pointed out that Professor Dening’s invitation to his students to cross the line between fiction and non-fiction was another example of his beach metaphor.

Crossing beaches, crossing cultural barriers, crossing the lines between university departments — the last is one of the hardest.

“I try to persuade universities that one of the things they have lost is access to the talent of the whole university. Students are confined to the talents of the people in one faculty.

“Perhaps the astro-physicists and the dancers do have something to say to each other. Maybe there is not so much of a difference in the questions they are each asking,” he said.

Professor Dening said he had been blessed with an interdisciplinary education: four years of theology, four years of anthropology, four years of philosophy and four years of history.

“No one discipline has all the answers,” he said.

Visiting academics Greg Dening and Donna Merwick, from ANU.
The University's first e-commerce graduates are on their way.

Internet marketing lecturer and visiting fellow Dr Jamie Murphy (above) has 36 honours and master’s degree students already and a Bachelor of E-Commerce is planned, with an undergraduate course beginning next semester.

Dr Murphy's new course, in the Department of Information Management and Marketing, is popular with business, industry and the government, as well as the students.

Microsoft has recently given the department free use of its web site software — worth $1000. The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has donated a couple of thousand dollars worth of textbooks. And market researcher Roy Morgan has given $50,000 worth of software for the course.

This term, Dr Murphy is helping his students to create web sites for real businesses, schools and organisations, including a primary school, a high school, a surf club and a law firm.

"It's not about building a web site. Anybody can slap stuff together on a screen. I'm taking the students beyond that. In designing a web site, they must meet with their clients and find out why they want a web site and what they expect of it. They must look at what the client's competitors are doing. They must set up maintenance of the site," Dr Murphy said.

"We're not training graphic designers or web programmers. This course is training Internet marketers."

Dr Murphy said he wanted the students to see "warts and pimples. What they're getting is boils and blisters! They're running into all sorts of problems — which is great! You just can't get this stuff out of books."

The undergraduate course, starting next term, is Foundations of E-Commerce. It's more involved with customer satisfaction and delivery and secure transactions, in short, selling on the Internet. His current course is aimed at using the Internet as a marketing tool.

The department is also starting a one-year master's degree course for graduates with good passes and at least two years of experience in the work force.

"This department works so well. I understand it was just chance that information management and marketing were put together in one department about eight or nine years ago. They are perfect partners and both tailor-made for the web. This is probably the only department in the world that combines them," Dr Murphy said.

He said that Australia was way ahead of European countries and Japan in their use of the Internet.

"Europe and Japan have timed local telephone calls and although they do use the Internet and email, they tend to restrict their use. They would never dream of surfing the web or browsing for shopping via the Internet."

Dr Murphy started his working life as a journalist and still contributes to The New York Times. He and UWA colleague Dr Iain Watson, from the Department of Accounting and Finance, have collaborated on The New York Times Guide to Finance.

It is one of six guides edited by Dr Murphy for The New York Times, the others concentrating on business law, business communication, economics, management and marketing.

Although he is a master of the Internet and is excited by its potential, Dr Murphy says he has some luddite leanings.

"I still believe you must question the use of technology all the time, not just accept it as good because it's there," he said.

Dr Jamie Murphy helps students Sarah Bodendyke and Claire Lambert with a web site design.
For students of tectonics, there are few more exciting places than the southwest of the United States America.

The tectonic framework of the area around New Mexico, the Grand Canyon and the Californian coast is still actively forming and the 16 geology students who have recently returned from the UWA Gledden (geology) Tour 2000 had the opportunity to see the phenomena they’d only read about in textbooks.

“We just can’t see the processes in action in Australia because the terrain is so old here and nothing (geological) has happened for a very long time,” they said.

The honours and PhD students, accompanied by Professor Chris Powell and Dr Annette George, did a lot of work on the area before the three-week tour, each one being assigned a locally-specific topic.

Their areas of study included the geology of the Grand Canyon, the cenozoic evolution of Death Valley, the Rio Grande rift and Taos plateau volcanics and the San Andreas fault system.

While the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences is considering replacing the traditional annual engineers’ Gledden Tour with travel-related scholarships, Professor Chris Powell hopes the geology students will continue with the tradition.

“The tour was very structured and relevant academically, not just a ‘reward’ for good students,” he said.

He and the students agreed with the philosophy behind Robert Gledden’s original bequeath that travel broadens the academic experience.

“It certainly put everything into perspective for us and fuelled our enthusiasm for our topics,” the students said. “Because it is such a diverse and active area, there was something there for everybody and it was so good to be able to talk to researchers and professionals in the field of their own research areas.”

The tour collaborated with academics and students from the University of Texas and the University of California at Santa Barbara. One of the students has now decided to continue his studies at UWA.

Professor Powell pointed out that, as fascinating as the active area of the southwest of the US is to Australian students, our own ancient rock formations are just as interesting and different to geologists from the US.

“They are interested in our iron formations, our gold mining areas and the ancient area around Shark Bay, including the unique stromatolites,” he said.

One of the tour’s highlights was a study of Death Valley, a hostile environment where the valley floor is the lowest point below sea level in the country, and the surrounding mountains reach the second highest point in the country, with fascinating geological development.

The group also rated highly the discovery of coastal rocks in California which were actually formed deep under the ocean, and the exposed section of the old ocean floor, all thrown up the San Andreas fault.

They enjoyed the thrill of standing over the San Andreas fault line, with one foot on either side.

The group was most grateful for a donation from Colin Barnett, the Minister for Minerals and Energy (as well as Education), of $4000 towards their costs. The Gledden Trust provided $50,000, the students paid $1700 each and the Tectonics Special Research Centre picked up the shortfall.

Future possible Gledden tours that Professor Powell is contemplating include a cross section across the Andes and a transect of China.

How do you say “Can you help?”

Do you speak one of the less well-known languages of Africa, Asia or the Pacific?

The Department of Linguistics is looking for you and willing to pay for your services.

They need somebody to assist with a Field Methods course to be taught in second semester this year. The work will require two to three hours a week through most weeks of the semester.

You don’t need any special skills or any background in studying linguistics. You only need to be a fluent speaker of one of the less well-known languages of these regions and a good speaker of English. For the purposes of the project, widely-spoken languages, such as Chinese and Indonesian, will not be used.

If you can help, please call Dr John Henderson in the Department of Linguistics, on ext. 2870 or email him: john.henderson@uwa.edu.au
They are now a dying breed but the English parson-naturalists have made a formidable contribution to natural history over the past 500 years.

Before their species becomes extinct, senior Geography lecturer Patrick Armstrong (pictured above) has captured them in the pages of his latest (and his favourite) book, The English Parson-Naturalist.

Himself the son of one of these phenomena, Dr Armstrong was born in Yorkshire, grew up in Cambridge and was educated at Durham University. He has been at UWA for 25 years and has been musing on this publication for about half of that time.

"Since the early sixteenth century, the figure of the parson-naturalist has been conspicuous in the English Church and in English science," Dr Armstrong said.

"It has been said that 'the adventure of modern science' began with one of these scholarly clergy, John Ray.

"There were theological reasons for many parsons taking up the study of nature and natural history. Some of them saw a delight in nature as an expression of Christian piety. Some had other theological postures that could be declaimed from the naturalist's viewpoint of the world.

"Some expressed their interest in natural history in little more than the compiling of a list of wildflowers occurring in their parish; others achieved high scientific honours for their work on fossils or fishes, mites or mosses, sponges or spiders."

Dr Armstrong said the old parochial system of the English church meant that a parson was often living in one small area of the countryside for the whole of his working life and he got to know intimately the plants, animals and people of that area.

Now, vicars and parsons are much busier, possibly administering several parishes, over large areas and so the parson-naturalist is dying out.

Their eccentricities, their close-knit networks and their scientific achievements make this book a gently fascinating read as well as the academic work of a professional ecologist.

In the book, you will meet Henry Baker Tristram, Canon of Durham Cathedral, who was possibly the first zoologist to use Darwin's ideas in a scientific paper, even before On the Origin of the Species appeared. He was an outstandingly competent scientist and an authority on the plants and animals of the Middle East and North Africa.

Then there is William Bramwhite Clarke, father of Australian geology. Rev. Clarke emigrated with his young family to New South Wales in 1841. In the 1850s he undertook geological surveys of the Australian goldfields.

With the exception of Charles Darwin (whose training in geology was limited and who paid only very brief visits to New South Wales, Tasmania and the southwest of Western Australia), Rev. Clarke was the first university-trained geologist in Australia.

The English Parson-Naturalist is not yet available locally but can be ordered from John Garratt Publishing (www.johngarratt.com.au) or from the English publisher, Gracewing, through Dr Armstrong.
**UWA News** is published fortnightly. Information for the publication dated 12 June should be forwarded to Joanna Thompson, Publications Unit, ext. 3029, fax 1162, email: uwanews@publishing.uwa.edu.au

**NO LATER THAN 5 PM ON 31 MAY**
Media enquiries to Public Affairs on 9380 2889.

Unless a restricted audience or charge is specified, all the events/exhibitions listed here are free and open to all and may attract media interest.

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**Monday 29 May**

**SCIENCE FILM SHOW**
“A race between microbes and science.” Newly emerging viruses and drug-resistant bacteria are reversing our scientific victories over infectious diseases. This film explains the advent of virulent microbes and how the human system is built to fight them as well as discusses the role of science in finding preventative strategies to forestall plagues and defeat our only remaining natural predators – micro-organisms. 10.05pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

“Virtual reality in medicine.” This film looks at some of the work being done to develop computer simulation and virtual reality technologies for use in the field of medicine. 10.05pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

**BOTANY SEMINAR**
“Nitrogen acquisition by native plants”, Dr Matthew Turnbull, University of Canberra. 4pm, Seminar Room 2.14, Botany.

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**Tuesday 30 May**

**AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS SEMINAR**
“Procurement strategies and wheat quality: integrating inter-regional and inter-temporal factors in end-use variability”, Professor Bill Wilson, North Dakota State University. 11am, CLIMA Seminar Room.

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY**
Max Pam, lecturer in communications and multimedia at Edith Cowan University, talks on selected highlights from the exhibition So Many Worlds: a photographic record of our time. 1pm, LWAG.

**GUILD FILMS**
Life is Beautiful (1997). Directed by Roberto Benigni and starring Roberto Begnini and Nicoletta Braschi. A Jewish man has a wonderful romance with the help of his humour but must use that same quality to protect his son in a Nazi death camp. Included as part of English Contemporary Film Honours Seminar. 2pm, Guild Cinema, Cameron Hall.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR**
“Research activities in the Centre for Rhizobium Studies”, A/Prof John Howieson, Centre for Rhizobium Studies, Murdoch University. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

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**Wednesday 31 May**

**CHEMISTRY LECTURE**
“Control of crystal growth via organic additives”, Mark Ogden, Curtin University. 12 noon, W hite Lecture Theatre.

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**Thursday 1 June**

**FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT**
The W AIM W ind Ensemble presents Strauss Sonatina in F for W ind’s Invalid’s Workshop. 11.00pm, W inthrop Hall.

**ZOOLOGY SEMINAR**
“The underwater life of seals”, Dr Nick Gales, CALM. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

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**Friday 2 June**

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“HLH genes in haemopoietic development”, Professor Glen Begley, W AIMR. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIMC.

**ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Re-thinking class, ethnicity and national identity: the case of Filipino migrant workers”, Dr Michael Pinches. 12 noon, Anthropology Conference Room.

**ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR**
“The subjectification of citizenship: students’ interpretations of government messages in Balinese schools”, Lyn Parker. 1 to 2pm, Seminar Room G.25, Ground Floor, Social Science Building.

**CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY SEMINAR**
“General intelligence and the development of executive functions — a case of a ‘Rose by any other name? . . . ’”, Dr Mike Anderson, Psychology. 3.30pm, Seminar Room 3, Gascoyne House, Graylands Hospital.

**PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY SEMINAR**
“Lewisian view: egoism de se and de dicto”, Lo Yeuk-Sze. 4.15pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

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**Saturday 3 June**

**ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**
CENTRE FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY
“Constructing a colony: the convict legacy”. This one-day conference, hosted by the Centre for Western Australian History (UWA) and the Fremantle Prison, marks the 150th anniversary of the arrival of convicts in Western Australia. Bringing together historians, genealogists, researchers and the interested public, the conference will explore the historical and contemporary impact of the convict system on Western Australian society, its cultural heritage, and environment. 9am to 5pm, Fremantle Prison. Early registration (before 19 May); Full registration: $45; Concession: $25. (Prices include morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea.) For more information and registration forms, please contact: Dr Helen Merrick, A/Director, Centre for WA History, Department of History. Phone: 9380 2143 or email: hmerrick@arts.uwa.edu.au

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**Tuesday 6 June**

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY**
Malcolm Orr on UWA Foundation Day. Malcolm Orr (former Registrar) will discuss the importance of higher education in fostering knowledge, ideas and imagination. 1pm, LWAG.

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**Wednesday 7 June**

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY**
Fiction writer, Kim Scott, photographer, Richard Woldendorp and visual artist, Judith Dinham, will discuss their understandings of land and ‘place’ as represented in their work. 4pm, LWAG. All welcome. No charge.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR**
“Space-time rainfall-runoff processes and space-time scaling of runoff responses based on catchment water balance”, Chatchai Jothityangkoon, PhD student, C W R. 4 to 5pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.
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. For further information please contact Professor Stan Kailis at the Faculty of Agriculture. Tel: 9380 1644; fax: 9380 1108; email: skailis@agric.uwa.edu.au

Advance Notice

Tuesday 13 June

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
“So many worlds: Tony Ashby on the front lines of photojournalism”. 1pm, Lawrence W ilson Art Gallery.

Wednesday 14 June

ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
“Modelling deep water oil/gas spills under conditions of hydrate formation and decomposition”, Poojitha D. Yapa, Gledden Senior Visiting Fellow, CWR. 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, QEl.

Sunday 18 June

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 7 p.m. on Friday June 16 and finishing 4 p.m. 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 Kailis at the Faculty of Agriculture. Tel: 9380 1644; fax: 9380 1108; email: skailis@agric.uwa.edu.au

Monday 19 June

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

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

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

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

Bookings are not essential but if you would like more information please contact Associate Professor John Corbett at Macquarie University on (02) 9850 8943.

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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.

Language, Brain and Evolution

A Series of Lectures at the University of Western Australia, June 2000

By Michael A. Arbib,
Fletcher Jones Professor and Chairman of Computer Science
Director, The USC Brain Project;
Professor of Biological Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Neuroscience, and Psychology, University of Southern California
Adjunct Professor of Computer Science, UWA

(All talks will be in Computer Science Seminar Room 1.24 on W ednesday from 2 to 4pm. Refreshments will be served after the talks.)

Lecture 1: The Mirror System Hypothesis (June 7, 2000)
Lecture 2: Towards a Computational Neurolinguistics (June 14, 2000)
Lecture 3: A Critique of Universal Grammar (June 21, 2000)
Lecture 4: Beyond the Mirror: Biology and History (June 28, 2000)

See also page 12 of this issue.
Tree planting without ceremony

Three years after one of the state’s worst bushfires devastated Allandale, the University community is being asked to help replant the property.

Thousands of young trees, planted since UWA took over the 700-hectare farm at Wundowie in 1981, were wiped out by the bushfires of January 1997. Also destroyed were hundreds of beautiful old white gums (Wandoo), most of them more than 100 years old.

Ten thousand saplings, most of them eucalypts, are ready for planting at Allandale on the weekend of June 17 and 18.

John Beesley, a technical administrative officer with Animal Science, was standing in for the caretaker at Allandale when the fire went through.

He worked tirelessly fighting the fire alongside local volunteer firefighters and helping animals to escape the blaze.

Mr Beesley is co-ordinating the tree planting at Allandale and would love staff and students to come up for a day with their families (but please leave your dogs at home). You don’t need to bring any tools or equipment and a sausage sizzle will be put on for all volunteers.

If you can come, please contact John on ext. 2569 or email jbeesley@agric.uwa.edu.au, so he knows how many sausages to order.

To get there, follow Great Eastern Highway towards Northam and take the first left turn after El Caballo Blanco. The road is Chedaring Road and the turn-off is about two kilometres past the ranch resort. Planting will start around 9am each day.

Bird watching from the balcony

Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Michael Guppy, has taken the bird community on campus under his wing.

“In February, during a hot spell, I noticed quite a few birds bathing in the gutter of the anatomy building. This gutter is below my balcony and had a blocked down-pipe and was still full of water from the January rains,” Professor Guppy said.

“My student and I took great pleasure in watching these birds as we drank our coffee on the balcony.”

When plumbers arrived to unblock the down-pipe, Professor Guppy jokingly protested that they would be depriving the birds of their bath ... and, within days, the head plumber, Dave Hall, returned with a terracotta saucer.

“I filled it up and it was an instant hit. We now have wattlebirds, wagtails and two species of honeyeaters coming to the water every afternoon. They line up and take their turn and are a delight to watch.

“The only downside is that I now feel responsible and tend to come in on the weekends to fill up the bath!”

Professor Guppy is wondering if more such bird baths could be installed around the campus and perhaps connected to the reticulation system to ensure a constant water supply.

“People leave out crumbs and seeds for birds but, in our climate, what they really need is water,” he said.
Wisely or not, the latest publication from UWA Press bears the name of an Australian TV soap opera, Home and Away.

But it couldn’t be more different. It’s a collection of 17 short stories which examine, in 17 different ways, the concepts of ‘home’ and ‘away’.

Nowhere in the editors’ introduction do they refer to the authors’ connection to Western Australia. Perhaps it’s not to alienate the rest of the Australian reading public. Or it may be their overwhelming sense of ‘home’.

Bruce Bennet is head of English at University College, Australian Defence Force Academy. He was a Rhodes scholar from W A and a UWA graduate. His co-editor Susan Hayes is state literature officer for W A.

All but three of the authors either live in W A, were born and educated in W A and now live elsewhere or spent a significant part of their lives here. Two of the remaining three stories are set in W A.

The writers include UWA academics Terri-ann White and Gail Jones. Tim Winton, Robert Drewe, Helen Garner, Elizabeth Jolley, Deborah Robertson, Katherine Susannah Pritchard are some of the others.

All of the short stories were written between 1920 and 1990 and their flavours combine to produce a twentieth-century feast.

The editors say that where — or what — is home has long been a preoccupation of Australian literature, politics and society. How is ‘home’ defined if your origins lie in England or you have recently emigrated from Europe or Asia? And what does ‘home’ mean if you were removed from your family as a child and brought up in somebody else’s home?

These stories are about belonging and alienation, about travel, migration and settlement, as different in content as they are in style but all returning to the theme of Home and Away.

It is available from the Co-op Bookshop for $17.95.

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Snapshots

ABC television will run a teasing taste of University life every evening for a week in June. One of the Channel Two series Snapshots, which goes to air for just 60 seconds before the 7pm news on weeknights, was made at UWA earlier this month.

Four staff members and a student are featured: Dr Gordon Royle from Computer Science, student Helene Fung from Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Dr Sarah Dunlop from Zoology, Jill Milroy from the Centre for Aboriginal Programmes and Kellie Riley from Unigrounds. Each of the five were asked questions about their lives and work, with the questions edited out, to create a 60-second constant narrative, set against the UWA background.

UWA Snapshots can be seen on consecutive evenings from Monday 26 June.
The brain — from the inside out

The Director of the Brain Project at the University of Southern California will share his knowledge in a fascinating lecture series at UWA next month.

Early last year, Professor Michael Arbib presented lectures here based on the “mirror system approach to the evolution of human language”.

In June, he returns to conduct research with Professor Robyn Owens and Dr Eun-Jung Holden on “gesture recognition” and to present four lectures on the subject of “Language, Brain and Evolution”, providing both a fuller analysis of the literature and new findings to take the story far further than was possible in early 1999.

The lectures will be held on Wednesdays from 2 to 4pm in the Computer Science Seminar Room. The format will combine 75 minutes of lecture with 45 minutes of (probably interspersed) discussion.

The first lecture, The Mirror System Hypothesis (on June 7), will present data on the mirror system for grasping in monkeys to ground the hypothesis that a mirror system for grasping provides the key to a new theory of the role of hand gestures in the evolution of human communication.

The second lecture (June 14) is Towards a Computational Neuro-linguistics.

The third lecture, A Critique of Universal Grammar (June 21), asks what evolved that allows humans to learn languages so readily? Many accept Chomsky’s answer of “Universal Grammar”, a parameterised master grammar which reduces the task of learning the syntax (as distinct from the lexicon) of a language to a mere “setting of parameters”.

The final lecture, Beyond the Mirror: Biology and History (June 28), will integrate the material in the earlier lectures, first arguing that biological evolution equipped early Homo sapiens with a brain that was “language ready” but did not itself “have” language.

The lecture series is presented by the Institute for Advanced Studies and a recommended reading list — for fuller participation in the lectures — is on the IAS Website: www.ias.uwa.edu.au

Centre for Microscopy Courses 2000

Scanning Electron Microscopy 12 to 13 June Maximum 30
8.30am to 6pm. The course covers basic scanning electron microscopy, digital imaging and minimum sample requirements. Any queries contact Dr Brendan Griffin, ext. 2739, email: bbg@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

Environmental Scanning Electron Microscopy 15 to 16 June Maximum 8
8.30am to 6pm. The special characteristics of the ESEM will be covered with emphasis on control of temperature and pressure of the sample chamber environment. Any queries contact Dr Brendan Griffin as above.

Electron Microbeam Analysis 19 to 21 June Maximum 30
8.30am-6pm. This is an introductory course in electron microbeam analysis of bulk samples. The program covers general theory and principles of operation of energy dispersive X-ray detectors, X-ray data correction procedures and sample preparation. Any queries contact Dr Brendan Griffin, as above.

Optical Microscopy 19 to 21 June Maximum 8
9am to 6pm. This course covers general principles and application of all areas of light microscopy including brightfield, phase contrast, normaski interference, polarising and fluorescence microscopy. Any queries contact Associate Professor John Kuo, ext. 2765, email jjskuo@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

Digital Image Manipulation and Storage 22 to 23 June Maximum 20
8.30 am to 6 pm. The course is in two parts: Part A will review the nature of a digital image; explaining the relevant terminology, the currently available facilities for printing and transferring of images and the various media for image storage (including a cost and archival comparison). Part B will introduce image manipulation software including Adobe Photoshop 5.0 N IH Image 1.62, Macromedia Freehand 7.0 and Powerpoint 5.0. The course is conducted on Macintosh computers but is generally platform independent. For further information contact Dr Brendan Griffin.

Introductory Transmission Electron Microscopy 26 to 28 June Maximum 12
9am to 6pm. This course gives an appreciation of the capabilities of TEM, practical training in the operation of the microscope and instruction in the interpretation of results. Any queries contact Associate Professor Andrew Johnson, ext. 2764.

Confocal Laser Scanning Microscopy 29 to 30 June Maximum 8
9am to 6pm. The course covers the theory and practice of confocal microscopy. Students are encouraged to bring their own samples for practical sessions. Any queries please contact: Associate Professor John Kuo.

Biological Transmission Electron Microscopy 3 to 5 July Maximum 8
9am to 6pm. This course covers both the theory and operation of the special characteristics of the ESEM will be covered with emphasis on control of temperature and pressure of the sample chamber environment. Any queries contact Dr Brendan Griffin.

Places are limited but all courses are open on a first-come basis, except that UWA course requirements take precedence. There is no cost to UWA students or staff. No cost to Curtin participants. $150 per day for others. Application forms can be obtained by telephoning 9380 2770 or fax 9380 1087.
Schoolboys’ solution saluted in Stockholm

First-year Science Engineering students, Jerome Bowen and Jason Le Couture have won the Australian finals of the Stockholm Junior Water Prize.

The seventeen-year-olds are off to Sweden for the international finals in August.

They started work on their project, an automated water distribution system for farms, called the Reservoir Regulator, while they were in Year 11 together at Trinity College.

At that stage, they hadn’t even heard of the Stockholm Water Prize. They were enjoying physics at school and put their heads together to solve a problem on Jerome’s family’s farm.

Jerome and Jason came up with the idea of the Reservoir Regulator after a water tank at the Bowen family farm in York overflowed in the summer of 1997/1998, resulting in a substantial loss of water which forced the Bowens to pay for water to be carted to their farm.

Generally a water distribution system on farms is based on water being pumped to a tank from a windmill. This involves regular monitoring of water levels in tanks and turning on and off water pumps accordingly. Tanks are often several kilometres away from the main water source, making this a very time-consuming job and often resulting in water wastage.

Their Reservoir Regulator uses water pressure variations to ensure water tanks on farms will be filled up to their maximum level without any overflow. The primary purposes of the regulator are to ensure that no water is wasted as a result of the overflow of tanks and to reduce the labour involved in monitoring and filling water tanks on farms.

The Reservoir Regulator is entirely mechanically operated. Jerome and Jason used this simple design to ensure the regulator’s reliability and to make it cheap, easy to install, maintain and understand. A stainless steel version of the regulator was built by the Department of Physics at UWA and used by Jerome and Jason in their presentation of the project in Sydney earlier this year, when they won $500.

“The money went to Trinity but they are sending it back to us because they know we need it to develop this further,” Jerome said.

The International Stockholm Junior Water Prize is the most prestigious award presented to a young person for a water science project. The Stockholm International Water Institute holds the competition to support and encourage science students in water and environmental issues.

Professor Jorg Imberger, the Director of the Centre for Water Research, won the award in 1996.

Jerome and Jason have big plans for the future of the Reservoir Regulator, including attracting funding from government and industry groups. They also intend to conduct research into different materials for the regulator and different ways to assemble the device.

The Reservoir Regulator has also won several other awards, including a Silver Medal for the CREST Awards, sponsored by CSIRO, a credit in the BHP Science Awards and second place in the STAWA Science Talent Search, all in 1998. The project has also been entered in the CREST Gold Medal Award for this year.
### Redundant Equipment for Sale

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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
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<th>COND.</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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**Macintosh Equipment:**

**CPU's**

- Apple Mac LCIII: $100
- Apple Mac LCII: $80
- Apple Mac LC II: $80
- Apple Mac LC: $70
- Apple Mac LCII: $80
- Apple Mac LC 475: $150
- Apple Mac LCII: $50
- Apple Mac LC III: $60
- Apple Mac LC630: $300
- Apple Mac Classic: $200
- Apple Mac IIXx: $250
- Apple Mac II: $150
- Apple Mac Portable: $50
- Apple PowerMac 6100/66: $400

**Printers**

- Apple ImageWriter: $100
- Apple ImageWriter II: $120

**Monitors**

- Apple Colour Display: $100
- Apple 15" Multiscan: $150
- Apple 13" RGB Display: $100

**Unix Servers:**

**CPU's**

- SparcStation Classic (Venant), doesn't boot: Offers
- SparcStation IPC (Perseus): Offers
- SparcStation10 (Goodwyn): Offers
- configuration unknown, unstable under no load: Offers

**Miscellaneous:**

- Webster Localtalk to: Offers
- Ethernet Gateway (for Mac): Offers
- BICC Data Networks: Offers
- Multiport Repeater: Offers
- Sun Microsystems external: $100
- SCSI Hard Drive cases: Offers
- Sun Microsystems Audio cable: Offers

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

Bids should be accepted by Monday 12 June with departments to have first option.
AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL— SMALL GRANTS


- Dr Werner G. Stritzke and Dr Davina Joy Bruce, Psychology and A/Prof Neville Wylie, Anatomy and Human Biology: “Influence of psychosocial stress on the reproductive quality of the menstrual cycle” — $10,121 (2000).

- Dr Alan William Everett, Languages and Studies: “Initial language contact in the Pilbara” — $3923 (2000).


- Dr S. L. Krauss, Agriculture: “Managing the evolutionary potential of fragmented native plant populations” — $8790 (2000).

- Dr Alan Charles Dench, European Languages and Studies: “Initial language contact in the Pilbara” — $3923 (2000).


- Dr Belinda Robyn Yourn, School of Music: “Perspectives of teachers, parents and students regarding value, delivery and management of arts curricula in distance education settings” — $7382 (2000).

- A/Prof Paul Vincent Attwood, Biochemistry: “Purification, characterisation, cloning and sequencing of a novel mammalian histidine kinase found in proliferating tissue” — $6790 (2000).


- A/Prof Dr Andrew Adams, Botany: “Rapid nitrification in forest soils: the utility of stable isotope signatures to detect environmental change” — $16,500 (2000).


- A/Prof John Lyle Noakes, Mathematics and Statistics and Dr Ryszard Stanislaw Kozera, Computer Science: “Smoothness in geometry and computer vision” — $12,759 (2000).


- A/Prof James Stewart Chisholm, Anatomy and Human Biology, A/Prof Victoria Katherine Burbank, Anthropology and Mr David John Butler, Economics: “The evolutionary psychology of co-operation” — $10,372 (2000).

There are times when all of us have challenging issues to deal with. When personal or work related issues make life difficult, the University has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help staff manage these issues more effectively. The EAP is a professional, confidential counselling and consultation service. The services of Davidson Trahaire are available FREE to you and your family for up to six sessions a year.

For appointments, please ring Davidson Trahaire for up to six sessions a year.

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Kenata Rentals providing short term, fully furnished accommodation to UWA since 1982.
How many of us can remember our first week at Uni? Was it just a blur of lost lecture rooms, fear and confusion? For many new students the first few weeks can be very daunting, not knowing what to do, where to go or who to ask.

The ‘Uni Mentor Scheme’ is aimed at helping new students ease the often difficult transition from school (or anywhere, for that matter) to University. It matches first-year students with older students, in mentor groups, with two mentors and two or more first-year students, according to their course of study.

Mentoring at UWA began in the School of Agriculture back in 1996. The success of this scheme led to the ‘Engineering Mentor Scheme’, run by the Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program. The aim was to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment to all new engineering students. It provided an alternative to traditional engineering activities, which were based primarily around consumption of alcohol and therefore excluded a large proportion of the student body.

The success of the Engineering Mentor Scheme over the years has been phenomenal. Mentoring has taken hold in the Faculty and has become an important part of its culture. Mentors are trained in communication skills, cultural awareness and ethical behaviour and it has been heartening to witness the effect this has had on the attitudes and activities of the students. When the engineering students come along to mentor scheme functions, the functions are alcohol-free. Not because alcohol is banned (it isn’t), but because the students appreciate and respect the fact that mentoring is different. To see a crowd of some 150 engineering students in a Northbridge restaurant, sitting around drinking jugs of water, dancing, socialising and having a great time is truly a sight to behold!

This year saw the expansion of mentoring across much of the University. The model used in engineering was applied to the Faculties of Law, Economics and Commerce, and Medicine and Dentistry. The ‘Uni Mentor Scheme’ has trained over 500 mentors who are matched with over 700 first-year students. Initial feedback has been extremely positive. In the words of a first-year student—

My mentor was very helpful — didn’t know everything (which was comforting in a way) but knew a lot and helped to give me a perspective ... [it was] nice to know that not having all the answers in my first week was OK (everyone else seemed to know what was going on — me? I was faking it, now I figure lots of other people were too). Speaking to other first-year students about things is sometimes like the blind leading the blind ... [My mentor] is the only person who would know a lot of the answers I want.

So where next for the ‘Uni Mentor Scheme’? The student who volunteers to be a mentor is often involved in a number of other community activities around campus. For example, WISE runs an Engineering Role Models program, where our students visit secondary schools to speak to Year 10 students about careers in engineering. Many of our Role Models are also mentors.

This type of voluntary work is not formally recognised. Yet these activities develop crucial generic skills: communication, leadership, organisation and cultural awareness. These skills are highly valued by employers, who are looking for well-rounded graduates, with a strong record of extra-curricula experience. Student Services is therefore planning to formally recognise these students. Participants in community activities on campus will be trained to an accredited standard, their performance will be assessed, and on successful completion of a range of activities they will be awarded a certificate which formally recognises their contribution. A paper proposing this scheme is on its way.

The University has much to gain from recognising students for their contributions. We will develop a pool of talented, community-minded students. We will be producing graduates who will be keenly sought after for their highly-developed generic skills. And we will be fostering a culture of community service, cultural awareness and ethical behaviour amongst our students who are the leaders of the future.

Barbara Goldflam
Co-ordinator, Uni Mentor Scheme.
Project Co-ordinator,
Women in Science and Engineering (WISE)