UWA gives birth to Olympic career

by Lindy Brophy

Of all the sports that people start playing for fun, beach volleyball must be near the top of the list.

Twenty years ago, it was a sport that few people in Australia took seriously, but this week it will be played very seriously for the second time at an Olympic Games.

And representing Australia in beach volleyball is UWA graduate Sarah Stratton.

Volleyball and beach volleyball are huge in Japan, Europe and South America, particularly Brazil. Regular volleyball hasn’t risen to those heights in Australia but we are well placed in beach volleyball.

According to her mother, Associate Professor Judy Stratton, Department of Public Health and Associate Dean (Student Affairs) in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Sarah had a taste of volleyball at high school.

By the time she finished her Bachelor of Science at the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science in 1992, she was “seriously into volleyball,” her mother said.

She now plays volleyball professionally full-time.

“During the season, there is a tournament every weekend in a different country,” said Associate Professor Stratton, who has taken leave to watch her daughter compete in Sydney.

Sarah and her partner, Annette Huygens-Tholen are ranked 19th in the world. The other two Australian Olympic women’s beach volleyball teams are ranked fifth and seventh.

But Glenn Hamilton, who coached Sarah and Annette right up until their Olympic selection, said there was very little difference between first and 24th rank.

“It’s a very even sport and a lot depends on the conditions on the day,” he said.

Mr Hamilton said Sarah had done extremely well to reach Olympic level after starting volleyball so late in life. Usually players start while they’re still at high school.

Human Movement lecturer Nick Randall was the man who suggested Sarah take up volleyball seriously while she was at university.

“She’s very tall, very athletic. I thought the game would suit her,” Mr Randall said.

It obviously does.

UWA graduates and students are also competing in Olympic hockey (women’s and men’s), swimming, water polo and athletics.

Olympic volleyballers — Pauline Manser and Sarah Stratton.
We are all aware of the Queen Mother’s 100th birthday recently . . . but fewer of us know of Mr Bruce Newton of Bentley who was also recently 100 years old (on Friday September 1).

Bruce is in fact our oldest living former student and staff member. And he is still in robust good form, with an alert mind, deep voice and strong personality. Having afternoon tea with Bruce recently — together with his son, a family friend and Terry Larder from our Visitor’s Centre — was an experience I shall long value.

‘Bruce’s UWA’ began with the Irwin Street facilities, which was tiny in size, dominated by a few inimitable professors and lecturers, and of course, the only university in the state.

UWA grew with the city and the state. And Bruce’s career mirrored that growth in staff and student numbers, the emergence of a small research culture and the move to the Crawley campus site in the 1930s. He has lived to see the twenty-first century UWA as an international university of excellence. Yet his memories easily connect traditions and tomorrow. Did you know that among the challenges of working in the Irwin Street phase of UWA was dealing with city noise — not only of growing motor vehicle traffic after the Great War, but especially of a motorbike repair garage next door!

An abiding feature of that UWA story of development has been the role of our staff as personified by Bruce — whether as academics or professionals or general staff members.

Senate recently received, for consideration, a significant paper on staffing first prepared for the Strategic Resources Committee. The paper admirably sets out the challenges faced by UWA and its staff as we confront the new century. Let me draw from that report and the valuable points made by our Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, in introducing the document.

Bruce’s UWA has long since grown beyond that small early cohort of less than 100 staff. As of last year we had a total staff of 2364, composed of 1733.3 who worked in academic originated units, and 631.2 in the non-academic units. Our teaching and research academic staff numbered 699.2 with 291.1 academic staff additionally supported by research funds. Non-academic staff on research funds amounted to 190.3. Other major categories by size included 552.7 non-academic staff (general), 161.7 staff in academic support services, and 380.2 in general institutional services.

Sheer numbers, of course, only give us the outline profile of UWA at the turn of the century. To achieve a sense of the change and growth at UWA we need trend data. And here, some major facts and issues stand out:

• Between 1995 and 2000 our student numbers rose by 29 per cent but staffing has only grown by some one per cent (2355.3 to 2364.5). Yet interestingly, some 77.3 academic research-funded staff were added following UWA success in obtaining competitive grants. Efficiency gains have been a major feature of the past years. But we need to grow our budget to grow our staff again.

• Staff and student rations had worsened by a factor of two, an aspect of growth that reflected great demand for places but which also required a larger budget allocation, from a larger total budget, to keep excellence attached to improving staff-student ratios.

• In gender balance terms, the news is happily more positive. From 19 per cent (FTE) in 1995, the proportion of women teaching and research staff increased to over 30 per cent in 2000. Moreover, UWA’s equity index (meaning the degree of women staff at levels closest to the ideal of 100) registered at 70, the best in WA and one of the best in Australia.

• We are also a notably multicultural staff, and overseas visitors have several times remarked on the fact the UWA presents a happily international face with so many of us from outside of Australia.

• And we are a changing staff as there have been over 400 voluntary separations over time (since 1995) of academic and general staff. New staff members have come to join UWA and ensured a sense of change at a time of stasis in University funding.

Two important current documents in the University reflect aspects of forward thinking about staffing policy and conditions. There has been a significant report on the status and security of research staff, a growing category of vital significance whose resourcing is often tied to grants and consultancies. We are also currently undertaking a second major working life survey, as a means to optimising the employment environment that is our University.

A significant register of the standing of UWA is, for me, the response we get to appointment advertising. It is heartening that we continue to attract excellent applicants, both general and academic. Indeed, I have specially noted the fact that at the Professorial Selection Committees, a majority of the applicants already hold chairs at other universities.

We can always do better. I’d especially like more senior women staff, more of us from multicultural and indigenous backgrounds, and a greater capacity to remunerate our staff more generously.

But I do celebrate the great staff we have — and have had. Bruce Newton’s 100th birthday deserves celebration as a reminder of how our staff are at the core of the quality of our University.

Deryck M. Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au

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Physicists clock up timely research

John McFerran had the time of his life at a select summer school for physicists in Italy.

And when it comes to time, Mr McFerran knows what he’s talking about.

He is part of award-winning physicist Dr Andre Luiten’s team, which is working hard on developing a clock that uses light frequencies.

Dr Luiten has already developed a sapphire crystal clock that has proved to be the world’s most stable timepiece. Now his research team is pushing the boundaries of perfection, with lasers rather than microwaves.

Dr Luiten is supervising John McFerran’s PhD in the area of frequency synthesis. Together they are trying to link lasers to microwaves in a coherent fashion, so that they can produce an optical standard based on atoms, which may have unprecedented accuracy.

“At the moment, the definition of a second is based in the microwave domain. If optical oscillators continue to improve their frequency stability the definition may change once again,” Mr McFerran said.

Dr Luiten added that while their sapphire clock would be considered among the best of all microwave clocks ever developed, it had been recognised, over the past ten years, that a clock based on light frequencies could be a huge step forward. Furthermore, a link to atoms would make the clock accurate as opposed to simply being stable.

“The computers of the future, and the communication technology of today, are based on sending light signals around, so a clock based on light with superior accuracy and stability, will find many applications in these types of technology,” he said.

John McFerran took their preliminary findings in this new area of research with him to the prestigious Enrico Fermi summer school in physics in northern Italy recently.

Only 50 students from around the world are selected to attend. They are chosen on the basis of the work they have done so far, their potential as scientists of the future and the quality of the group with which they work.

To embellish the honour of being selected, his trip was paid for by UWA through funding from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and the Executive Dean of Science. The Enrico Fermi International School of Physics awarded him a full scholarship to cover accommodation, registration and proceedings, one of 28 out of 50 students to be granted full scholarships.

Joined by young physicists from other metrology groups around the world, Mr McFerran (the only Australian at the summer school) said the two weeks of intense lectures and seminars enlightened the students to the exciting prospects that lie ahead in this wide-ranging field.

The sessions are run by the world’s top scientists in their fields, including the 1997 Nobel Prize winner for physics, who lectured in his area of laser cooling.

“The lecturers were very forth-coming. It was nice to rub shoulders with the big wigs,” he said.

While Mr McFerran said the course was something he would always cherish, Dr Luiten said his selection for the school was a great endorsement of his work, as well as the direction his (Dr Luiten’s) group was following.
Redefining words like accuracy and precision are the exciting outcomes of modern physics.

In laboratories next door to each other, in the basement of the Physics Building, two internationally recognised research teams are working on metrology projects that have captured the attention of the world.

Metrology is the science of measurement and Dr Michael Tobar’s and Dr Andre Luiten’s teams are forcing the world to rethink the accuracy and precision of time measurement.

Dr Tobar and his team have been working collaboratively with Associate Professor Jerzy Krupka from Warsaw University to measure accurately the electronic properties of crystal materials.

“We have developed an extremely accurate method based on the Whispering Gallery modes in cylindrical samples at microwave frequencies,” Dr Tobar said.

“These types of modes are special well-confined modes that are concentrated near the cylindrical edge of the crystal. They travel around the edges like whispers in St Paul’s Cathedral.

“We have already measured electric and magnetic properties of many crystals. Some mysteries remain with regards to the results we have obtained. Associate Professor Krupka is returning next month to continue this collaboration and we have devised some experiments to help determine these mysteries,” he said.

In the meantime, the team has been given the award of best paper published in 1999 from the Institute of Physics Journal, Measurement Science and Technology.

Their winning paper describes the measurement science and technology required to conduct the most accurate measurements of permittivity and the dielectric loss tangent in low-loss crystals down to 4K.

The team began their award-winning ARC-funded research six years ago. They are also collaborating with the National Bureau of Metrology in France and the prototype of their liquid helium sapphire crystal clock is now operating in the observatory in Paris.

The liquid helium clock is so accurate that it gains or loses a second only once in two billion years.

Dr Tobar, Dr Luiten and Mr Hartnett are all going to Paris at different times over the next 12 months to work with the French on their developments.

Continued from page 1

Timely research

John McFerran’s poster presentation of the group’s work for the Enrico Fermi School illustrated the schematic design of the optical-to-microwave frequency chain, which he has affectionately called ‘Synthia’ (from synthesis). A link is made between a cryogenic microwave sapphire oscillator and an optical oscillator.

He explained that, on its completion, the frequency chain may be operated as either an optical frequency measuring device or as an optical frequency synthesiser.

The summer school, on recent advances in metrology and fundamental constants, was sponsored by the Italian Physical Society, the European Community and UNESCO.

It covered topics such as time keeping in space, laser cooling and Bose-Einstein condensation, optical frequency measurements and standards, mass metrology, single photon experiments, quantum hall effect and much more.
Bruce Newton would certainly be an advocate of the adage that you learn something every day.

He devoted his working life to adult education at UWA; his daughter says the family’s life revolved around it.

Now, at the age of 100, he has had more days behind him, in which to learn something, than most other people.

Mr Newton is the oldest former University staff member and the Vice-Chancellor honoured him on his 100th birthday on September 1 with the presentation of a certificate.

Mr Newton was a senior administrative assistant at the University’s original home in Irwin Street, Perth. He transferred to Crawley and, in 1932, was appointed secretary to the Joint Committee of Adult Education, which in the following year became the Adult Education Board.

He served as a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy between 1941 and 1946 but otherwise devoted his life to the Adult Education Board (AEB), which preceded both University Extension and UWA’s Summer School.

As the AEB’s activities extended, Mr Newton became its accountant as well as its secretary. He retired in 1965 but continued part-time leave replacement at UWA until 1973.

His daughter Pat Hunt and sons Barry, Ian and Malcolm celebrated their father’s 100th birthday with a lunch at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club and a party, for his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, at his Bentley nursing home.
Mary’s history
a final goal

When Helen Wallace started work at the University Library nearly 30 years ago, it was a very relaxed place to work.

“It was the hippy era and we used to come to work in bare feet, wearing a sarong,” she said.

“Being a librarian these days is much more challenging. The stereotyped ‘retiring little old lady’ just wouldn’t cope with the changes computers have brought.”

To keep herself up to pace, Ms Wallace has been almost constantly studying since she arrived from Melbourne in 1971 with basic librarian training.

She graduated last week with her Master of Arts in history, which took her eight years to complete.

“When I first arrived, I did a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in English, which took me six years. Then a couple of years later, I did a Business Diploma at Curtin University, which has helped me with library administration. I finished that some time in the 1980s.

“The reason I started my master’s degree is that I’m interested in family history. Mary Wollaston, the wife of John Ramsden Wollaston, WA’s first Anglican Archdeacon, was my great great grandmother. I wanted to write her story but I wanted to do it properly.

“So first, because I hadn’t done honours, I had to do a master’s preliminary, which took me two years. Then I spent six years researching Mary Wollaston and writing the history.

“It was a challenge because there were very few diaries and letters, but gradually I pieced it all together, including trips to England to research John and Mary’s life before they came here and to South Australia, where she went to live with her sons after John died.”

Ms Wallace is now in the Law Library and has no plans for further study.

“I edit the Australian Law Librarian now and that takes up what time I might have had for study,” she said.
Dr Ted Lefroy is celebrating his PhD by launching a book, inspired by an American agriculturalist who is more of a poet than a farmer.

Agriculture as a Mimic of Natural Ecosystems is far from poetic, but how the book came about is a lyrical story.

Wendell Berry taught English at Harvard for years before returning to the family farm in Kentucky. He now describes himself as a farmer whose cash crop is poetry. In 1997 he published a book called The Unsettling of America, describing America’s settlers arriving with ‘visions of former places but not the sight to see where they were’: of modifying the landscape to conform to their vision rather than adapting their vision to fit the new landscape.

“That is essentially the subject matter of this new book — how we might use sight rather than vision to modify our agriculture to fit more easily on this continent,” says Dr Lefroy, who has co-edited it with Professor John Pate from Botany, Michael O’Connor from the Muresk Institute of Agriculture and Richard Hobbs from CSIRO.

Berry’s book did the rounds of farmers around Esperance and one of them asked the local library to send them anything more by the same author. Meeting the Expectations of the Land, co-authored by Berry and Wes Jackson, arrived and the farmers turned their attention to Jackson, a geneticist who was developing a mimic of the native mid-Western prairie that could be harvested for grain, to eliminate soil erosion and pollution.

They invited him to a conference in 1992.

After his visit (as inspiring as Wendell Berry’s book) Ted Lefroy, Michael O’Connor and Richard Hobbs recruited John Pate and they invited 30 agriculturalists and ecologists from various parts of the world to meet in a shearing shed outside Williams for five days in September 1997.

This book is the result of that meeting.

It critically examines the idea that the sustainability of agriculture could be improved by mimicking the structure and processes occurring in natural ecosystems.

“It doesn’t mean we have to turn the wheatbelt back into mallee,” Dr Lefroy said, “but we have to find a way for our crops to function like the mallee.”

The book brings together researchers from around the world, examining issues like the trade-off between perenniality and productivity, and the role of biodiversity in agriculture.

One section is devoted to the application of this concept in southern Australia, where 15 million hectares of land are expected to be affected by salinity by the middle of the next century unless there is a significant change in agricultural practice.

Agriculture as a Mimic of Natural Ecosystems is available in the Biological Sciences Library.
Monday 18 September

**ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR**
“The relevance of pharmacogenetic variation in drug therapy and disease predisposition”, Professor Mike Garlepp. 12.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, Fourth Floor, G Block, SCGH.

**BOTANY SEMINAR**
“The Leeuwin Current south of Western Australia”, Dr George Cresswell, CSIRO Marine Research. 4pm, Room 2.14, Department of Botany.

**HISTORY SEMINAR**
“Feature film and the historian”, Tracy McDiarmid, History. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

Tuesday 19 September

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY**
“Allan Baker: a survey — the curator’s perspective.” 1pm, LWAG.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION**
“Environmental problems in Mediterranean calcareous soils in Spain”, Dr Raul Moral, Universidad Miguel Hernandez de Elche, Spain. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 20 September

**CHEMISTRY SEMINAR**

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES**
Greg Ivey (Environmental Engineering) and M. Siva Sivapalan (Centre for Water Research) will present their work in an informal setting. 1pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery. Enquiries to Terri-ann White, ext. 2114.

**RICHARD WAGNER SOCIETY OF WA (INC.)**
“Act 1 of Gotterdammerung with guest speaker Michael Kile. Member: no charge; visitors: $10/$8. 7.30pm, Room G5, School of Music.

Friday 22 September

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Muscle regeneration and myoblast transfer therapy”, Professor Miranda Grounds, Anatomy and Human Biology. 9am, Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII MC.

**CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING**
“Case studies of piled raft performance in Germany”, Oliver Reul, Darmstadt University of Technology, Germany. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil Engineering Building.

Saturday 23 September

**UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY**
“Re-organ-isation”. The University Music Society presents Colm Carey (organ), Stewart Smith (organ), Caris-Anne Lane (soprano), Garth O’Rafferty (trumpet) and Suzanne Wijsman (cello) in a program of immense variety, from Bach and Scarlatti to *The Carnival of the Animals* and *The Ride of the Valkyrie*! Tickets: $20.35 and $14.85. 8pm, Winthrop Hall. Book on ext. 2440.

Monday 25 September

**HISTORY SEMINAR**
“Memories of a pedestrian-historian”, Iain Brash, History. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.
Tuesday 26 September

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
“A panel discussion on Allan Baker and new directions in WA art.” Panel members will include well-known WA artist Kevin Robertson. 1pm, LWAG.

Wednesday 27 September

ENGLISH WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR
“Flirting with death”, Lynette Field. 1pm, Ground Floor Common Room (G.14), Department of English.

Friday 29 September

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
“Murray Valley encephalitis virus activity in the north of Western Australia — vectors, virus activity and human cases”, Dr Annette Broom, Microbiology. 9am, Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE ALBANY CENYRE
“The deplorable life and disgusting death of Andronicus Comnenus, Emperor of the Romans”, Professor John Melville-Jones, Classics and Ancient History. 12 noon, Albany Centre.

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
“Absorption and metabolism of dietary polyphenolic antioxidants and oxidative stress in humans”, A/Prof Kevin Croft, Medicine. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

If you’re feeling far from Sydney and want to get into the Olympic spirit, take a stroll past the annuals garden, between the Psychology and Chemistry Buildings.

CENTRE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Coming up …

Places are available in the following workshops due to close within the next month. Further details are available on the CSD Web page: http://www.csd.uwa.edu.au/programme/ or by contacting CSD on ext. 1504 or csdoffice@csd.uwa.edu.au.

- Aboriginal Cross-cultural Awareness
- Cross-cultural Communication
- How the University Works: A Basic Guide to UWA’s Organisational and Committee Structures
- Planning for Retirement
- Stress Management Through Meditation
- Understanding Discrimination
- Winning Research Grants

The horticultural apprentices from Unigrounds have planted an Olympic garden, featuring the Olympic rings blooming in golden miniature marigolds among a sea of blue mauve and white violas.

The annuals is always an apprentices’ project and this time it was designed by Brad Smith and planted by him, Marcia Scoon and Carrie Docherty.

You can see the design even better from the medical centre upstairs in the south wing of the Guild building. Need a check-up or a flu shot?

The Vacation Care Programme is about to start up again. It runs from Monday September 25 to Friday October 6 (excluding the public holiday, Monday October 2).

If you wish to enrol your children, call Sue Lumbers on 9389 9433 or enrol on the web at: http://www.childcare.uwa.edu.au/
The University's robotics laboratory shot to fame with its sheep-shearing robot in the early '90s.

The telerobot was the next invention to claim world attention, devised and developed by a post-graduate student, Ken Taylor, and his supervisor, Associate Professor James Trevelyan.

Back in 1994, people in the US were manipulating the robot in the Mechanical and Materials Engineering Building, through the Internet. In its first two years, more than 10,000 people around the world accessed the telerobot, getting it to move and rearrange children's building blocks.

While some people questioned the validity of this, Dr Ken Taylor, who received his PhD last week, said the experiment opened up the possibility of half a dozen scientists around the world working together on a project based in one laboratory.

Dr Taylor completed his PhD on Web robotics: reducing complexity in robotics last year and has recently been employed by the CSIRO Division of Mathematical and Information Sciences at the Australian National University campus.

He is also a visiting fellow in the robotics lab at the nearby Research School of Information Sciences and Engineering.

“At CSIRO I’m involved in researching mobile computing applications which is an exciting and fast growing application area and in many ways related to my PhD research. Controlling devices through the Internet has really taken off and there are now so many devices and projects exploring different aspects of the concept that it is impossible to remain aware of all that is going on,” Dr Taylor said.

“However within the Australian robotics community it has been difficult to generate interest and this has been the case from the start. I remember presenting a paper to an Australian Robotics conference in Melbourne and getting little interest, then only a few weeks later presenting a paper at a Singapore conference and picking up a US$2000 best paper prize from the Japanese Robot Association.

“This has made it difficult to secure funding to continue work in this area even with the help of the robotics group at the Australian National University.”

Dr Taylor keeps involved with the development of telerobotics through supervising honours projects and contributing to robotics journals.

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Sue Murphy is the epitome of what's become known as the “have it all” women.

The engineering honours graduate from UWA has recently been named Telstra Business Woman of the Year in the private sector category.

The first woman in 80 years to be appointed to the board of Clough Engineering Limited, Ms Murphy won the Western Australian Ansett Private Sector Award in July and went on to win the national finals in Adelaide in August.

She has achieved outstanding success in the male-dominated area of engineering and construction, working in some of the most remote construction sites in Australia, where she has been involved in a range of landmark mining, resource and infrastructure developments.

Ms Murphy was Clough's first human resource manager and is now the director of the multimillion dollar company's technical resources group, leading Clough in the areas of human resources, safety, environment, industrial relations, quality management and engineering technology.

She has three children and spreads her nurturing skills into the development of Australia's rich pool of young engineering talent.
English attracts top visitors

A quiet explosion has been happening in the Department of English.

They have ten visitors this year, from overseas and interstate, all self-funded and eager to pursue their research in this department.

“Our global profile has exploded,” says Head of Department, Dr Ian Saunders with a smile.

“It’s very unusual to have so many visitors all staying for such a long time.”

Seven of the ten academics have opted to stay for between six and 12 months attracted by the department’s international success.

Five of them are currently here: Australian poet, novelist and literary critic John Kinsella, a Fellow of Churchill College, Cambridge; American Sam Pickering, Professor of English at the University of Connecticut; South Korean Seok-Kweon Cheong, Vice-Director of the Foreign Language Education Centre at Chonbuk National University; Perth-born Tracy Ryan, a poet, novelist and literary critic who now lives in Cambridge; and Dr Geoffrey Davis, an authority on post-colonial literature, particularly South African and Canadian, who teaches at the Universities of Aachen and Frankfurt.

Tracy Ryan is teaching some first-year creative writing classes while doing research for a new book. John Kinsella is working on a new play, which he is hoping to put on here in Perth before taking it back to Cambridge. He calls it an example of ‘reverse colonialism’.

It is Professor Pickering’s second visit and he plans to write his second book focusing on Western Australia. Associate Professor Cheong is working on a research project in Australian literature.

Dr Davis is on a six-week exchange between the Faculty of Arts and RWTH-Aachen.

Carrying on Keith’s generosity

Generations of Australian students owe their enthusiasm for — even their understanding of — economics to Monash University legend Keith Frearson.

Professor Frearson died earlier this year, inspiring his former students to remember not only his brilliant teaching methods but also his boundless generosity.

Professor Ken Clement, Director of the Economic Research Centre, is one of his proteges and remembers his mastering the teaching of economic statistics to first-year students.

“It’s notoriously difficult to teach to young students, some of whom experience major problems with the maths and some who are just not particularly interested,” Professor Clement said.

“But Keith was a masterful teacher. He would have several hundred 18-year-olds in lectures in awe of him. He made the material seem so simple and straightforward and he made those lectures fun,” he said.

Professor Frearson has six former students who are now academics in WA. Born in WA and educated at UWA, he went on to Cambridge, then settled in Melbourne.

He was a man of remarkable generosity. He did not believe in possessions for himself and was always giving away his money to needy students or the (Monash) university football club.

His colleagues and former students have set up the Frearson Fund to help students facing financial difficulties.

Anybody who would like to make a donation can send it to John White, Monash Football Club, PO Box 197 Caulfield East, Victoria, 3145, or talk to Ken Clements about it on ext. 2928.
Inverarity, de la Hunty, Vlahov, Neesham and Hoad are all names linked with sporting success in WA.

They also have links with UWA. And they are all keen to be involved in the formation of the new UWA Sports Alumni, so that the names of future students will become as well known as theirs in the sporting world.

David Russell, the deputy director of UWA Sport and Recreation, has been charged with setting up the UWA Sports Alumni to provide sporting scholarships for students, to develop sporting facilities and to develop and record a sports history of UWA.

He hopes that graduates who were involved with sport at University will welcome the chance to become part of that group again and help to fundraise for the scholarships and facilities.

“Better facilities would be enjoyed by the graduates as well as the students. Our sports association plays a big role in community sports, with more than 40 per cent of our participants coming from outside the University,” Mr Russell said.

“Our students perform exceptionally well in intervarsity competitions and in other competitions outside the University sphere.

“We have four members of the University Hockey Club representing Australia at the Olympics. We also have Rachel Harris swimming for Australia, Timothy Neesham competing in water polo and Justin Eveson in the para-

lympics squad. Allison Inverarity (high jump) and Sarah Straton (beach volleyball) are our graduates.

Mr Russell said it was planned that the UWA Sports Alumni would award seven scholarships in 2000 and would add a further seven in 2001.

They will cover four categories: specific sports scholarships (for rugby, tennis, cricket, hockey and possibly netball — the sports in which UWA clubs compete at the highest level); general sports scholarships; development awards; and one major overall general scholarship, which will be the Graduates’ Association bursary upgraded.

Scholarships will provide financial support for specialised sporting equipment and travel expenses to sporting events or specialised training, with grants ranging from $500 to $5000.

It is hoped that University resources like pastoral care and access to college accommodation would be available for scholarship winners, especially those from rural areas.

Mr Russell has also planned a calendar of major invitational sporting events in which graduates would be involved. These are a cricket match, an evening hockey series, the VC’s Cup rowing regatta (already instituted), a rugby carnival and a clay court master’s on the new clay tennis courts at McGillivray.

The Sports Ball will be reinstated, replacing and including the annual Blues Award presentation night on November 8.
An explosion in a laboratory in Botany last December was a wake-up call for staff and students to become more safety conscious. Nobody was hurt when a bottle of formic acid exploded and probably, the accident was not a matter of carelessness, according to Botany’s new safety and health officer, Liza Tunnell.

“It was most likely just a lack of knowledge that caused it,” she said. But Ms Tunnell is working hard to ensure that no such lack of knowledge exists any more in the department.

Last week she was awarded the annual University Safety Award for an outstanding contribution by an individual in establishing and maintaining high standards of occupational safety and health.

“I’m always on everybody’s back now to make sure they follow correct safety procedures,” said Ms Tunnell, a laboratory technician in Botany for four years.

“I love to keep learning and being the safety officer certainly keeps me on my toes and up to date with everything,” she said.

The winning department is Mechanical and Materials Engineering, which has its own safety Web site and was commended for its commitment to health and safety policy development and its constant safety checks.

Soil Science and Plant Nutrition received an outstanding achievement award for its work in the occupational health area.

A special award, a certificate of appreciation, was awarded to chemistry student Chris Griffith, who played an important role during an explosion and chemical fire in April. Chris put out the fire and looked after another student who was badly burned, until the ambulance arrived.

These are the second annual University Safety Awards, acknowledging achievements in occupational safety and health management by individuals, departments, faculties or centres.

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**DESKTOP GUILLOTINE** wanted. Call Sue at the ChildCare Centre on 9389 9433.

### FOR RENT

**THREE-BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE**, in Shenton Park (University end of Austin St), fully air-conditioned, carpeted, fans, external sauna and shower, private courtyards, store, microwave, fridge, clothes dryer, 2 u/cover car bays, rear unit in group of 3. Available after 7/8 October for $300 p/w. Phone Linda/Christopher on 9381 1003.

**FURNISHED THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE** with spa, walking distance from UWA. Available from December to July (first week) for visiting academics. Contact Amitava on ext. 3449 or 9389 7172 (a/h).

**TOWNHOUSE IN SCARBOROUGH**, near new three bedroom townhouse in quiet block of four, with lock up garage and courtyard. Close to the beach and shops. Available at $205 p/w. Contact Renee on 9380 3708 or rporter@acs.uwa.edu.au

### THREE-BEDROOM APARTMENT** with balcony and river views, 5 min. walk to UWA for rent from December 1 to March 1. $280 p/w incl. water and electricity. Phone 9389 7981.

### WANTED TO RENT

**RENTAL/HOUSESITTING ACCOMMODATION** WANTED by family of three returning to Nedlands from overseas. In need of furnished home near UWA beginning October. Have excellent local references and housesitting experience. Non-smoking professionals. Happy to garden and/or look after pets. Can sign 12-month lease or longer. Contact Becky at beckinoz@aol.com

### HOURLY IN THE SOUTHWEST?”

Go ‘first class’ at Broadwater Beach Resort, three B/R lux. unit with heated pool, spa, tennis court, privately owned, special rate; or cedarwood chalets in bush setting on Blackwood River, two adults only, perfect peace and tranquillity. Pay two nights, stay three.

Bookings: 0427 522 334 or 9756 1024

### CLASSIFIEDS

#### WANTED

#### FOR RENT

#### CLASSIFIEDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
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<td>Computer Toshiba Tecra 740CDT 16/36CD</td>
<td>$500</td>
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<td>Penny/Judy</td>
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<td>PowerMac 7200/90, 48MB RAM, 1 GB HD, AppleVision 1710</td>
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**Bids should be accepted by Monday October 2 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.
SAM GANDY is Professor of Psychiatry and of Cell Biology at New York University School of Medicine and heads the Cell Biology Laboratory at The Nathan S. Kline Institute of Psychiatric Research. Professor Gandy also holds a position as Adjunct Professor of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at The Rockefeller University in Manhattan.

After graduating from Charleston Southern University with a BS(Chemistry) summa cum laude, Professor Gandy undertook further studies at the Medical University of South Carolina, and was awarded an MD and PhD in molecular cell biology in 1982. During this time he developed an interest in the molecular basis for the phenomenon of “selective vulnerability” which led to his current work on neurodegenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer’s Disease. Professor Gandy went on to study medicine at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons at The Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in Manhattan, and neurology at The New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center. His postgraduate training was undertaken in the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at The Rockefeller University, headed by Professor Paul Greengard. It was here that Professor Gandy and his colleagues discovered methods to prevent the formation of pebble-like structures in the brain—structures called “amyloid plaques” which are now believed to be the cause of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Since 1995 Professor Gandy and Dr Ralph Martins (Head, Sir James McCusker Alzheimer’s Disease Research Unit, Hollywood Private Hospital) have collaborated on studies of the role of apolipoprotein E (apoE), an “amyloid-interacting” molecule, and have attempted to understand how this and other genetic risk factors cause Alzheimer’s Disease in the Western Australian population. During his visit to the University, Professor Gandy will be working with Dr Martins and other members of the McCusker Unit in collaboration with Professor Colin Masters (The University of Melbourne). In addition, Professor Gandy and Dr Martins will be developing a framework for clinical investigations in Perth, which will be directed by Dr Roger Clarnette.

Dr Ralph Martins, Raine Medical Research Foundation, Department of Surgery, Hollywood Private Hospital. Telephone: 9346 6703, email: rmartins@cylinder.uwa.edu.au

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

RURAL INDUSTRIES RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Professor John Considine, Agriculture, Mr D. J. Growns and Mr M. Webb (external): “Preparation and publication of a protocol for obtaining intellectual property rights for plants”—$9000

SMITH KLINE BEECHAM
Associate Professor Gerald Watts, Medicine: “Insulin as a regulator of postprandial lipaemia and related projects”—$20,000.

URLOGICAL FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALASIA
Dr Justin Vivian, Surgery: “The role of CD44 in renal cell carcinoma”—$40,000.

WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Dr B. Giles-Corti, Public Health, Ms A. Williams, Institute for Child Health Research, Ms L. J. Wood and Ms S. M. Mackay (external): “Starter Grant: Social capital, physical environments and health”—$19,000 (2001).

Raine Visiting Professors’ Lecture Series
Professor Sam Gandy
Professor of Psychiatry and of Cell Biology, New York University School of Medicine, and Head, Cell Biology Laboratory, The Nathan S. Kline Institute of Psychiatric Research

will present a Raine Lecture entitled:

Eradicating Alzheimer’s Disease: Causes and strategies for prevention and cure

Wednesday October 4 at 5pm
The Mary Lockett Lecture Theatre
F. J. Clark Lecture Theatre Complex, the QEII Medical Centre

SMITH KLINE BEECHAM
Associate Professor Gerald Watts, Medicine: “Insulin as a regulator of postprandial lipaemia and related projects”—$20,000.

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Nobody in 1913, when The University of Western Australia ordered the first book for its new library, could have imagined that by the end of the century it would contain more than 1.3 million volumes.

And that’s not to mention the extensive collections of maps, music scores, manuscripts, records, CDs and slides. Nor could anyone have envisaged that from those first few shelves in the University’s building in Irwin Street would grow a library system that today consists of fourteen libraries in ten different buildings.

Least of all would the student of 1913, settling down to read one of the new books, have dreamt that his great grandchild would be finding information by a computer.

Yet today in every one of the University’s libraries the computer terminal is as much a part of the scenery as are the shelves and books and is used as routinely as the issue desk and the photocopier.

The largest library building in the University Library system is the Reid, named after a former Chancellor of the University and State Governor. This library houses the collections in humanities, social sciences, and business, as well as the Map Library, the Geology Library, and the Scholars’ Centre, which provides special services to support research activity as well as housing the University’s collections of microforms, rare books and UWA theses.

Separate libraries on the Crawley campus cover the biological sciences, mathematics and physical sciences, music, law, and chemistry. A new Medical Library is due to open in 2002. This will combine space for printed books and journals with modern facilities for teaching and using computers for information gathering.

The UWA Library, like the University itself, must conserve knowledge. It retains the memory of the past and stores the riches of past cultures and earlier scholarship.

In the Erulkar Collection, for example, there are major national resources for scholars and researchers in the field of Indian Ocean studies. This collection, named after the man who originally formed it, brings together printed, manuscript, pamphlet and visual material relating to the trade and history of the Indian sub-continent up to 1947. In order to enhance this collection the Friends of the Library aim to raise $5000 as their special project for 2000 to purchase a map published in 1574 by Abraham Ortelius of the eastern Indian Ocean.

But the Library also communicates current knowledge. The University depends in both its teaching and research on having access to the very latest advances in research and scholarship.

So it adds over 10,000 books a year to its collections, and subscribes to over 5000 journals. Its computers provide access not only to its catalogue but also, through CygNET, its web interface, to other library holdings across the world.

Indeed, CygNET, in some ways, resembles a library itself. Increasingly journals and even books are published on the web, so that academics and students can read the literature without even coming to the Library.

Of course finding your way around a collection of books was never easy. But there is such a huge amount published on the web, much of it of dubious value, that the library staff have an even more vital role in helping people to locate the sources that are relevant and valuable to them.

So CygNET contains subject guides, with links to useful sites. You can even send an electronic message to ‘Ask a reference librarian’ and get an answer back by email.

Of course the University Library exists primarily to serve the needs of the staff and students of the University.

Yet so rich are the libraries’ collections that it also provides a research resource for a wider community. Each year it lends more than 13,000 items to other libraries (about 5000 to the other universities in Perth). It provides special membership for UWA alumni and Friends of the Library, and other individuals who have a special need to use its resources are able to do so.