The My Thuan Bridge, linking the Mekong Delta with the rest of southern Vietnam, embodies all the pros and cons of foreign aid.

The bridge, built with Australian aid, has opened up an area of 40,000 square kilometres, the richest region in the country, with close to the population of Australia. Until this year, it didn't even have a road going through it.

Before the bridge (which has achieved icon status among the people of the Mekong Delta) spawned a frenzy of road building, the area's 'roads' were the natural waterways and canals. Where two rivers met, a town was created. People's lives revolved around the water.

Now, roads have become the new focus. What effects this has on the people of the Mekong Delta and their culture is an ongoing study for Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr Philip Taylor.

While completing his PhD at the ANU, Dr Taylor studied the Vietnamese language.

"... it begs the question: How well are people in the region consulted about aid projects like the bridge?"

"I originally became interested in Vietnam because I spoke French but, after the Vietnam war, English took over as the second language and my French wasn't much use. I now do all my work in Vietnamese. I love the language, especially using the colloquialisms of the Mekong Delta when I go into the big centres like Ho Chi Minh City," Dr Taylor said.

He said the bridge had become a major tourist attraction as well as a focus for the community, who were now using it as a market place and a meeting place.

But, as much as some of the people love it and make the bridge the centre...

Continued on page 4
VCarious thoughts ...

South–South Dialogue

It has been fascinating to watch the Sydney Olympic highlights from a vantage point outside of Australia.

All our major sporting achievements are reported in the news — including, as I write, the Thorpedo phenomenon — but our medal achievements are blended into a more composite picture of other athletes and other sports.

And then there is the running commentary — not only sporting but social — about Australian life. That is my country that they are discussing, I have reflected with some pride, and some frustration, as reporters and analysts made sense of “us” . . . a lesson in ‘internationalisation’!

I have been working in South Africa, where the Director of the International Centre (Dr Bruce Mackintosh) and I have visited several major universities which have invited a variety of associations with UWA. We shall lay the basis for several practical agreements which will allow us to develop valuable and meaningful relationships with strong African universities, and do so in a mutually beneficial way.

We have particularly focused our work at The University of Cape Town, where a new Vice-Chancellor (Professor J. Ndebele) has just taken up office, as well as at Rhodes University (in Grahamstown) and The University of the Witwatersrand (in Johannesburg). We shall be in contact with other institutions, but these three are the most valuable to us in a comprehensive manner, yet each has distinctive features within good research-teaching-community missions.

This has been an excellent time for us to begin some significant working associations with Africa. Quite apart from escaping the Olympics (!), the university system in South Africa is itself at a critical phase of transformation and development.

All the campuses are, for example, strongly debating a government ‘blue print’ which proposes major changes in the number and functions of universities — more a Dawkins-like proposal than a West Report! The Australian experience since 1989 is much evoked and colleagues are eager to hear how our system actually works and to draw from that in the restructuring that may follow.

There is also a great desire by the major universities to internationalise outside Africa. There has been more success than I had realised in attracting students to South Africa from the rest of Africa (up to 20 per cent of their ‘load’). Now they are reaching out to other continents, including Australia. UWA is known in a most positive way, and there is a real desire to work with us.

In particular, Bruce Mackintosh and I have found a very real wish to begin major student exchange programs, facilitate research and curriculum associations, establish staff visits (and, ideally, staff development with us for young black lecturers) and broadly engage in a dialogue of learning from each other.

From the African perspective, that ‘learning’ especially involves interaction with a university such as ours that has strong research capacities, quality systems, new academic plans, interesting financial and budgetary models, quite apart from new things in teaching pedagogies and the use of IT, etc.

From a UWA perspective, I have come away with three elements of special value. The first is the need for our system to have a significant debate on the nature, number and funding of Australian universities. We have a system that manages to be complex yet not diversified by design!

Next, the commitment to equity, access and creative policies for social enhancement is deeply impressive. There is a superb first-order reminder of the transformative power of higher education for individuals and communities.

Finally, working in Africa brings alive the value of considering again the Indian Ocean horizon of Australia. Select and carefully nurtured collaborative university associations offer us much in playing a valuable role in the future of this huge region.

We hear much of North-South dialogue in the dynamics of global development. Working with South African colleagues and their broader African linkages, opens many possibilities for involvement in that great human issue.

Indeed, a specific “South-South Dialogue” could focus and render practical a mutually-enhancing relationship across the Indian Ocean.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Classicist Dr Mary Zingross will be dealing not only with three completely different languages but three vastly different alphabets in her new job in China.

The recent graduate and tutor from the Department of Classics and Ancient History has just taken up a position at the Institute for the History of Ancient Civilisations at the Northeast Normal University at Changchun (formerly Manchuria).

She will be teaching Ancient Greek, using original Greek texts, but conducting her classes in English. She also hopes to learn Chinese, particularly the local dialect of Manchu.

"You definitely need to learn the language of the ancient Greeks to really understand their culture and their history. Otherwise you are relying on somebody else's interpretation. It's a difficult language to learn because you need a very good grasp of grammar," Dr Zingross said.

"But the Chinese people seem to take to Ancient Greek quite easily because their own system of writing depends a lot on memorisation of the characters, as it does with Ancient Greek."

Born of Greek parents in Alexandria and spending her childhood in Greece before migrating to Australia at the age of ten, Dr Zingross said even she had to treat Ancient Greek as a foreign language as it is so different from Modern Greek.

"This is a very challenging job but I like challenges, and it has come along just when I needed a big change in my life," she said.

Dr Zingross said that if she survives the cold winter, she will extend her one-year contract to two years.

She said the greatest appeal in her new job was using original Ancient Greek texts.

"In Australia, English translations are always used. I don't think I would have found a teaching job at this level in Australia.

Although she doesn't label it, Dr Zingross's attitude to teaching echoes the ancient Greeks' definition of democracy:

"I love to impart knowledge but at the same time I hate the elitism of universities. I wish everybody could share knowledge, not just people in universities," she said.

At Changchun, she will be teaching ten undergraduate students beginner Greek, a similar number of students general ancient Greek history, and will supervise three or four postgraduate students.
Vietnam development

of their lives, it has marginalised others, destroyed their businesses and destabilised their familiar ways of life.

“The people who ran thriving businesses at the ferry terminus, for example, are now cut off from their livelihood because the bridge has taken the place of the ferries and nobody comes down that road to the water any more.

“These people are angry and it begs the question: How well are people in the region consulted about aid projects like the bridge?

“What do governments want when they give aid? Are they hoping for support from that country or trying to stimulate the global economy or are they really doing it to help the poor?”

Dr Taylor said there was a misconception that the Vietnamese people of the ‘capitalist south’ welcomed all development.

“But there are some conservative groups who are not happy. Consent and consensus is not being applied in Vietnam,” he said.

As well as studying the Vietnamese people native to the delta region, Dr Taylor is looking at non-Vietnamese ethnic groups (there are between one and two million Cambodians in the region) and the effect of development on them.

“They were closed out of the benefits of Vietnam’s integration, as were the ethnic Chinese and Muslims. The delta is ethnically and culturally very diverse but the main beneficiaries of foreign aid are the ethnic Vietnamese.”

Dr Taylor addresses another important cultural issue in a book he is just finishing on pilgrimage in Vietnam. It is called Goddess on the Rise: Pilgrimage and Popular Religion in Vietnamese Society, and looks at small-time Vietnamese entrepreneurs, mostly women, who attribute their economic success to the goddess known as the Lady of the Realm.

They believe the goddess is responsible for raising their living standards — the contentious bridge doesn’t even figure in their calculations.

Since this story was written, the Mekong Delta has suffered the worst floods in living memory. Dr Taylor believes the inundation, in which more than one hundred lives have been lost, is more than a one-off disaster. He sees the floods as a warning that the delta is an inhospitable environment that should not be treated as a limitless resource — a ‘rice basket’ to be exploited for its wealth.

With deforestation upstream a major factor in the flooding, we should be concerned about the support potentially given to environmentally unsustainable practices by technological improvements like the bridge. “After all, people’s lives and futures are at stake.”

Grants enable links around the world

Ten UWA scientists and engineers will share in more than $2 million worth of national funding for major collaborative research.

The ARC International Research and Exchange (IREX) Awards were announced recently with funding for the next three years totalling $2,111,183 for 103 projects around Australia.

Professor Michael Barber, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) is delighted that half of the applications from UWA were successful.

They are (in alphabetical order):

- Associate Professor Mark Adams and Dr Pauline Grierson (Botany): $45,100 over three years to study roots and nutrient acquisition by trees with the Swedish University of Agricultural Science, Umea and Universitat Hohenheim, Germany;
- Professor David Day (Biochemistry): $15,200 to look at metal ion transport in nitrogen fixing legume nodules with Universite de Nice;
- Professor Sasha Galybin (Civil and Resource Engineering): $6800 for work on rock fracturing (nature and theory) with the United Institute of Physics of the Earth, Moscow;
- Professor Jörg Imberger (Centre for Water Research): $11,890 for research into transport, mixing and hydrobiology of salt wedge estuaries with Tokyo Institute of Technology;
- Dr Zheng Xiang Li (Geology and Geophysics): $9070 for testing Australia’s China connection in supercontinent Rodinia, with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, China Geological Survey and China University of Geosciences;
- Professor Mark Randolph and Dr Chris Martin (Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems): $45,200 over three years to research the behaviour of submerged skirted foundations under combined vertical, moment and horizontal loading, with University of Oxford and Israel Institute of Technology;
- Dr Robert Stamps (Physics): $20,900 over two years to look at non-equilibrium in exchange coupled magnets with University of Colorado; and
- Dr Mike Tobar (Physics): $44,600 over three years to work on new microwave frequency standards for terrestrial and space applications, with Laboratoire Kastler Brossel (C N R S), Laboratoire Primaire du temps et des Frequences (BNM), Institute Comm. Opt and Microondes (University of Limoges), Laboratoire de Physique et Metrologie des Oscillateurs.
Western Australia is stuck with salinity.

For 30 years, people in WA have talked and worried about salinity. For the past few years, it has been a huge issue. In bringing together three years of research into dryland salinity, Associate Professor David Pannell (pictured) has made some frightening statements, imploring the community to face the realities of salinity, and offering long-term suggestions for dealing with the problem.

An Associate Professor in Agricultural and Resource Economics and President of the Australian Agricultural and Resource Economics Society, he presented a seminar at UWA recently, asking: Where to from here?

“It is such a massive and multi-faceted topic. I’ve been working in it for three years, collecting pieces of the puzzle, but made no attempt until now to put those pieces together. It’s not surprising that nobody has done this before — the subject is too huge and too daunting,” Professor Pannell said.

“One of the big changes in our understanding of dryland salinity has been the recognition that selective strategic placement of trees on relatively small areas of land will NOT stop salinity rising across the broader landscape.

“We can also see now that we can’t afford to buy a solution. The total net cost to farmers of planting their properties with sufficient areas of perennials to minimise salinity is billions of dollars — much more than the benefits that would result.

“For protection of agricultural land, the key policy response has to be investment in development of trees and other perennials as profitable long-term industries. It’s not a quick fix and there is no guarantee of large scale success, but if we continue to neglect this aspect we face the certainty of failure.”

Professor Pannell said that if we do nothing about salinity, up to 30 per cent of our agricultural lands would eventually be salt-affected to some degree.

“But it’s not just agricultural lands that are affected by salinity,” he said.

“The algal bloom in the Swan River last summer was closely related to salinity. As water tables rise, there is less chance for soils to absorb particularly heavy rainfall. Eventually, extra rain is like pouring water onto a plastic sheet, and the increased runoff increases the flood risk. In the Swan River event, floodwaters in the wheatbelt carried nutrients into the Swan, resulting in the algal bloom.

“Inland rivers are perhaps the most intractable problem: we are stuck with salty rivers, although thankfully the situation in the main rivers used for domestic water use is relatively manageable,” he said.

“But other assets are also at risk. As well as rivers and agricultural lands, nature reserves and even the wheatbelt towns are suffering.

“We used to think that if we could revegetate a town’s catchment areas, it would protect the town from salinity. But now we know that the towns themselves are the source of the problem.

“They are big areas of cleared land with much less vegetation growing than in the native bush. The acres of roofs, roads and bitumen tennis courts obviously don’t use up rainfall, so it ends up adding to groundwater. Water imported in pipes for domestic use usually ends up in the ground too and further worsens the problem.

“If towns are going to solve their salinity problems, they are going to have to implement changes within the towns, for example catching the storm water from roofs before it gets added to groundwater, or pumping groundwater into evaporation basins.

“A similar situation prevails in nature reserves. In many cases the benefits of revegetation of surrounding catchments will be too little too late to save the reserves,” he said.

“They require on-site engineering works in the short term to hold the salt at bay.”

On the brighter side, Professor Pannell says that recent research shows that in most cases individual farmers should not be inhibited by lack of co-operation from their neighbours.

“It’s not true that everybody must work together to tackle this big problem. It is often technically possible for individuals to deal with salinity by planting perennials even if their neighbours do not.

“The community must make it possible for them to do so without being put out of business. It will be a long haul,” he said.
Feedback should be fed back!

If students are asked to provide feedback on teaching, they should be told what happens to their comments.

A recent Australasian forum on teaching evaluation, organised by UWA’s Organisational and Staff Development Services, found that evaluation should benefit the students who give it as well as the staff who request it.

At UWA, student evaluation of teaching is voluntary. Dr Elizabeth Santhanam (pictured inset), Research Fellow, Evaluation of Teaching, and research assistant Natalie Stanley produce questionnaires when lecturers ask for them. There is no set teaching evaluation survey instrument. As well as being voluntary, surveys are flexible, with questions set for each individual teacher, and they are confidential, with the results provided to the academic who requests the survey.

Dr Santhanam said staff from units involved in evaluation of teaching at other universities were facing similar challenges as those in UWA in providing a service that tries to cater to different needs of stakeholders.

Student feedback was one issue discussed at the two-day forum. Another was online evaluation.

"The response from students isn't as good because they don't have somebody there handing them a form and asking them to fill it out straight away," said Dr Santhanam. "But it's a good method for distance education, for students who are off campus, and would help in reducing resources: paper, envelopes and staff to hand out and collect forms at lectures."

She said a few Australian universities had trialled online evaluation, but even with online reminders, the response rate had not been good so far.

The forum decided that postgraduate student feedback was another area that needed attention. La Trobe University was conducting focus groups for postgraduates to air their views and get help with any problems they may have with their supervisors.

UWA helps map out state’s future

The launch of an ambitious University project to facilitate community consideration of a long-term vision for Western Australia attracted a big crowd to the Dolphin Theatre recently.

About 100 business, government and community leaders joined UWA academics to launch the project which (over the next year) hopes to identify common themes for the future of Western Australia and a shift towards a more knowledge-based economy.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, said the ultimate goal would be to identify common aspirations and common objectives that can provide the basis for sound and sustainable progress for the people of Western Australia.

A high-level reference group, chaired by Mr Denis Glennon AO, Managing Director of Environmental Solutions International, will help synthesise a wide range of views about the challenges and opportunities in the years ahead.

Local speakers sharing their ‘vision’ for Western Australia included: Patricia Jafferies (Managing Director, Dome Coffees and Australian Business W oman of the Year), Michael Chaney (Managing Director, Wesfarmers), Keryl Enright (Chairman, Agriculture Protection Board), Kenneth Morgan (economist), and Rachel Siewert (Co-ordinator, Conservation Council of W A).

More information about the project is available from: www.visionforwa.uwa.edu.au
Hope for hormones to halt Alzheimer’s

Hormone replacement therapy, used to alleviate symptoms of menopause in women, could be a key to eradicating Alzheimer’s disease.

Raine Visiting Professor Sam Gandy (below), Professor of Psychiatry and Cell Biology at New York University, is working with Adjunct Associate Professor Ralph Martins, UWA Department of Surgery and Head of the Sir James McCusker Alzheimer’s Research Institute at Hollywood Private Hospital.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) is just one of the avenues of research that Professor Gandy and Professor Martins have been pursuing both individually and together for about 15 years.

Like all medical research, the work is slow and it will probably be decades rather than years before Alzheimer’s, which affects one in three people over the age of 85, is eradicated.

Over the past five years, 15 research groups around the world have arrived at results that indicate HRT can delay or prevent Alzheimer’s disease in post-menopausal women.

“Our group found that estrogen does prevent amyloid accumulation,” Professor Gandy said.

Professor Martins, working in the Perth laboratory of Professor Colin Masters, discovered in 1985 the major protein component of the amyloid deposits that form like pebbles in the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease.

“The accumulation of amyloids is bad for the brain in the same way that cholesterol accumulation is bad for the heart. Both amyloid and cholesterol float through the body normally for decades but later in life, your body suddenly reacts badly and abnormal accumulation occurs.

“The short answer to Alzheimer’s disease is to find drugs to manipulate amyloids,” Professor Gandy said.

He said that the amyloid gene was found in 1987 and, for the next ten years, various genes which caused Alzheimer’s were discovered by other routes.

“It turned out that all these genes cause amyloids to accumulate. So now we understand how all the genetic risk factors for Alzheimer’s act: they all act through amyloid.

“We can now identify the genes of ten per cent of people who will get familial Alzheimer’s and say who will get it and when. For another half of those people who will get it, we can say who’s at highest risk but we can’t predict when it will happen,” he said.

“We wanted to find out how to modulate or prevent the amyloid accumulation. Initially, we found a chemical that would work but its side effects were far too dangerous. So we looked at links with that chemical and found estrogen.”

While he is here, Professor Gandy and Professor Martins, together with Professor Osvaldo Almeida and Professor Leon Flicker, are looking at levels of testosterone in humans and have discovered that testosterone deficiency is associated with amyloid elevation.

“Thus testosterone in men may play the same role in regulating amyloid metabolism that estrogen plays in women,” Professor Gandy said.

They are also developing a framework for clinical investigation which will be directed in Perth by Dr Roger Clarnette. For the first time, rationally-designed ‘anti-amyloid’ drugs are beginning to be tested.

Professor Gandy’s background in chemistry, medicine and a PhD in molecular cell biology led him to his current work on the ‘selective vulnerability’ of nerve cells in neuro-degenerative diseases, especially Alzheimer’s disease. His research is supported by the US National Institute on Aging.

He will deliver his Raine Lecture, Eradicating Alzheimer’s Disease: Causes and Strategies for Prevention and Cure, on Wednesday October 4 at 5pm in the Mary Lockett Lecture Theatre, in the F. J. Clark Lecture Theatre Complex at QEII.

“We can now identify the genes of ten per cent of people who will get familial Alzheimer’s and say who will get it and when . . .”
**Monday 2 October**

**BOTANY SEMINAR**
“Root distribution and resource uptake in tropical agroforestry tree rows”, Dr Stephen Livesley. 4pm, Room 2.14, Botany.

**Tuesday 3 October**

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK**
“Gravitate.” Mark Grey-Smith gives his perspective on the sculpture and other objects included in Gravitate, a fresh and exciting exhibition of new work by WA artists on the theme of gravity. 1pm, LW AG.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION**
“Regolith in the Darling Ranges”, Adam Pratt. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**Wednesday 4 October**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR**
“Nearshore sediment transport processes on Western Australian beaches”, A/Prof C. Pattiaratchi. 4 to 5pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

**ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Symbiotaica — The Art and Science Collaborative Lab: Crossing the boundaries”, Phil Gamblen, Mark Gray-Smith and Guy Ben-Ary, Artists in Residence. 4 to 5pm, CTEC, Ground Floor, Hackett Drive (adjacent to Anatomy and Human Biology Building).

**THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY**
“Aesthetic value and American Beauty”, Ella Peek. 4.30pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

**PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“The role of apo E isoforms in binding, uptake and metabolism of chylomicron remnant-like emulsions”, Dr Ian Martins, Physiology. 5pm, Physiology Seminar Room 1.33.

**Thursday 5 October**

**ZOOLOGY SEMINAR**
“What determines the growth of tropical reef fish larvae — temperature or food?” Dr Mark Meekan, AIMS. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

**CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY: ADESTE HUMANIORES/WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT ATHENS**
“The Athenian Agora and the origins of democracy”, John McKesson Camp II, 2000 AAIA Visiting Professor. 6.30pm, Austin Lecture Theatre.

**LAND PLACE CULTURE IDENTITY PROGRAM**
Robert Drewe, writer. 7pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

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**Friday 6 October**

**MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Bioremediation of an atrazine contamination plume on the Swan coastal plain”, Dr Peter Franzmann, CSIRO. 9am, Room 1.11, First Floor, L Block, QEII MC.

**ANTHROPOLOGY SEMINAR**
“Negotiating Alevi identity in the urban environment of Ankara”, Michael Azariadis. 12 to 1pm, Anthropology Conference Room, First Floor, Social Sciences Building.

**BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR**
“Oncogene expression and cancer: life after transcription”, A/Prof Peter Lederman, Laboratory for Cancer Medicine/Medicine. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

**ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR**
“Guani in the hotel industry in southwest China”, Stephen Grainger. 1 to 2pm, G.25, Social Science/Economics and Commerce Building.

**ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP**
“The influence of income taxes on the use of debt held by publicly listed Australian corporations”, Grant Richardson, Monash University. 2pm, Room 1.93, Research Centre, Accounting and Finance.

**CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING**
“Application of a constitutive model to calcareous sediments”, Xiao Yan Mao. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil Engineering Building.

**ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR**
“The 63rd tree: the archaeology of the European settlement of the Swan district, 1827-1860”, Shane Burke, Archaeology. 4 to 5pm, Room 2.02, Third General Purpose Building.

**Saturday 7 October**

**PERTH UNDERGRADUATE CHORAL SOCIETY PERFORMANCE**
“The wedding of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Constanze Weber”. 7.30pm, Winthrop Hall. Tickets: $25. Book in advance by phoning 9389 6369 or tickets will be available at the door.

**Tuesday 10 October**

**LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK**
“The last pre-Raphaelite”. Why have the pre-Raphaelites been so popular? Professor David Dolon from the Research Institute for Cultural Heritage at Curtin University talks about nineteenth-century British pre-Raphaelism. 1pm, LW AG.

**FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT**
“Jana Kovar and Graeme Gilling present a program of piano duets by Fibich, Rachmaninov and Faure”. 11.10pm, Music Auditorium, W AAPA.

**SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION**
“Silicate mineral fertilisers: fairy dust or a serious player in sustainable agriculture?”, Andrew Harley. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE DEAN’S LECTURE SERIES**
“The question of life on ancient Mars”, Professor Frankel, Department of Physics, Cal Poly State University. 5.30pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 2.

**2000 SHANN MEMORIAL LECTURE**
“The economic importance of East Asia to Australia”, Professor Peter Lloyd, Ritchie Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne. 6pm, Murdoch Lecture Theatre.

**Wednesday 11 October**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR**
“Dissolved iron in the upper waters of the southern ocean during the 1997/8 U.S./JGOFS cruises”, Dr Sue Vink, University of Hawaii. 4 to 5pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.
ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
“Opportunities and challenges for research and education”, Dr Ron Swann, CTEC. 4 to 5pm, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology (off western balcony).

THE PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY
“Concepts: conceptual analysis and essential definitions”, Barry Maund. 4.30pm, Arts Seminar Room 1.33.

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP TALK
“Total history and local history: writing about early modern Colyton, Devon”, Dr Pam Sharpe, History. 7.30pm, Postgraduate Common Room, Hackett Hall.

MUSIC PERFORMANCE
Cabaret: The Sharp-tongued Muse. Mark Coughlan and friends with Chameleon. Follow the development of cabaret’s extraordinary blend of music, words and stage-craft from the seedy cafes of nineteenth-century Paris to its full satirical flowering in the nightclubs and brothels of 1920’s Berlin and beyond. 8pm, Octagon Theatre.

Thursday 12 October

LIBRARY SEMINAR
“Scholarly research on nineteenth-century cartography: resources in the UWA Map Collection”, Vivian Forbes, Map Curator. 1pm, Library Training Room, Ground Floor, Reid Library.

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT
“Dutch pianist Bart van Oort presents a program of works by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven. 1.10pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

The latest development in the use of the Maximo Job Control System by Facilities Management is the facility to email customers when a job has been done.

Each week a report identifies jobs which have been completed in the last seven days. A form letter is then sent by email giving the job details and indicating that work has been completed.

If an email address is not put on the work order when the job is requested, this service will not be possible. If you are not currently using the OFM web site to register your work orders and would like to do so, you can either send an email to: ofmjob@admin.uwa.edu.au or use the Maximo Everywhere job request forms on the web: http://www.ofm.uwa.edu.au/forms.htm#Maintenance

By using Maximo Everywhere, you will be able to track the progress of your job at any time.

At present the process is “semi-automatic” but we are looking at ways to fully automate in the future.

The addition of this new feature has been welcome across campus and is improving relations between OFM and its customers!

A JOB WELL DONE!
Lydia Lange is excited about being selected for an international development project that some people might see more as a punishment than a reward!

The arts student and Co-operative Bookshop staff member is one of eight young West Australians who will be taking part in Youth Challenge Australia, part of Youth Challenge International, a Canadian initiative to promote sustainable development in South America.

To earn a place on the team, Lydia and other contenders were told to meet at Herdsman Lake one Sunday, to wear old clothes and bring food to share.

They were put through a rigorous 12-hour ordeal, which included rock climbing, wading through swamps, encountering non-English speaking tribes and generally using their initiative to deal with new, difficult and unexpected situations.

If the selection process wasn’t hard enough, the winners (including Lydia) now have less than a year to raise money to pay for the equipment they will use in South America next June.

“I don’t know what the project will be — people who have gone before me have built schools and aqueducts, helped with dental and eye surgery and taught the locals to speak English. All I know is that I’m going to Guyana for 12 weeks,” Lydia said.

Youth Challenge International was born out of Operation Raleigh in Canada in 1989. Australia joined in 1992 and, since then, more than 400 young Australians have taken part in community development projects in Costa Rica, Guyana, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

“My research shows that the work we do there is community-oriented, which is great because I was worried that I might have been a paternalistic gesture,” she said.

When the participants return home, they must then donate 100 hours of community service, employing the skills they have learned in South America.

Lydia is considering movie nights, a chocolate drive and a fund-raising dinner at a pizzeria in Northbridge that has a singing, dancing pizza chef, to make the money to buy shovels and cement.

If you would like to support her, watch out for notices around campus.

Did you know?

All these statistics and more have recently been asked for in the Business Library. The answers were found in publications produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Finding Australian statistics has traditionally been a lengthy process of having to look through printed catalogues and collections before manually transcribing the data into electronic formats. This process has been revolutionised with the release of AusStats, a new web-based information service from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

The service provides access to a comprehensive range of ABS material in electronic format accessible via your desktop computer. It is available at no direct charge to University departments under a license agreement negotiated between the AVCC and ABS. Included in the AusStats collection are: all ABS publications from 1998 onwards (these include publications from other Australian states previously not included as part of the UWA Library’s print ABS collection); over 2000 spreadsheets of historical data in a variety of subject areas; 1996 Census Basic Community Profiles for geographic levels from states down to statistical local areas.

Access is through the ABS web site (www.abs.gov.au) and is restricted to computers connected to a UWA server. The web site is updated daily with new material available at 11:30am (EST) on the day of release.

The AusStats agreement permits universities to freely copy, distribute and print ABS content sources from AusStats in support of the academic and teaching programs, including support of distance learning programs and off-campus access. The information provided is not available for those pursuing any income-generating or commercial venture.

More information from: Scott Nicholls, Reference Librarian at snick@library.uwa.edu.au or Carol Newton-Smith, Business Librarian, Business Library at cnsmith@library.uwa.edu.au.
Shenton House students on a high

UWA's Aboriginal students are on a winning streak.

And they hope their success in the academic and community fields will extend to the sporting fields for the National Indigenous Higher Education Games later this month.

There are about 115 Aboriginal students studying at UWA and a group of them have been training and raising money to compete at the games in Canberra.

They plan to enter mixed teams in volleyball, netball, basketball and touch football.

Off the sporting fields, their efforts have already won them prestigious awards.

Law student Gningala Yarran-Clanton, who has already made a name for herself both on campus and off, as an advocate for indigenous people, has just been awarded a Vincent Fairfax Fellowship for 2001.

She follows medical student James Ward, who was one of the 15 national winners of the fellowship for 2000 and Madonna Douglas in 1999.

The annual award is for people between the ages of 25 and 35 who show leadership qualities and are involved in the community. The 18-month fellowship gives the winners the opportunity to experience and learn more about ethical leadership. It is a quite gruelling 18 months, physically, emotionally and intellectually, which they must fit in with their usual work and study.

James Ward, who is still participating in the fellowship scheme, had time to represent his people overseas recently. He has just returned from Geneva, where he was one of about ten indigenous people from all over Australia, speaking to the United National on matters such as mandatory sentencing. He presented specific information on indigenous youth.

Kim Isaacs, who graduated this year with a Bachelor of Commerce and is now studying chemistry in preparation for entry to medicine next year, also has the chance to represent her people.

She has been chosen to attend the International Youth Parliament later this month. Kim is one of only two indigenous representatives from WA.

Vincent Fairfax Fellowship winners Gningala Yarran-Clanton and James Ward.

And our medical students scooped the pool in the inaugural Peter Cameron Award. Paula Edgill won the award and Marshall Watson was runner-up. Both are final-year medical students.

The Peter Cameron Award is for an indigenous student who studies any aspect of spiritual and/or physical health, to recognise their talents and encourage them to continue with their degree and their vision.

Peter Cameron was a hero of indigenous people, remembered for his vision and his goal of improving health conditions for Aboriginal people. He was both an artist and a medical worker, combining both Western and traditional Aboriginal medical paradigms. Peter Cameron died in 1997 at the age of 37.

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Kenata Rentals providing short term, fully furnished accommodation to UWA since 1982.
New home for academic pursuits

The Institute of Advanced Studies, which has made such an impact on the campus this year, has a new and permanent home which makes just as big an impact visually.

The IAS now has facilities for visiting scholars, writers and intellectuals in the purpose-built extension of the Irwin Street building, the weatherboard house that was the original home of the University in the city.

Its Australian design, with wide wooden verandahs, provides a focus alongside the Mediterranean-style limestone buildings and the modern brick ones.

The Institute itself provides both a focus and an active foundation of support for the intellectual activity of the University.

It was formally opened last month by Dr Colin Lucas, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford.

IAS Academic Executive Officer, Terri-ann White, co-ordinates cross-disciplinary programs which include a Professor-at-Large scheme and ongoing teaching awards.

The Professor-at-Large scheme encourages academics, writers, artists and public intellectuals of distinction to commit to visiting UWA for at least two weeks a year for two years, to roam widely across disciplines and enrich the intellectual life of the campus.

Teaching awards for one semester are offered to individual academics with proposals for short programs of activities on campus, once again designed to stimulate cross-disciplinary scholarship.

On October 4, Professor Joseph P. Vacanti will present the inaugural Ian Constable Lecture on Tissue Engineering.

Professor Vacanti, a guest of the IAS and a Raine Distinguished Visiting Professor, is the John Homans Professor of Surgery at the Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital. He is the Director of the Wellman Surgical Laboratories for tissue engineering, organ fabrication and paediatric transplantation.

He will conduct a workshop on Thursday October 5 at the Tissue Engineering Research Centre.

You can help cure diabetes just by going for a walk.

The Juvenile Diabetes Foundation's WALK FOR THE CURE is an annual walkathon that raises funds for Australian medical research into finding a cure for diabetes and its complications.

This year the walk will be held on Sunday October 15 at Burswood Park.

Diabetes is one of the leading causes of death by disease in Australia, and ranks as one of the most common serious childhood diseases. Almost one million Australians suffer from diabetes; thousands are insulin-dependent children and teenagers. People with juvenile diabetes need up to four injections of insulin every day for the rest of their lives — just to stay alive. Insulin is a treatment not a cure.

WALK FOR THE CURE is much more than just a walk. It's an opportunity to form a team with your family and friends, to enjoy the carnival atmosphere of the event itself and to raise money to support Australian research into finding a cure for diabetes and its complications.

Individual registration forms for WALK FOR THE CURE are available from the UWA Visitor's Centre adjacent to the Vice-Chancellery. UWA supports the venture. For further information call 1300 363 126.
From Rottnest to the isle of Capri

Professor Byron Kakulas, one of Australia’s most distinguished medical researchers, has been awarded the Gaetano Conte Prize 2000 for contributions to clinical research in the field of muscle diseases.

The prize, awarded every two years by the Gaetano Conte Academy in Italy, is the most prestigious international award in the field of neuromuscular disorders and is open to worldwide competition.

Professor Kakulas (pictured) is Director of UWA’s Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders and is Head of the Department of Neuropathology at the Royal Perth Hospital. The much-honoured researcher said that his latest award was probably the most gratifying.

In a career full of firsts — he was the first to discover that muscle could regenerate, (based on research on the Rottnest Island Quokka) thus providing hope for a cure for muscular dystrophy — Professor Kakulas said he was particularly proud of receiving the Gaetano Conte Prize because it was an acknowledgment by his peers of his academic contribution.

“Having spent forty years researching this vital area, it is nice to be recognised internationally,” said Professor Kakulas, founder of the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Western Australia.

“In the last decade DNA technology has reached the point where it can be applied to inherited diseases such as muscular dystrophy. We now know the exact biochemical causes of the disease, so we can produce a rational line of therapy.”

Professor Kakulas said there was worldwide interest in the research at the UWA’s Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders.

Professor Kakulas left late last month to attend a conference in the UK before accepting the award at a ceremony in Capri in October.

A wider audience for first words of wisdom

A professor’s inaugural lecture used to be a formal, almost formidable occasion.

The new professor would be part of a procession of senior academics, all in their full academic robes, in Winthrop Hall, with the lecture as the focus of all the pomp.

Not surprisingly, this ceremony faded away towards the latter half of last century. And this year, to mark a new approach for the twenty-first century, the Institute of Advanced Studies has reintroduced the Inaugural Lectures.

But this millennium’s sense of occasion is quite different. The lectures, delivered in pairs at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, take place at lunchtime and the crunching of apples mingle with the muted ringing of mobile phones as staff from all over the University take the opportunity of hearing what is usually only for students’ ears.

The first to address the informal gathering were Professors David Greenberg, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, and Kevin Durkin, Professor of Psychology. Their loosely themed lectures focused on paedophiles, child molesters and recidivism (Professor Greenberg) and children, crime and television (Professor Durkin).

Two weeks later, the lunchtime crowd was entertained by Michael Levine, Professor of Philosophy, and Dennis Haskell, Professor of English, who combined their lectures under the one title, Duckweed and Fish.

Professor Haskell, a published and passionate poet observed that the University was uncertain about the contribution poetry made to academic life.

“We actually get more research points for publishing literary criticism than a book of poetry, which, to my way of thinking, is absurd!” he said.

The third and final session paired two academics with a water theme: Greg Ivey, Professor of Environmental Engineering, who spoke about holes in the ocean and oceanic conveyor belts, and Professor M. Siva Sivapalan, from the Centre for Water Research, who talked about prediction of ungauged catchments.
Redundant Equipment for Sale

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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.

Raine Scholarships 2001

Applications are invited for Raine Bachelor of Medical Science Scholarships from medical students intending to undertake an approved course of advanced study and research at The University of Western Australia, or at an overseas or interstate university.

Medicine Regulations governing Bachelor of Medical Science candidature Clause 21-24 shall apply to these scholarships.

The Raine Foundation may award one scholarship of $20,000 for a research project to be carried out at an overseas university, or two scholarships, each of $10,000, for research projects to be carried out at The University of Western Australia or at an interstate university.

The scholarship(s) will be tenable for a period of one year.

Application forms are available from:

Executive Officer, Raine Medical Research Foundation
Suite 24, 95 Monash Avenue, Hollywood Specialist Centre
Telephone: (08) 9386 9880
Facsimile: (08) 9386 9522 Email address: lellis@raine.uwa.edu.au
The Internet at: http://www.raine.uwa.edu.au/bmedsc/

Applications should be lodged with the Raine Foundation by October 31 2000

Regulations governing the Bachelor of Medical Science degree are published in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry Handbook.

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 on 9382 8100 or if urgent 9480 4847 (24 hours). Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho

FOR RENT

NEDLANDS, walk to UWA, Hampden Rd cafe/restaurant strip and shops, the hospitals and Kings Park. 3 bedroom renovated home, in well presented, quiet street. Ideal for visiting or permanent staff. $295 p/w. Contact David on 9285 5744 (w) or 0403 052 222 (m).

FURNISHED THREE BEDROOM HOUSE, quiet street, 200m from UWA, available for rent at $225 p/w from Jan 1 to July 15 2001. Email rscaife@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

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
ACADEMIC BOARD CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR MEMBERS FROM THE GENERAL STAFF

The constitution of the Academic Board provides for three members elected by the Board from amongst those members of the general staff of the University that:

(i) are not eligible for election under paragraph (p) of Statute No. 19, which reads as follows:

“(p) three members who shall hold office for two years, elected by the Board from among those postdoctoral research staff of the University who:

(i) are not professors or lecturers;

(ii) have full-time or 50 per cent or greater fractional appointments of at least two years’ duration; and

(iii) submit a nomination form, with any additional material specified, in accordance with the requirements of an advertisement in the University’s internal newspaper.”

(ii) have full-time or 50 per cent or greater ongoing appointments; and

(iii) submit a nomination form, with any additional material specified, in accordance with the requirements of an advertisement in the University’s internal newspaper.”

By its R23(1)/2000 the Board resolved:

“(1) to recommend that Statute No. 19 be amended to provide for the general staff on the Academic Board to be elected by the body of general staff in the University rather than by the Board;”

By its R91(1)/2000 the Board also resolved:

“(1) that the requirement in Statute No. 19 that general staff nominated for election to the Board have “ongoing” appointments be flexibly interpreted such that if a nominee can reasonably expect that he/she will be able to serve for the two-year period for which he/she is standing, the nomination be accepted.”

Nominations are invited from general staff who meet the criteria set out above, for two vacancies for the following periods:

| One for Novermber 1 2000 to December 31 2001; and one for January 1 2001 to December 31 2002. |

Nominees must provide certification from their head of department that they meet the eligibility criteria. Nomination forms are obtainable on the web at the following address:


or from Mrs Sue Allan on ext 2451. In addition each nominee must submit a hard copy and an electronic copy of a statement, not exceeding half a page of A4 paper in total, of his/her background and reasons for wishing to serve on the Board.

Nominations were called for in an “All Staff” email dated September 15. Further nominations must reach the Assistant Director, Secretariat Services, Mrs Jackie Massey, no later than 5pm on MONDAY OCTOBER 9 2000. An election will be conducted, if required.

Information on the role of the Board, scheduled meeting dates and Board membership are also available from Mrs Massey on ext 2457.
The design of our environment
a centre of expertise on the campus

Patrick Beale
Head of the School of Architecture and Fine Arts

One of the joys of teaching and working within the School of Architecture and Fine Arts is sharing in the experience of students’ exhibitions and presentations in our Cullity Gallery.

During 1994, the School of Architecture and Fine Arts relocated from the main campus of the University across Stirling Highway to the Nedlands Campus.

The renovated building the School now occupies is better able to accommodate the students and staff of the School, which has grown from an enrollment of 353 students in 1995 to 558 students in 1999.

The School is primarily responsible for teaching the professional programs in Architecture and Landscape Architecture, and for the teaching of the Bachelor of Fine Arts and the Bachelor of Arts (Fine Arts) units. In collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture, the School also teaches substantial elements of the Bachelor of Landscape Management, a program begun in 1999.

One of the public faces of the School, located on the ground floor of the building, is the Cullity Gallery which has established a regular program of exhibitions that support our teaching and research activities.

International exhibitions from Finland, Italy, Denmark and Japan, as well as national and local exhibitions of design and artwork have been hosted in recent years, while at the end of each semester two major student shows are mounted.

These exhibitions, which showcase student works, are recorded annually in catalogues published by the School at the end of each academic year. The gallery also hosts periodic exhibitions of postgraduate student work from each of the disciplines in the School.

The teaching activities revolve around the design studios in Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Art Practice. At the start of this year the School introduced a new course structure in all of its degrees, which better directs scarce resources into the studio program and towards the integration of technology and theory studies into studio practice. These revised programs have received the enthusiastic approval of the visiting accreditation panels from the professions of Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

While the energies of the staff have been directed towards the implementation of these new structures, new units and new teaching methods, students and staff have continued to be successful in competitions, competitive grants and awards nationally and internationally.

The School believes that design research is best carried out through engaging directly in the activity of design and thus each studio unit functions as a research and teaching laboratory.

While this activity represents the core ‘business’ of the School, we are in the process of establishing a number of initiatives that will position the School more firmly as a resource to the wider University community and to the professions, government and industry in this state. To this end we are establishing a profile of the ‘capabilities’ of the School as a whole.

This endeavour will situate the School as the primary focus for examination of design issues in our environment.

This will place an enormous pool of expertise, of energy and ideas, before the wider community in a context where professional, governmental and industry establishments can collaborate with the School on a cost-effective basis. In support of this initiative, the School will be inviting key members of the community to act on an advisory board to assist in identifying areas of strategic opportunity for the School to enhance its educational mission and to promote and initiate links with the community in order to diversify its financial base through funded research programs.

An area of opportunity that the School is actively pursuing is in the field of design for Arid Zones.

Issues of sustainability and sound environmental design and management of settlements and developments in such areas are of particular interest, and the School is therefore proposing the establishment of an ‘AridZone’ centre for design research. The mission of this centre is to test appropriate architectural and landscape architectural design strategies for new developments, existing communities and industrial concerns in arid and semi-arid areas.

It will form a nexus for integration of studies from other disciplinary groups in order to establish a centre of expertise in Western Australia that would have worldwide applicability. The School has identified an appropriate site in regional W.A. and has developed a design for a prototype facility. We would welcome hearing from parties interested in this initiative.