The visual symptoms experienced by many migraine sufferers have pointed to a possible link between these headaches and the eye disease, glaucoma.

The link is tenuous but Dr Allison McKendrick, an NHMRC fellow with a background in optometry and ophthalmology, has joined the Psychology Department for four years to work on longitudinal studies.

She completed her PhD at Melbourne University on the visual problems in people who suffer migraine, then took a post-doctoral position in ophthalmology in Portland, Oregon.

“We tested migraine sufferers in their 30s and found they had experienced subtle changes in their visual fields. The visual field deficits we found were similar to those seen in the early stages of glaucoma, that is, subtle losses of mid-peripheral vision” Dr McKendrick said.

“The potential link between migraine and glaucoma is very interesting. Population studies show that glaucoma sufferers are more likely to have a history of migraine but the link hasn’t been specifically tested yet,” she said.

Around one in seven people suffer migraine and many of them experience a temporary visual impairment, during or before the headache, known as an aura.

“Those who have migraine with aura also display neurological symptoms prior to the headache. We tested people seven or more days after having a migraine and found about two thirds of them had substantial residual vision loss, both on visual field testing and tests of the ability to detect motion.

“I’ve only tested one person for a greater length of time and I found that his residual vision loss was gradually resolved over three to four months.

“We don’t know if a degree of vision loss could be permanent. That’s something we’ll be looking at in longitudinal studies while I’m here,” she said.

“During a migraine, changes in cortical circulation occur, which could effect cortical processing of vision. If similar changes occur in the eyes, it may be possible for some residual visual damage, in the early parts of visual processing.”

Dr McKendrick is conducting this phase of her research in Psychology, a discipline in which she has not worked previously.
The Tropical Grove is not only a great feature of our beautiful campus, but it is also a very useful and special venue for UWA events.

Over the summer the Grove has been an excellent outdoor space for a variety of functions - ranging from a reception for the Australian Council to a PIAF community dinner. Most recently (8 March) the Grove was our venue for celebrating International Women’s Day, with a morning tea occasion attended by an excellent cross-section of female staff, as well as a considerable number of male staff. (Plus, a great chorus of native birds in happily noisy form!)

This simple occasion allowed us to reflect on the progress of our ‘gender agenda’ at UWA.

Dr Joan Eveline (Department of Organisational and Labour Studies) and a project researcher on gender issues is UWA’s recent history, provided a most thoughtful major speech in which she took up the theme of the difficulties for female staff even in a supportive work environment which she identified at UWA. Joan left us with some very clear challenges for the future - as well as some encouragement for the commitment we are making.

In my own short comments in welcoming the group to the Grove, I attempted to indicate the extent to which systemic and positive change is happening - even though there is much progress to be made before we can truly claim that equal opportunity of employment outcomes exist for women staff members.

The data are always more boring than anecdotal stories but it is the data which sets out the realities of the situation.

- The overall percentage of female staff is now 59.6% (General) and 31.5% (Academic) and rising since 1997.
- Academic women staff are clustered at the lower levels (59% as Lecturer): but the key trend is upwards: over 20% now as Senior Lecturer, with some 34.3% tenured (up from 20.5% in 1998). The success rate for academic women applying for promotion is now 70.3% (compared to 60.7% for men).

Particularly heartening is the growing presence of women at the top of Level E: rising from 12.4% in 1997 to 14.1% today, and about to grow again with a pending professorial offer plus two professorial fellows. Our new Executive Dean of Arts adds a further female member to the Deans and our new female Professor of Chemistry expands the discipline range of our women professors.

- There is progress for our women general staff. Yes, we should have more as a percentage in permanent employ and more at the most senior levels. But I was pleased to note that an increasing proportion are above Level 6: some 42.1% in 1997, and now nearly 45%.

Within the Group of Eight, the older established research intensive universities, we also compare well in our proportion of female staff and their levels of employ.

- The Leadership Development for Women Program, catering to both academic and general staff, has been a great success and I have been delighted to see this pioneering initiative ‘mainstreamed’ with our budget processes. The 1999-2000 Report of the LDW, plus the testimonies of women participants at last year’s concluding dinner evening, was extremely heartening.

- The UWA Equity Office has been innovative in other key areas:
  - the UWA Work and Family Guide has been updated after an informal audit of work and family practices;
  - the Sexual Harassment Policy has been updated and there is a new Disability Policy;
  - evaluations of the Reviews of “Women and General Staff” and ‘Women and Academic Staff’ are imminent;
  - a Workplace Diversity Strategy is to be launched before Easter and a special project - aimed at identifying and addressing issues for gay, lesbian and transgender staff (and students) - is also to be initiated shortly.

These are difficult days for universities and this can most palpably seen in relation to the work of our staff. As part of that commitment to our staff, to equal opportunity, and to the aspiration of UWA to be an excellent employer, I am always ready to learn about the work experience on our campus. The 2001 workplace experience project results will be carefully scrutinised towards enhanced policies and conditions.

Women’s Day in the Grove thus provided an opportunity to recognise the contributions of our women staff, and to get the measure of what we are achieving in an equal opportunity sense and what are the main challenges remaining.

In a phrase of the contemporary world — I am very concerned that in this regard we indeed do walk-the-talk, and not just talk-the-talk.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Patrick Jory is going to an Asian university to help set up a program of Asian studies.

It sounds like carrying coals to Newcastle but Dr Jory says that Asian studies is a new concept within Asian nations.

“Apart from Japan, the idea of studying one’s own culture is a recent initiative in most Asian universities. But it’s a fast growing phenomenon and will eventually have a dominant effect on studies that, until now, have been mainly from the outside, looking in,” said Dr Jory, a lecturer in Asian Studies.

He is one of three winners of the annual Fay Gale Fellowships, designed to assist both academic and general staff members, at an early stage in their careers, to spend at least three months working in a university overseas.

Preference is given to staff who have not previously travelled overseas and/or who have a financial need for child or other carer commitments.

Dr Jory is going with his wife, Oui and two daughters (the younger born just eight weeks ago) to Oui’s home town of Nakhon Si Thammarat. Over 12 months, he will help the Walailak University to develop its Asian studies program, and Oui will have a chance to return to her design work as an architect, while the extended family cares for their daughters.

It was the last-minute inclusion in a touring rugby team that created the passionate interest Dr Jory has for Thailand and all things Asian.

“I was 20, had been studying European languages and was asked to join the rugby tour to Thailand. I didn’t know the difference between Thailand and Taiwan then and didn’t have the slightest interest in Asia. But everything changed when I went there!”

Kati Tonkin was amazed to hear she had been successful in winning a Fay Gale Fellowship.

“I didn’t seem to fit the criteria: I don’t have children who need care while I work and I’ve already spent three years in Germany,” said the associate lecturer in European Languages and Studies.

“But when I became an associate lecturer, late last year, I realised I wouldn’t be able to find time to finish my PhD in the required time. So I asked for six months leave without pay to go to Germany and complete it.

“The Fellowship means I’ll have something to live on while I’m there,” she said.

Ms Tonkin’s PhD is on Austrian novelist Joseph Roth whose writing covers the period just before, during and after the fall of the Austro-Hungarian empire, early last century.

“In his work, you can see the role of ethnic identity in the empire’s downfall, especially from his perspective as a German Russian Jew.”

She will leave for Vienna at the end of the first semester.

A few months later, laboratory technician Kristie Tuppin will embark on her first overseas trip, to Britain, to soak up teaching methods in surgical procedures.

Mrs Tuppin works in the Hill International Medical and Surgical Workshop at The Centre for Medical and Surgical Skills (ctec).

“We have the best equipment and resources here – better than at the Hill lab in London - but I felt I needed to see how other people set up their classes and demonstrations,” she said.

She will observe laparoscopic and other minimal access surgery courses at Dundee Nine Wells Hospital; work for a couple of months in the Hill laboratory at the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and visit other universities and institutes with similar courses in England and Wales.

An unexpected bonus is that her husband, Lachlan, a musician will be able to fulfil a dream. “He’s always wanted to busk in London, so he’ll be keeping busy while I’m working!” Mrs Tuppin said.

The three fellowships are worth a total of $46,200 this year.
If we’re going to do IT, let’s do it well

Love them or hate them, it seems we can’t live (or at least work) without computers.

The Centre for Staff Development (CSD) is trying to ensure that everybody at UWA is on top of information technology (IT).

IT training has been identified as a key issue for University staff. Funding has been made available from the University Strategic Fund for initiatives identified through the IT Strategy Implementation Plan to address this issue. One of these initiatives is the provision of on-line IT training.

As an effective and relatively economical option, Learn-IT Online has been chosen for the provision of IT skills training courseware through the Web, in areas such as Microsoft Office, Web programming and Windows fundamentals, as well as a range of more specialist courses.

Learn-IT Online provides:
- pre-testing to identify where knowledge gaps lie and mastery testing to reinforce that learning has taken place
- access to a library of up to 400 self-paced end-user and specialist IT skills training courses delivered through a Web browser to staff, including those off campus
- IT training, including courses that can map directly to Oracle, Microsoft, Novell and Cisco certification
- PC training, including courses that can map directly to the International Computer Users License and Microsoft Office User
- Specialist certification
  Courses typically last eight hours and include pre and post assessments of user competencies. Course material can be viewed in any order. Once registered for a course, interactive access to the course material is then available for the rest of this year.

Kenn Martin, the IT training co-ordinator for CSD, says that anecdotal evidence suggests staff are more effective with this type of training when it is scheduled within their work day and they are able to devote their uninterrupted attention to the material.

“Strong support from supervisors has already been requested to ensure this is possible,” he said.

Through the University Strategic Fund, central funding has been provided for a licensing arrangement and the subsidising of a significant but limited number of places in Learn-IT Online for university staff. These are being offered to departments at a cost of $45 per person per course.

Further information about Learn-IT Online, the range of courses and enrolment procedure can be found on the Web at <http://www.onlinelearning.admin.uwa.edu.au>.

Inquiries about IT training can be directed to Kenn Martin on 9380 1503 or by email at kmartin@csd.uwa.edu.au.

Has IT really been going that long?

Alex Reid…bringing back to the University 39 years of experience

The newly created post of Information Technology Policy Executive Officer was recently taken up by Alex Reid.

The position has been created to provide the IT Policy Committee with someone who can formulate policies and strategy for its consideration, and follow up decisions to ensure the overall strategy for effective use of IT throughout the University is kept on track.

Mr Reid’s career includes (most recently) seven years as Director of Computing Services at Oxford University. Before that, he was for two years head of the Office of IT at UWA and 22 years at the WA Regional Computing Centre, including holding the position of director.

He’s been in the computer/IT industry for 39 years, so he comes to this post with a wealth of relevant experience, not just in the use of IT in universities, but also in how decisions are made and change takes place in a devolved, collegiate environment.

Mr Reid welcomes comments on ways in which the University may be able to make better use of IT in its research, teaching, administration and support services and also suggestions for University policies which might foster such developments.

He can be reached on 9380 2639, by fax on 9380 1089, by email at alex.reid@uwa.edu.au and he’s located in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering (room 1.20). He has a Website (which he describes as “primitive”!) at www.itpeo.uwa.edu.au
Several shaved heads (and a pair of hairless male legs) on campus have resulted in more than $2000 being raised for research into men’s cancer.

The annual Me No Hair Day, always supported well by the Faculty of Science and the Department of Psychology, had a new twist this year with two women giving up their locks.

Dr Davina French, a senior lecturer in Psychology’s clinical unit, took up the challenge, then e-mailed her colleagues to see which women would join her. Amanda Rogers, a Psychology PhD and clinical master’s student, jumped in, saying she had always wanted to shave her head and this was just the excuse she’d been waiting for.

They’ve had mixed reactions: some older male staff members offered to sponsor them NOT to have their heads shaved; Dr French’s 70-year-old mother is delighted and proud; Ms Rogers has already experienced some jibes on the street.

But they are loving the freedom, and Dr French has used her shaved head as an excuse to buy several new hats.

“We’re happy that the funds we raised ($736 so far just from Psychology) are going to research for men’s cancer. Anybody’s cancer belongs to the whole family and everybody who knows you. Men’s cancer is not restricted to affecting men,” they said.

Gabrielle Gooding, while perhaps not typical of part-time general staff, is certainly aware of the pressures on them.

The new—and first—general staff member to be elected to the University Senate, Ms Gooding works three days a week in the Department of Microbiology as a senior scientific officer (teaching), designing, preparing and teaching practical classes for students in science, agriculture, medicine and dentistry.

For the rest of the week, she is studying for her PhD, caring for a four-year-old daughter, breeding and exhibiting cocker spaniels, and holding the position of a vice-president of the National Tertiary Employees Union.

“While the University exists for the academic work carried out here, I see the general staff as partners in that work. A lot of it couldn’t be conducted without the help of general staff. And I think that we have been under-represented in decision-making processes across the University,” Ms Gooding said.

UWA is the last university in WA, and one of the last in Australia, to have a general staff representative on Senate.

“The planned restructuring of the University is a major issue for general staff as is juggling part-time work with an increasingly complex family life and other commitments.”

Ms Gooding attended her first Senate meeting last month as an observer and will take her place as a voting member this week.
On March 12 the Prime Minister, John Howard, opened the new National Museum of Australia, the flagship of the Centenary of Federation. The Museum is coupled with the Gallery of First Australians and also shares the Acton Peninsular on Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra with another new institution, AIATSIS - The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

Richard Weller, senior lecturer in Landscape Architecture in the School of Architecture and Fine Arts, and his design company — Room 4.1.3 (which includes students from UWA) — was part of the team headed by the Melbourne Architects Ashton Raggatt McDougall which won the national design competition for the project in 1998. Back then ‘Campus News’ showed the conceptual designs. Now, just back from the opening, we asked Richard Weller to describe the final product and asked whether everything had gone to plan.

There is always a treacherous labyrinth between initial ideas and final built form. In so far as the project was on time and on budget it's a marvellous success, but what concerns me is whether the original intelligence and spirit of the project has survived.

I am of the opinion that it has, although the mutations have been considerable and I am keenly aware of how it could have been better. Until the opening, the project had been tested on masses of school kids and some international design critics. Both liked it.

From a landscape architectural point of view the whole project set out to speak about Australian cultural conditions as vested in landscape, that is, landscape as a changing cultural artefact, not a given. Our point of departure was not to reiterate the partial truism that the land makes the people, but to turn around and consider that the people now make the land.

The Museum not only enhances its remarkable picturesque location, but also metaphorically reaches out to the broader cultural landscape of the nation. It does this through two noteworthy features, the Uluru Axis and the Garden of Australian Dreams. The Museum’s buildings are to an extent structured by the former and they generously create the space for the latter.

The Uluru Axis

In master planning Canberra, Walter Burley Griffin inscribed many axes toward other state capitals and local landscape features. We thought it time to add another. The ‘Uluru Axis’ demarcates a relevant national orientation as it
reaches for the centre of the nation’s landmass and its navel, Uluru. This new axis allegorically brings the monumental Parliament House into line with the monumental Uluru, thus establishing the bookends of the project.

In-between these references, the complex of the museum is built along the guidelines of knotted, wandering lines. The axis, a huge red line across the peninsular which rises up and curls back on to itself, suggests a nation no longer looking so much to imperial centres for confirmation but one maturing to focus on its own internal contradictions, a different route by which it assumes global citizenship.

The Garden of Australian Dreams

The Garden of Australian Dreams is about emergent senses of place, about writing, mapping, imaging, reading and singing the country.

To walk into the Garden of Australian Dreams is to wander out onto a huge richly patterned map of the nation. The map is made of many types of maps, the most prominent of which are the standard English language map and Horton’s Aboriginal boundaries map.

These two maps are interwoven with other maps including geology maps, vegetation maps, electoral boundary maps, a weather map from Australia Day, and many cartographic curiosities. Also written on the map surface is the word HOME translated in almost every language spoken in contemporary Australia. In one part the map folds up to form a tunnel underneath it. In this space we asked Dr Paul Carter of Melbourne University to develop a sonic response to the project.

If the inclusion of the Aboriginal map of Australia and its nomenclature can be thought to represent part of the garden’s “dream” then an area of green grass, a small swimming pool and a phoenix palm signify the other great Australian dream of suburban paradise. Facing the lawn is the “Living Room” a somewhat surreal, empty, white room from which only sky can be seen.

The Garden also includes an area of “bush”, that is, it has a stand of ghost gums, but it makes no pretence toward the essential visual qualities of Australian landscape. It has a tilted avenue of European trees, a medieval garden gnome and a 60-metre long copy of the word AUSTRALIA taken from our national currency. The garden also has a camera obscura, which when you enter it will naturally contain a small image of the outside world flipped upside down.

From outside the cubicle of the camera obscura will be reminiscent of Ned Kelly’s armour and so the upside down image inside reminds us of Nolan’s Kelly placing the visitor inside Ned’s head, or inside their own, as Descartes would have it. Looking around, there are flashes of other Australian landscape painters such as Arthur Boyd, Jeffrey Smart and Gordon Bennett, and there are eight bright blue telegraph poles recalling the infamous Pollock.

Considered Australia’s most challenging and mischievous architects, Ashton Raggatt McDougall have produced provocative, flamboyant buildings.

In this project as is rarely the case, there has been a concerted reciprocity between the buildings and the landscape design. With little time and not much money we took huge risks. Australia has not seen anything quite like this before and that can’t be a bad thing.

I just hope its enough to get a reaction from my students!
Inspiration came to students Nick Randolph and Meg Delahoy as they queued to renew their sailing club membership, and it won them $7,500.

“What should have taken us five minutes ended up taking 40 minutes and we started talking about how to change the system,” said Nick, a final-year engineering/IT/commerce student. He and Meg, a second year engineering student, studying mechatronics, came up with the idea of putting their club, Mounts Bay Yacht Club, on-line. The idea extended to other yacht clubs, then all clubs.

“We now have an on-line concept that can offer a wide range of services to members. The idea grew and grew in our heads but we didn’t know about marketing and running a business, so we signed up for some free courses,” Nick said.

Those free courses, run by Software Engineering Australia (WA) and Computer Sciences Corporation, were part of a competition for people who took advantage of them to present a business plan for their company.

Meg and Nick presented their plan for Your Club On-line and won the $7,500 inaugural WA Business Planning Competition.

They aim to put their plan into action when Nick (the son of Cherry Randolph, lecturer in Marketing and Information Management) completes his studies this year.

Two new posters from the Safety and Health Office will soon be brightening the campus and reminding us to take care.

A bold orange and dark blue design featuring anonymous faces reminds us that “Your awareness is helping everybody” and a jigsaw of the UWA crest on a pink background urges us “Let’s put them in place” (the pieces that go together to create a safe environment).

Two staff, Leitha Delves from the Multimedia Centre, and Astrid Fackelman from the Photographic Unit, each won a $200 voucher from the Co-op Bookshop for their winning entries in the Safety and Health Office’s poster competition.

At the presentation of the winning posters, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, complimented the SHO’s work and remarked that UWA’s safety record is very good.

The posters will be featured in UWANews in a future issue.

The SHO can also help you to look after your staff’s fitness, health and mental well-being. They recently helped Human Resources run an eight-week program, Healthy HR.

Lunchtime sessions of exercise, massage, relaxation therapy and healthy cooking were offered to the 50-odd HR staff, to promote wellness among the workers. Sport and exercise sessions were also available after work. Healthy Heart checks, offering an instant cholesterol reading, were very popular.
When a UWA banner was launched into space on board the space shuttle Discovery this month, UWA engineering professor Michael Norton was over the moon.

Just four days before lift-off, Professor Norton, who is supervising research and conducting his own studies in the areas of noise, vibration and turbulence associated with jet rockets, trod the hallowed ground of the launch pads at Kennedy Space Centre at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Professor Norton came back armed with more than a hundred and fifty personal photographs from inside the space shuttle Endeavour, the exterior of the space shuttle Discovery on its launch pad, views from the top of the launch pad and close-up details of the shuttle, its rockets, fuel tanks and the launch pad itself.

Professor Norton, who is a long time university friend and colleague of Australian astronaut Andy Thomas, had NASA security clearance that allowed him far beyond the boundaries set for other VIP visitors to the space station. “It was the site visit of a lifetime,” he said. “It was a real privilege to be allowed so very close to the action.”

In addition to the site visits, Professor Norton had technical meetings with the Head of Testbeds and Development, the Director of Spaceport Engineering and Technology, and with Launch System testbed NASA engineers.

His continuing work with NASA has resulted in the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering becoming part of the NASA Launch Systems Testbed Consortium.

Professor Norton has several students working with NASA on projects looking at the effects of jet noise on the environment, the vibro-acoustics of the launch pad structure, and acoustic emission techniques for mechanical pump seals.

He is working on his own project with NASA on using turbulent pressure scaling techniques for jet rocket plume characterisation.

Professor Norton hopes the UWA banner, currently in space aboard Discovery, will be back home at UWA in time for Open Day on May 14 with formal NASA documentation attesting to its trip in space.

Kim Roberts, the Director of UWA Extension, has been appointed to the board of the Learning Resources Network (LERN).

LERN is the largest association in the world in continuing education and lifelong learning.

Founded in 1974, LERN has more than 4,000 members in 16 countries. Next to the United States and Canada, Australia has the most LERN members. The network’s mission is ‘to extend lifelong learning to all.’

It offers practical information on lifelong learning programs. Mr Roberts is the first person elected to the Board of Directors from outside of North America.

LERN president William A. Draves said: “We are delighted to have someone of Mr Roberts’ talents and vision serve on our board.”
For something completely different, for an experience that some people will say has nothing to do with art, visit do it at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

The exhibition is a series of installations that includes sepia-tinted school photos, artfully arranged shirts spilling out of laundry bags, rows of glass jars (waiting for curry paste) and a fake fur-lined box in which you can have your photo taken!

Curator of WA art at the gallery, Robert Cook, explains that the exhibition originated in 1993 with internationally acclaimed curator Hans-Ulrich Obrist. He brought together more than 30 world famous contemporary artists to write instructions for individual installations and performance art.

The idea of do it, which has been recreated around the world, is to get local artists to interpret these instructions.

“Each installation will be slightly different every time the exhibition is mounted,” Robert Cook said.

Matthew Hunt’s presentation of an untitled Argentinian Buddhist’s instructions for making a curry paste is probably the most extended interpretation.

He followed the recipe, cutting by hand 125 onions, simmering the paste for hours and bottling it in glass jars.

“But once it was installed in the gallery, it began to smell awful, so we had to get rid of it,” Robert Cook said.

The installation now is rows and rows of empty glass jars, against a portrait of gaoled racist leader Jack Van Tongeran painted on a bamboo blind, with photographs of Chinese restaurants and smoke alarms displayed nearby.

Asian food, anti-Asian feelings, the restaurants that were the target of Van Tongeran’s hatred, the smoke alarms that would have signalled the destruction caused by his bombs...the facts, the emotions, the images have all been born of an untitled recipe.

The gallery has produced a small book with the original instructions to help you enjoy this exhibition. (It includes 17 pages on different ways to fold a shirt – with diagrams!) It’s part of the Perth International Arts Festival and will continue until the end of April.

Taking surgical skills on the road

A brand new red Nissan Maxima sedan has the premier parking spot outside the Centre for Medical and Surgical Skills (ctec).

It is on permanent loan to Dr Ron Swann, ctec’s executive director, to be used mainly for transporting the many visitors from overseas and interstate who come to learn and teach at the centre.

The car has been loaned to the University by the Automotive Holdings Group (AHG), a local company with 23 vehicle franchises in 13 dealerships in WA. AHG hopes that, by lending ctec a car, other University staff and associates will choose their company when they need to buy or lease a car.

ABOVE: Dr Ron Swann (in the driver’s seat) and Dr Richard Vaughan (medical director of ctec) take delivery of the car from AHG’s Vaughan Litton and Anthea Zalewski.
Oldies, goodies and the Premier take up the willow

Some people can never get enough cricket.

To mark the end of WA’s cricket season, the newly-launched UWA Sports Alumni is joining with the Sport and Recreation Association to present the inaugural annual Festival of Cricket, beginning next week, Monday April 2.

The feature game, on Friday April 6, will see the VC’s Graduates’ XI take on the new Premier’s XI.

The Graduates’ XI comprises former cricketers who have graduated from a university anywhere in Australia and they include John Inverarity (UWA), Kim Hughes, Graeme Wood, Geoff Lawson, Ken McLeay (UWA), David Fitzgerald (UWA), Robert Gartrell (UWA) and Mark Palmer (UWA). UWA’s Currie Hall principal, Daryl Foster, will coach the team.

UWA Graduates are invited to join the Sports Alumni in their marquee for the feature game. Admission to all games is free and open to the public.

Other events during the week include the traditional Vice Chancellor’s XI vs the Guild President’s XI, a Women’s Invitation one-day game, junior coaching clinics and Lord Taverner’s XI vs a PSA combined XI.

Lord Taverner’s team is a changing group of former high profile players who now play for charity. The PSA team is made up of schoolboys from the Public Schools Association.
The WASO is in trouble, not artistically – its standard has never been higher – but financially.

Those of us who have watched and heard the WASO develop into a magnificent orchestra over a period of years can hardly imagine our city without it. It provides us with a rich and varied concert series throughout the year and also extends its reach into country areas. It enables our opera and ballet companies to perform at a standard they could not otherwise achieve and permits the state of Western Australia to hold its head high in the national scene.

Music-lovers have their treasured memories of performances by the WASO. For me, one was last year’s concert performance of Bartok’s opera Bluebeard’s Castle which I had also heard some years before in the opera-house in Budapest where it had received its first performance. To my mind the Perth performance far outshone the other – something that would have been unbelievable when the Perth orchestra began some 75 years ago. In her fascinating, but yet unpublished, history of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Marcia Harrison traces its humble beginnings, dating from the demise of the silent movie orchestras following the advent of the ‘talkies’ in Perth. With the Depression looming life looked grim for these unwanted musicians - until the gifted violinist and saxophonist Harold Newton gathered a few of them together in 1929 to perform Dvorak’s New World Symphony in the Queen’s Hall, its Wurlitzer organ filling in the gaps of instrumentation.

Its history is also interwoven with UWA, first through the work of Professor Ross, distinguished physicist and Founding President of the University Music Society whose efforts brought about a packed His Majesty’s Theatre for a concert by Bernard Heinze in 1932. During the Second World War Winthrop Hall was often used for concerts when city venues were unavailable, and when the Capitol Theatre was sold in the 60s Winthrop Hall became home to the orchestra. Indeed, as Marcia Harrison has noted, it was at a concert at Somerville Auditorium in January 1951 that the name The West Australian Symphony Orchestra appeared on a program for the first time. With the many concerts at Winthrop Hall in association with the University Choral Society, UWA has played a role in the evolution of the orchestra as we know it today.

The WASO is a precious part of our cultural life. Already it has been reduced in numbers - especially in the woodwind section. Surely we as a caring society must do everything to retain the orchestra’s size.

We are constantly reminded that Western Australia is the real powerhouse in the Australian economy. Yet what is that worth if it is not matched by a cultural life that makes the state worth living in? We have examples around the world of countries that are rich financially but impoverished culturally. To our north Singapore has recently invested in a superb symphony orchestra, enticing fine players from around the world to join it, changing the perception of that city as wealthy but sterile. Word has it that the Government of Tasmania has taken steps to ensure the future of its orchestra.

Thanks to the Board of the WASO, there are now a number of benefactors supporting the orchestra. This year for the first time one of the Principal Guest Conductors is being sponsored by Broad Construction Services. But more support is urgently needed. Attending its concerts, gaining further sponsorship from Government, industry and from private philanthropists are essential ways to help the orchestra. As Marcia Harrison has shown the WASO began as a community venture. Would it not be too much to hope that Western Australia could lead the way by encouraging a system whereby the orchestra’s principal chairs could be underwritten or endowed, and named after their benefactors. As a modern community we owe it to the orchestra and to those whose efforts created it all those years ago.
An early struggle for survival may not be the only battle facing low birth-weight babies, according to Professor James Chisolm.

Current research suggests that health problems encountered through infancy and childhood may be followed by a predisposition to cardiovascular and other diseases.

“Low birth-weight affects about 2000 babies a year in WA, yet we know very little about its causes. What we do know is that it increases the risk of a raft of health problems – from SIDS to cerebral palsy, from epilepsy to learning problems,” he said.

Professor Chisolm and PhD student David Coall plan to interview more than 900 women having their first babies, in an ARC-supported project that could be the starting point for an international collaboration and a bigger follow-up study.

They said that stress suffered by a mother during her own childhood, such as emotional or physical abuse, could have a bearing on the weight of her baby.

“This is the first empirical study of low birth-weight based on principles of evolutionary ecology,” Professor Chisolm said.

“Modern evolutionary theory offers an entirely new perspective on the causes of low birth-weight and the possibility of novel intervention and prevention strategies.”


A/Prof M. Fahey, Civil and Resource Engineering: ‘Application of surface wave methods to measurement of stiffness of aged or cemented sands and structured residual soils’ — $198,401 (2001-03).

Dr J. Dell and Prof L. Faraone, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Prof S. Sivanathan (external): ‘High performance low cost plasma induced junction formation technology for mercury cadmium telluride IR photodetectors’ — $158,000 (2001-03).

Prof L. Faraone and A/Prof B. Nener, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and Prof U. Mishra (external): ‘Magneto-transport studies of AlGaN/GaN heterostructure field effect transistors at operational temperatures’ — $221,000 (2001-03).

What causes low birth-weights?
Tuesday 27 March

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING
'Modelling spudcan performance for jack-up operations adjacent to piled platforms', Dr Doug Stewart, Golder Associates. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil Engineering Building.

ARCHAEOLOGY SEMINAR
'Aboriginal hunter-gatherers in South-Western Australia at 45 000 BP: new radiometric dating evidence for early human occupation at Devil's Lair', Joe Dorotch, Archaeologist and Charles Dorotch, WA Museum. 4 to 5pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES/GENDER AND CULTURES PROGRAMME
'Past and future tense: the crisis in masculinity', David Buchbinder, Curtin University; 'Fetishism and the future of gender', Amanda Fernbach, University of NSW; 'Western feminisms through Asian eyes: reading English-speaking feminisms from the perspective of the "other"', Chilla Bulbeck, University of Adelaide; 'Western constructions of gender and the harmful cultural practice of prostitution as obstacles to ending the international traffic in women', Sheila Jeffreys, University of Melbourne; and 'The chaotic language of gender identity', Dr Felicity Haynes, UWA. (9.30 to 11am). Discussion and review of the day led by Bob Connell (3.45 to 4.45pm). Registration required. Programmes available from Terri-ann White.

Wednesday 28 March

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR
'Reactions across phase boundaries', Brian Cox, Zeneca. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

LUNCHETIME LECTURE SERIES
'Gender and computing', Keith Falcono, Computer Science. 12.45 to 2pm, IAS Building.

Thursday 29 March

FREE LUNCHETIME CONCERT
'Bell and Soundboard.' A concert of works for euphonium and piano including the WA premiere of Blue Lake Fantasy by David Gillingham. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

ZOOLOGY SEMINAR
'Social exploitation and social foraging in fishes', Ian Hamilton, Simon Fraser University, Canada. 4pm, Jennifer Arnold Lecture Theatre.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES / GENDER AND CULTURES PROGRAMME
'The effects of the global economy on gender constructions', Professor Bob Connell. 7.30pm, Weatherburn Lecture Theatre, Mathematics and Statistics. All welcome.

Friday 30 March

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
'The immunological response to mycoplasmal transformation', Dr Richard Lake, Medicine. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

CLINICAL RESEARCH IN NEUROPSYCHIATRY SEMINAR
'Children's understanding of legal processes in television', Professor Kevin Durkin, Psychology. 3.30pm, Seminar Room 3, Gascoyne House, Graylands Hospital.

Thursday 5 April

CENTRE FOR STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE SEMINAR
'Australian Modernism and the novels of Eleanor Dark', Marian Austin-Crowe. 12.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge.

FREE LUNCHETIME CONCERT
'Dancing Pianos.' A recital of two piano works including Rachmaninov's Symphonic Dances Op45 and Grieg-Mozart Sonata in C major K545. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP SEMINAR
'John Donne and the matter of vermiculation', Associate Professor Clayton MacKenzie, Baptist University of Hong Kong. 7.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

Friday 6 April

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
'Only fools and horses? Equine herpes viruses and immune evasion', Dr Nick Davis-Poynter, Animal Health Trust. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT WORK IN PROGRESS SEMINAR
'Imperial adventure, popular fiction and the discourse of missionary texts', Professor Gareth Griffiths. 1pm, Room G.13, Arts Building.

ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR
'Living in the palm of another: marginality, autonomy and engagement among Vietnam's Khmer minority', Dr Philip Taylor. 10.30am to 2pm, G25 Seminar Room, Social Sciences/Economics and Commerce Building.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP
'Partial adjustment or stale prices? Implications from stock index and futures return autocorrelations', Professor Robert Whitelaw, Stern Business School, New York University. 2pm, Research Centre, Room I.93, Accounting and Finance.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING
'Mine seismicity at Big Bell', John Albrecht. 3.45pm, Room E151, First Floor, Civil Engineering Building.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 8 April (Palm Sunday)

FUNDRAISING CONCERT
'The crucifixion—a sacred cantata', Sir John Stainer. Performed by the UWA Choral Society. Also performing will be the WA Institute of Music Wind Orchestra. 7pm, Winthrop Hall. Tickets $25 full, $20 con. and $12 children under 12 years. Available from the Octagon Theatre on ext. 2440. Profits go to Citizens Advocacy Eastern Suburbs.
A FIRST FOR HEALTH SERVICES RESEARCH
Second New Zealand-Australia Health Services and Policy Research Conference
2 to 4 December 2001 Wellington

For the first time, New Zealand is hosting an international conference devoted to research and policy on health services. Worldwide, changes in the health sector are the focus of intense interest from health workers, researchers and policy makers. This conference is a chance to take stock: how well have restructuring and other developments in different countries served their people's health? One of the major themes of the conference is expected to be health inequalities, but papers are likely to cover a range of issues including research methods.

Papers are now being called for and abstracts are due by 30 June.

For more information, to submit abstracts and to register for the conference, see the web site http://www.vuw.ac.nz/hsrc/conf/, or contact Christine Parnell, Conference Manager, Health Services and Policy Research Conference, PO Box 600, Wellington, New Zealand (tel: 64-4-463 6565; fax: 64-4-463 6568).

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION FOR MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN STUDIES THIRD CONFERENCE
Metamorphoses: Peoples, Places, Times
5 to 8 July 2001, UWA

A multi-disciplinary conference for scholars in all fields of medieval and early modern studies. Keynote speakers include Sarah Beckwith (Duke University), Joseph Duggan (University of California, Berkeley), Lyndal Roper (University of London), and R.S. White (UWA).

Please direct queries to Andrew Lynch on ext. 2185 or Philippa Maddern at pipma@arts.uwa.edu.au

GIVE BLOOD AT THE MOBILE CARAVAN
Sharing life's best gift

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service Caravan will be on the Rugby Oval on:
Monday 26 March 9.00 – 4.00
Tuesday 27 March 8.30 – 3.30
Monday 2 April 9.00 – 4.00
Tuesday 3 April 8.30 – 3.30

To donate on the Mobile Caravan CALL 9421 2868 (during office hours) or 0417 098 926 for an appointment.

Proudly sponsored by UWA

UNI RESEARCHERS INVITED TO OPTIMISATION EVENT
Representatives of Boeing, General Motors, NASA and AT&T will gather in Australia to make progress on taming the internet, controlling global commerce and optimising high-tech industries.

This year’s Optimisation and Industry event is organised by the University of Florida’s Professor Panos Pardalos and its Centre for Applied Optimisation, along with Central Queensland University.

It is endorsed by the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) Activity Group on Optimisation, the Australian Mathematical Society and the Pacific Optimisation Research Activity Group (POP).

Optimisation and Industry will be held JULY 1-6 Queensland’s Great Keppel Island

and involves satellite events in Brisbane, Rockhampton, Mackay and Townsville.

Convener Dr Victor Korotkich, from CQU, said Australian universities were encouraged to send representatives to hear the latest applications of optimisation.

Details on the event are available on: http://optimization.cqu.edu.au/ or via 07 4940 7455

Institute of Advanced Studies presents a series of Inaugural Lectures in 2001

This series of lectures gives an opportunity to new professors to perform their work in an informal setting on campus, and to present an inaugural lecture in a less traditional form.

Details of titles and abstracts will be circulated in advance.

4 April Pat Michie Psychology and Psychiatry and Behavioural Science
9 May David Badcock Psychology
30 May Albert Zomaya Electrical and Electronic Engineering
8 August Diana Walker Botany
29 August Philip Withers Zoology
26 September Geoffrey Stewart Microbiology
17 October Stephan Lewandowsky Psychology
26 September Albert Zomaya Electrical and Electronic Engineering
17 October Donald Robertson Physiology

General Purpose Lecture Theatre 2
Wednesdays at 1 to 2pm

Enquiries: Terri-ann White
Phone 9380 2114
Email: tawhite@cyllene.uwa.edu.au
Research Grants & Contracts

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL


Dr J. Whelan, Biochemistry and Dr A. Millar, Plant Science: ‘The role of mitochondria in the establishment of rice seedlings’ — $229,000 (2001-03).

Dr A. Oakley, Pharmacology: ‘Fellowship — The mechanism of action of replication terminus formation.’

E/Prof C. Oxnard, Anatomy and Human Biology: ‘Modelling species migration and evolution: Implications for fossil and molecular studies of primate origins especially the origins of modern humans’ — $201,000 (2001-03).

A/Prof M. Adams, Botany and Dr N. Turner (external): ‘Architectural constraints to water use and photosynthesis by eucalypts’ — $169,000 (2001-03).


Dr J. Wilce, Chemistry: ‘Fellowship — Biophysical studies of mRNA-binding proteins involved in the regulation of gene expression.’

A/Prof D. Haig, Dr J. Backhouse and Dr R. Howe, Geology and Geophysics: ‘Frequency and lateral extent of marine biostratigraphic events on a cretaceous passive continental margin’ — $186,500 (2001-03).

Dr N. Mcnaughton and Dr B. Rasmussen, Geology and Geophysics: ‘High-precision U-Pb and Pb/Pb geochronology of diagenetic phosphates’ — $239,299 (2001-03).

Mr J. Hartnett, Physics: ‘Fellowship — New secondary frequency standard for space applications.’


A/Prof S. Lewandowsky (left), Psychology: ‘Dynamic models of memory for serial order’ — $142,300 (2001-03).


A/Prof A. Janca, Psychiatry and Behavioural Science and A/Prof V. Burbank, Anthropology: ‘Social rituals and mental health: A novel approach to early intervention in mental illness’ — $20,000 (2001-03).

CLIVE AND VERA RAMACIOTTI FOUNDATION

A/Prof G. Yeoh and Dr E. Croager, Biochemistry: ‘A novel strategy to enhance the quality of human hepatocyte cultures for use in liver cell therapy’ — $10,000 (2000)

Dr D. Trinder and A/Prof J. Olynyk, Medicine: ‘Benchtop refrigerated centrifuge’ — $10,000 (2000).

Mr K. G. Tay, Molecular Immunology and Instrumentation and A/Prof F. Christiansen, Pathology: ‘The evaluation of informative single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) within the human histocompatibility complex (MHC) as diagnostic markers for psoriasis vulgaris’ — $10,000 (2000).

Dr R. Mccauley, Dr D. Cooper, Dr J. Vivian, Surgery: ‘Items of equipment required for tissue culture-based and molecular biology-based research at the Department of Surgery’ — $10,000 (2000).

CSIRO VIA GRAINS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

A/Prof G. Shellam and Dr M. Lawson, Microbiology: ‘Biological control of mice — immunocompromise’ — $443,826 (2000-02).

WANTED TO RENT

VISITING CANADIAN ACADEMIC and family visiting UWA for a period of five months from 20 July until Xmas 2001. Would prefer to rent a house close to UWA with 3 bedrooms and also fully furnished. Non smokers. Email: idadour@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or phone 9380 2003 or 041 799 7249.

FOR SALE

EXERCISE BIKE. Bodyguard. Ergoped 950. $400 ono.


WANTED

BABYSITTER WANTED, mature, caring and reliable person who enjoys kids and available to babysit a small child for three days a week in Wembley. Phone 9294 9228 or ext. 1272 or email jiangli@dph.uwa.edu.au

Classifieds

Redundant Equipment for Sale

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<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
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<td>12 x Apple Macintosh Performa S260, 800Mb HD, 40 Mb RAM, OS 8.5.1, no CD-ROM…………………………………………………… $400 ono</td>
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<td>for tender (no. 461), available for outright purchase. Tenders must be submitted on the Tender Forms and placed in the Tender Box in the Financial Services Office before 11am, Friday 6 April.</td>
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<td>Glensys</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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Bids should be accepted by Monday 9 April with departments to have first option

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

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