New graduates are role models

by Lindy Brophy

A’s first Aboriginal doctors for many years graduated from UWA last week.

Marshall Watson and Paula Edgill’s graduation ceremony was seen by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Centre for Aboriginal Programs as a turning point for Aboriginal people in this state. The pair have become instant role models.

They are the first medical graduates since the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health was set up within the Centre for Aboriginal Programs.

“In fact, we both started medicine before the medical centre came into being,” Dr Watson said. He finished school in Karratha, heard about the orientation year run by CAP, enrolled in it and decided he would try for medicine.

“When I was accepted into medicine I felt some resentment from a few of my old school mates because they’d got better marks than me yet I was the one who got into medicine. Some people even said that I didn’t look Aboriginal. What can you say? Being Aboriginal is more than the colour of your skin: It’s something inside you that is hard to explain to people like that,” Dr Watson said.

He grew up with his mother and step-father in Karratha, only meeting his father for the first time in the past year. “I feel now I know where I belong,” he said.

Dr Watson plans to specialise as a surgeon and work in the country, probably up north, where he enjoys the lifestyle.

Paula Edgill also thinks she might end up working in the north.

“The Aboriginal Medical Service is certainly an option somewhere along the line, but I haven’t yet made my mind up exactly where I want to specialise,” Dr Edgill said.

She graduated from Scarborough Senior High School, then completed a science degree at Curtin University.

“One of my friends at Curtin went to Newcastle to study medicine and although I didn’t want to go with her, it started me thinking about it. Dr Edgill said she was happy to be seen as a role model for Aboriginal students. “We don’t have enough role models among professional people,” she said.

“Kids really need good models and they need to believe that they can do something.

“I know Shenton House sends students out to high schools to talk to kids about University but they need to get to the kids in primary school. By the time they get to high school, they’re into drugs and already thinking about dropping out.”

“The format of primary school needs to be changed to get Aboriginal kids to stay at school.”

Both Dr Edgill and Dr Watson love their work, although they admit it is tough and tiring. Their graduation last week was a vindication of their long haul to get there and an inspiration to the record number of Aboriginal students who are currently studying medicine.

For more graduation stories, please turn to page 4. See page 6 for more about Aboriginal medical students.
**Engaging with the world**

The dreaming spires of the old European universities were never quite so idyllically dreamy. There may have been “honey for tea”, as the dons (all male) gathered in the senior common room … but the old universities were often involved in the politics and control of the old Church.

Later, they felt an increasing pressure from the new professions and the post-industrial governments to produce utilitarian research outcomes.

We easily forget that Newman’s classic “Idea of a University” was written as a cry from the heart against these pressures – rather than as a timeless reflection on the nature of academe and campus.

From within a time of remorseless change in higher education throughout the world, the temptation to find some golden era of the past is very strong.

That past is not there to be discovered, even if the campus was a more leisured (but less productive) place say 20 years ago.

In truth, the ideal of the university as a separate haven for enquiry, in which academics entirely set their own agendas is a mythical construction … and now we are certainly in an era of close interaction with society and the changes in the wider world.

As one of my European Vice-Chancellor colleagues nicely put it, at a recent international forum on the University and the community, with the final death of von Humboldt’s ideal of the academy (as a place protected against the contemporary), we are now in an era of engagement with the world.

Negotiating the character of that engagement touches the heart of what we do. And it challenges our sense of creativity and our sense of autonomy.

In important ways, we need to conduct research and teaching which is fundamental, which is independent, critical in thought and often radical in challenging orthodoxies, traditions and common beliefs.

We are also required to be sensitive and positive towards the needs of society – whether these are needs concerned with developing skilled graduates, or research which can underpin innovation in the economy, let alone influencing good public policy, debates over public values, challenging social prejudices and giving life to cultural ideas and artistic forms.

It is a big ask! Yet it does reflect on the fact that universities are increasingly and absolutely central to the development of their societies and communities.

And not just in the now commonplace sense of being the basis of knowledge economies of the world. Rather, there is the profound sense of universities as catalysts and energisers of the future.

I hope that our UWA Vision and, more still, our UWA public role embraces these challenges and our engagement with the 21st Century world.

- The new Motorola software engineering facility will symbolise our new relations with industry
- The Cassamarca Foundation bequest of a Chair in Latin humanism reflects our commitment to arts and the humanities in a technological age
- The successful work of the Institute of Advanced Studies points to our concerns to disseminate international quality research to all
- The extensive UWA scholarships schemes announced for Western Australians over the past few years re-affirms our founding State role as we bring international excellence to WA
- The signing of a collaborative agreement with the new Shenton College indicates our commitment to excellence in schools
- The building of international alliances, and our new offshore delivery in Asia, reflects our outreach into a globalised world of higher education and training
- More locally, our work in Albany (we are about to sign an agreement which will make the historic Penny Post building our base in the Great Southern Region) reflects a capacity for mixed mode delivery at a distance and our sense of responsibility to regional WA.

And so on … UWA plays an ever more significant role in our State, grows in research and learning capacities, becomes more autonomous through a diversified budget, and globalises its profile and operations.

With determination, spirit and vision we are shaping our own engagement with the wider world. It is a bumpy ride of change. But it is also an exhilarating period of importance for universities.

**Professor Deryck Schreuder**

Vice-Chancellor and President

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A new life comes at a high price

In October last year, a short all-staff e-mail asked for beds, blankets, cooking utensils and men's clothing to help refugees.

The response from the University staff was great. Fay Stewart, secretary to the Associate Dean and the Sub-Dean of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences who sent the original e-mail, was flooded with return e-mails and phone calls.

“It was fantastic but I had to ask people to stop contacting me. I had to ask them to just deliver what they could to our house in Shenton Park,” Mrs Stewart said.

“Our house” is not her home but a house her group, Coalition Assisting Refugees After Detention (CARAD) was providing for refugees whom the government was releasing from detention centres at Port Hedland, Curtin (near Derby) and Woomera.

The coalition of volunteers was formed more than 12 months ago, with Perth woman Lauris Kidd co-ordinating the accommodation.

CARAD is always on the look out for houses available for rent without bonds or lease agreements. “We can’t enter into these agreements as we are changing the people in these houses all the time,” she said.

“We house them in this transition accommodation after they have been set up with Centrelink payment, Medicare and health care cards. Then, as soon as possible, we get them into flats.

“These people have been in awful, crowded conditions for a long time and, although they want to be near others who speak the same language, they crave some privacy and quiet time.”

The refugees are left in Perth with nowhere to go. CARAD hardly has time for political lobbying while they are taking care of the refugees, most of whom are from the Middle East, and few of whom can speak English.

“There are many ways University staff can help CARAD help these people. We constantly need more supplies of furnishings and household equipment like pots, pans, crockery, cutlery, sheets, blankets and cleaning equipment.

“We desperately need help with shifting furniture (we have a trailer but you will need a towbar); donations for bonds for flats; and ‘adoption’ of one of the refugees to help them with their English, to help them find their way around and to answer some of the hundreds of questions they ask.”

Mrs Stewart said a University staff member offered a house for rent without a bond last year. “It was a request I really didn’t think anybody would fill. It was great. If anybody else has or knows of a house, that doesn’t require a bond, please let us know. Rent will be paid.”

CARAD started operations when the Federal Government announced the new Temporary Protection Visas (TPV). Previously, genuine refugees had been issued with permanent protection visas, entitling them to benefits and resident status.

Holders of TPVs are denied access to help from official resettlement agencies, public housing, job search assistance and English lessons. They must wait three years before the Immigration Department will even look at whether they are allowed to stay in Australia. And only after that can they apply for their families to join them (a wait of perhaps another two years).

If you don’t have any spare household goods, CARAD would appreciate your time, just half a day a fortnight, to pick up donated furniture. If you can help, please e-mail Fay Stewart on fstewart@acs.uwa.edu.au. Don’t ring her!

“Deliveries can be made to CARAD’s warehouse in Osborne Park: Unit 3, 5 Pearson Way. But you must ring Lee Brown on 9446 5169 to open up the warehouse for you at a convenient time to both of you. He lives nearby.”
The business world has another 356 graduates to swell its ranks after the University’s graduation ceremonies of the past two weeks.

Graduates from Commerce numbered highest with 356 Bachelor of Commerce degrees being awarded. Bachelor of Science degrees were awarded to 327 graduates and 217 Bachelor of Arts degrees conferred. Postgraduate students were presented with 59 PhDs. New medical practitioners numbered 114, including two Aboriginal doctors.

Brian Hawkins was admitted to the degree of Doctor of Science with a thesis on blood groups and the Chinese population. Prudence Manners received a Doctorate of Medicine for her work on juvenile arthritis.

Honorary degrees were conferred on four visiting academics who also delivered the occasional addresses at the ceremonies.

Dr Dino De Poli, President of the Cassamarca Foundation, in Italy, was awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters at the Arts graduation. Dr De Poli is behind the generous $6 million gift to Australian universities, particularly UWA, for the study of Italian culture and language. The Foundation also recently pledged $700,000 for a Chair in Classics.

At the Science graduation, Professor Daniel Nahon, from the University of Aix-Marseille 3 and Director of the European Centre for Research and Training in Geoscience and Environment, was awarded an Honorary Degree of Science from UWA.

Professor Robert Bea, from the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California Berkeley, delivered the address at the ceremony for Engineering and Mathematical Sciences graduates.

Closer to home, Professor Don Watts, former Vice-Chancellor of Curtin University, received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Education; and UWA’s Emeritus Professor David Tunley was honoured with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Music.

When somebody in the emergency ward at Royal Perth Hospital calls out: “Dr Bennett-Law!”, two people start to run.

Ashley and Corinne Bennett-Law, who graduated from Medicine last week, are both working emergency and often share the same shift. “We didn’t ask to work in the same place or at the same time but it is great having time off together and, working in emergency, where there’s a lot of team work, we get to actually work together sometimes as well,” said Dr Ashley Bennett-Law.

Both Bennett-Laws went straight into medical studies from school, met, then married while still studying. Dr Corinne Bennett-Law is keen on specialising in critical care, while her husband is thinking about a possible career in radiology. Their marriage has united two medically-oriented families. Ashley Bennett-Law’s sister, Kym Mina, graduated from medicine last year and is also working at RPH, while Corinne Bennett-Law’s brother, Andrew Law, is in his fifth year of medical studies.

Doctors Ashley and Corinne Bennett-Law have time to enjoy their local lake together while they are working the same shifts at RPH.
Want to build and drive your own racing car? Enrol in engineering and join the queue.

Engineering Honours students from both Mechanical and Materials and Electrical and Electronic Engineering are designing and building a racing car based on a Society of Australian Engineers (SAE) formula, which will race against 10 other universities in Melbourne in December.

The competition has been going for 20 years in the US where, this year, there are 125 teams competing in what they call the Formula Student project. SAE formula racing began in Australia last year, with the University of New South Wales winning the inaugural race.

“I understand the enrolments in mechanical engineering at UNSW have risen by 20 per cent this year!” said Steven Visser, the project’s safety engineer.

“This is the first year UWA’s been involved and, eventually, we hope to have a combined UWA Motorsports Team, with both water racing (the Avon Descent, in which Engineering students, in their own boat, went so well last year) and road racing,” Steven said.

He said 22 final-year students are involved with the project, each of them concentrating on one aspect of the design and construction, and writing a thesis on it. They are assisted by enthusiastic students from other years, bringing the total involvement to more than 40, plus the Honours students’ supervisors.

“The idea of the project is to do the work ourselves, without involving our supervisors. We’ve been learning how to do welding, machining, cutting and general engineering problem solving, that you don’t otherwise get at a university level. That’s what the competition is all about: giving everybody practical experience,” he said.

There are three women in the group and Steven Visser says that one of them, Kira Douglas, is likely to be one of the five drivers chosen from the group. “Her driving skills are excellent,” he said.

“One of the many great benefits of working on this project is the communication with engineers and students from other universities and other countries,” Steven said.

“There is an on-line forum that we all use to ask advice. It’s a great feeling, sharing information, even though we’re all competing for the best, fastest car.”

Steven and Alan Langridge, one of the two project coordinators, said they had been getting a lot of help from the workshops in both engineering departments.

“We also have quite a few sponsors. There’s a lot of interest in providing service and parts but we’re still looking for a company that can donate cash,” they said.

The team’s sponsors so far are: Indoor Go-Karting Hire (for driver training), Delphi (fuel pumps), Ford, Holden, Toyota, Mitsubishi, TNT (transporting the car to Melbourne), Auto Expo and MechSoft.com (supplying a computer design package with 10 site licences for the year, valued at around $US50,000).

“We’re also close to finalising a sponsorship arrangement with Advanced Engine Components,” said Alan.

The project will continue each year, with the SAE-formula cars being judged in three categories: static inspection and engineering design, solo performance trials and high performance track endurance.

Steven and Alan can be contacted at UWA Motorsports on 9380 2529.

More strings to DVC’s bow

Our Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, has been reappointed to the National Library Council, for another three years.

The collections and services of the National Library underpin Australian cultural life and intellectual pursuits. It is the pre-eminent documentary record source in Australia. He has also recently been named the Hackett Professor of Agriculture, following Emeritus Professor David Lindsay’s retirement.
More indigenous doctors on the way

Medical students make great role models

Last week’s graduation of Aboriginal doctors has doubled the number of indigenous doctors in the State – from two to four.

But the graduation ceremony was just the tip of the iceberg. There are now 17 indigenous medical students, by far the biggest number ever in WA.

David Atkinson, the Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health (within the Centre for Aboriginal Programs), sees a two-fold potential in these students: first it is likely that at least some of them will work in Aboriginal health where they are sorely needed; and second (and just as important) is the benefit they bring to the community as role models.

“Most Aboriginal kids go to school outside the metropolitan area, and the large number attending city schools also generally attend schools in disadvantaged areas. They don’t have somebody encouraging them to aim high. Their teachers just try to keep them at school long enough to re-direct them to TAFE,” Dr Atkinson said.

“So role models are enormously important.”

This year’s first year enrolment of seven — the biggest ever — is entirely made up of mature-age students, five of them over 30, and four of them with children.

“They tend to have more complex lives than a lot of other students and this is where Shenton House is so important to them. They use it as a home base and a resource base. We would usually see the first and second year students a few times a week around Shenton House and keep in touch, often helping them with non-academic problems,” he said.

Dr Atkinson, who also works as a GP with the Perth Aboriginal community at the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service’s Mirrabooka surgery, is assisted at the Centre by fellow academic, lecturer Anton Clifford.
The criteria for provisional entry to Medicine for Aboriginal students are commitment, academic preparation (which can sometimes take up to two years) and academic potential.

"If they make it through their first year, they're pretty well committed," Dr Atkinson said.

Sixth-year student Jodi James is testament to this. She came to university straight from Safety Bay Senior High School.

"Every year I enjoy medicine more and more and I'm so glad I chose to study it," she said.

Terry Morich, one of this year's first years, studied maths, physics and chemistry units within the Aboriginal Orientation Course as well as human biology 100 as a main stream unit to help prepare himself before doing the pre-medicine Course.

Terry did a medic's course while in the Army Reserve and found he liked it. He went on to complete a senior first aid course, then an occupational first aid course and was working as a paramedic at Yandicooging mine site, out of Newman, when he decided that a career in medicine was for him.

"I was doing a lot of medical work, often unsupervised, sometimes talked through it on the phone. I realised that I was good at it. And I was sick of this fly-in-fly-out existence. You're like a visitor in your own home." Terry (35) and Stephanie Trust (33), another first year, feel very lucky to have Shenton House as a home on campus and the support of the other first year Aboriginal students.

Stephanie, from the Kimberley, who has worked as a senior Aboriginal Health Worker and been involved in training AHWs and other health professionals in Aboriginal health for several years, has always wanted to study medicine.

"But I was always given the message that it was beyond me. Well, it isn't, especially with the support of my partner and my extended family," she said.

Dr Atkinson said that only three students of the 24 who had completed a semester under the provisional entry scheme (in place for 10 years) have been lost to Medicine.

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"Every year I enjoy medicine more and more and I'm so glad I chose to study it."

Jodi went to the desert in central Australia last year for an elective practical unit, working with an Aboriginal community south of Alice Springs.

"Being a city girl, I hadn't thought of rural practice before then, but now I know that's where I want to be … I felt I left my heart out there. The people are so beautiful. I'll need a few years experience but, as soon as I can, I'm going back …"
Helping mothers to feed their babies

Many new mothers in the Western world find that breastfeeding doesn’t come naturally or easily.

They will benefit directly from more than half a million dollars funding for UWA research from Medela AG, the world’s leading manufacturer of breast pumps and other products for nursing mothers.

The Swiss company recently signed a funding agreement to provide $550,000 over the next two years, including the provision of two new postgraduate scholarships of about $60,000 a year.

A UWA research team, led by Professor Peter Hartmann, has been working on increasing the effectiveness of expressing milk, from the types of stimulation necessary to maximise milk ‘let down’, to the most efficient methods of removing milk from the breast after ‘let down’.

Working with Medela AG already for two years their work has led to the development of a new type of breast pump, which is infinitely variable in terms of expression (of milk) patterns.

Medela AG committed $198,000 in 1999 and their latest commitment takes their sponsorship to almost three quarters of a million dollars.

Professor Hartmann said the new agreement with Medela AG would allow for continued basic and applied research, as well as product-directed research focusing on the effectiveness of the new design of breast pumps.

The new agreement will help fuel research into understanding the technique of ‘let down’ or releasing milk from the breast, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of methods for the removal of milk from the breast after ‘let down’.

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Second bite for leadership program

This year’s Leadership Development for Women program proved too popular.

Co-ordinator Jen de Vries said the program received 54 applications for 30 places and the selection process was very difficult.

“The planning group has decided that rather than disappoint 24 women who would obviously be suitable for the program and find it beneficial, we would run a second program this year, and applications are now called for that program,” she said.

LDW 2001 Programme 2: Developing Personally and Professionally will be best suited to those women who are keen to explore their leadership potential while they are establishing themselves in their research, academic, administrative, technical or professional roles.

The program will again be open to UWA women who are employed half-time or more and whose contracts run at least until the end of 2001.


The closing date for applications is Thursday April 26, 2001.

Publish without print

Australian universities could one day be giving commercial publishers a run for their money, and Shirley Oakley is in at the ground floor of the movement.

Mrs Oakley, the Library’s Associate Librarian for Corporate Services, has recently been appointed to an AVCC working group to establish a pilot program to create a distributed digital repository of Australia’s research output.

The University Librarian, John Arfield, said that eventually, such developments could encourage change in the scholarly information industry by challenging the nexus between the dissemination of research findings and commercial publishers.
UWA engineers will help to tap oil resources off India that are more than twice as deep as those in Australia.

The Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) has won a $760,000 tender to collaborate with the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) of India in developing and testing deep water foundation systems destined for the Indian Ocean.

COFS won the tender from nine other groups around the world.

According to Dr Hackmet Joer, from Professor Mark Randolph's research team at COFS, new fields requiring foundations to be built at depths of more than 400 metres are becoming more common in the oil industry, mainly due to the large demand in oil and gas and waning resources at shallower depths. (The average offshore platform in Australia is in depths of between 100 and 200 metres.)

"The technology used for shallow waters is not directly transferable to deep water," he pointed out.

"Therefore, the main challenges are the higher pressure and the concomitant difficulty of human intervention at these depths.

"As a result, new design technology is sought to cope with the challenges."

COFS was directly involved in the design of the suction caissons used for the first time in Australia and continues its significant involvement in the research of these and alternative foundations for deep waters.

The centre will investigate the performance of new types of foundations for offshore structures and a new model testing device, developed by Dr Joer and PhD student Piero Velletri, will be installed at the Institute of Engineering and Ocean Technology near Mumbai (Bombay).

The ultimate aim of the project is to develop an analytical tool for the design of foundation systems for deep waters.

"It is important for the Centre to tender for such international collaboration, because the contract involved helps maintain continuity of the research undertaken by the centre," Dr Joer said.

"This also allows reciprocal broadening of skills and technology transfer, which started with last year's visit of four researchers from India's Institute of Engineering and Ocean Technology."

On-line class registration (OLCR) seems to be a success at last.

The Faculties of Economics and Commerce, Education and Law's OLCR system had its first full test this semester.

Several years ago ECEL decided to computerize its tutorial allocation system. The goal was to allow students to nominate tutorial preferences, with the actual allocations being handled automatically, via a computer.

ECEL's first OLCR system was a 'first come first served' system, but this had the problem that students would queue outside ECEL labs from the early morning hours in order to gain their desired tutorial choices. The security and safety issues this introduced, and the obvious equity issues for those who could not get to the early queue, meant it was soon abandoned in favour of a preference-based system.

Several years and three systems later this system allows students to enter preferences via the web and be given their highest possible preferences.

More than 90,000 preferences were received from 3,500 ECEL students (including many in combined undergraduate degree courses) in 1,160 tutorial classes.

The system allocated 79 per cent of students their first two preferences.

ECEL Computing Services also provides IT support to its three faculties. With eight full time staff, it provides desktop and network computer support.
Legends of the land lauded

It was muffins for breakfast and maintenance for bikes, at the fourth annual UWA Cycle Instead Bike to Breakfast.

The early morning event was organised by UWA Sports, the UWA Bicycle Users’ Group (BUG) and Facilities Management, with the support of Bikewest.

Ramon Andinach, Convenor of the UWA BUG, believes that bikes are a viable mode of transport to campus, and consideration is being given by the Sports Centre to setting up a repair and maintenance shop as well as a campus bike fleet and courses in bike maintenance.

Bruce Conrad (63) Convenor of the Kalamunda BUG, set off at 5am, in the dark, from his home in the hills to arrive in time to help set up the breakfast and network with other BUG members. About two hundred staff and students turned up at 7.30 am for the traditional muffins provided every year by Fresh Finesse.

Terry Dowling, long-time guru of the UWA Cycle Club, was at the breakfast, carrying out maintenance for those not so handy with a spanner.

Muffins and maintenance at bike breakfast

It may not be the Oscars, but the Agricultural Hall of Fame was big enough to attract both the Governor and the Premier to its opening last month.

An initiative of the Royal Agricultural Society, the Hall (at Claremont Showgrounds) recognises the people who have made an outstanding contribution to the development of agriculture in WA.

The old Millars Timber Company house at the Showgrounds, built in 1929 as a display centre, has been renovated and returned to its original splendour (after serving as the showgrounds office and the speedway administration) to house the portraits of pioneers and present day legends of the land.

The first seven ‘residents’ of the Hall of Fame last year included UWA’s Professor Eric Underwood. This year, the list of eight included Emeritus Professor Reg Moir, who is an Honorary Research Fellow in the Animal Science group within the Faculty of Agriculture.

The Governor, Lieutenant-General John Sanderson congratulated Professor Moir.

Professor Moir studied agricultural science during the early years of Professor Underwood’s leadership. After graduating with first class honours, he was appointed to an academic position, rising to the status of Professor.

More than one famous face on James Oval

Last issue, we asked if anybody could identify the familiar face in a UWA cricket team from 1952.

We were, of course, referring to Bob Hawke (the short fellow in the back row) but it seems others in the picture also went on to great things, according to one of our readers, the ABC’s State political reporter, Peter Kennedy.

He identified no fewer than six people in the picture who went on to become first class cricketers and coaches.

Peter Kennedy says the UWA cricketers of 1952 were legendary. Take a back seat, Bob Hawke!
The most harmonious sounds on Harmony Day came from the Sunken Garden. John Budge (Budgie) from the Physics workshop chose the day to stage another of his free lunchtime concerts, hoping the music from Peta Lithgow and Mikaila, as well as his old favourites, Lely Dai on violin and Nick on piano accordion, would produce harmonies to echo through the University community.

The enormous contribution by Emeritus Professor Reg Appleyard to the study of migration has been honoured in a book launched last month. 

*International Migration into the 21st Century: Essays in Honour of Reginald Appleyard* was launched at the University by the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Philip Ruddock.

Although modestly admitting only to a “passion for research”, Professor Appleyard was described by the Minister as “pre-eminent in his field”. The contents of the book attest to the admiration and respect for his work, world-wide. Edited by Dr Abu Siddique, Director of the Centre for Migration and Development Studies, it is a compilation of papers prepared for a conference on *International Migration into the 21st Century*, held at UWA in late 1999. The papers were prepared by Professor Appleyard’s friends and colleagues who attended the conference, to celebrate his contribution to the field.

Dr Siddique said the contributors were distinguished scholars of international migration whose main research was undertaken during the last quarter of the 20th century. Each attempted to evaluate the nature of change in migration and trends into the early 21st century.

The singers performed in several different languages.

Later in the day, the University’s ground-breaking Rainbow Project was launched by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson. It aims to promote harmony among staff and students with different sexual preferences.

Asia studied

In the last issue, we featured Dr Patrick Jory and his Fay Gale Fellowship.

The story read: “Apart from Japan, the idea of studying one’s own culture is a recent initiative in most Asian universities.” Dr Jory has explained that while virtually every university in Asia has long had programs which look at their own national culture, few have had programs which look at the societies and cultures of the Asian region as a whole.
And the Chair of the meeting put forward the motion “That there be light”.

And there was not light but a general hubbub, and a voice came out of the darkness, saying “What is this thing called ‘light’?”

In the discussion that ensued the following points were made:

(i) This stuff called “light” is something of an unknown quantity;
(ii) Since we have so little experience of light there is a need to proceed cautiously;
(iii) There is no precedent for there being light;
(iv) It is all very well for the Chair to say “Let there be light” but this begs the question of precisely where the light is to be, the location of the source of the light, the means of distribution of the light et cetera et cetera;
(v) Another member observed that while he was generally in favour of light, the important issues may be the quantity and the quality of the light;
(vi) Professor Lucifer foreshadowed a motion to appeal against the light;
(vii) Another member observed that we have been in dark so long we are quite used to it.

The Chair urged the need to hasten towards a decision or all Creation would be held up. Professor Lucifer pointed out that since there was as yet no light, there was no such thing as time and the meeting could go on forever.

Members agreed that the decision that there be light was a decision of some importance and therefore not to be taken lightly.

RESOLVED
1.1 To set up a Sub-committee to investigate whether there should be light, and
1.2 To set up a Light Working Party to consider, in the event of there ever being light, on what basis there should be light and the appropriate regulations to govern the light.
2.1 The Chair then turned to the next item on the agenda, “the creation of a firmament in the midst of the waters”

… does this sound vaguely similar to a meeting you’ve attended sometime, and for some time? Although the records of committee meetings are called “minutes”, after sitting through some of them “hours”, “years” or “aeons” can seem more accurate terms! Committees and boards are definitely not the quickest way of getting things done.

However, committees are easy to caricature in comparison with individual decision-making. This is because their nature makes them more public events, they can be subject to the human foibles of their most foible-ridden member, and because we have all had some experience of them. In contrast, only a few people have insider experience of the possible arbitrariness or contrariness of senior executive decision-making. The camels that committees create tend to live on, their horses are oft interred with their agenda papers. Committees may be the quickest way of getting things done satisfactorily in a university since they are a more democratic means of decision-making and collegiality is a central tenet in the traditional idea of a university. This is not so in the traditional thinking of business corporations. However, the new information-based economy is generating encouragement of flatter management structures. The development of the internet may yet make business decision-making more like that of universities.

Although the Senate is the governing body of the University the key decision-making body on academic matters is the Academic Board. It is a large and potentially unwieldy committee but is helped by the fact that its members are very experienced in the ways of committees, and are keen to get things done.

While the Chair must act as both M.C. and Umpire, in the end it is the members who determine how effective any committee is. It is my job not to ensure but to help ensure that creation is not needlessly delayed, and that the Academic Board does not become the Academic Bored.
JOE LORD MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Two of three annual minerals and energy scholarships have been awarded to UWA students.


Dr R. S. Worsley, Dr M. A. Kedda and A/Prof P. Thompson, Medicine: ‘Gene polymorphisms in the proteases/antiproteases MMP-1, MMP-0, TIMP-1 and TIMP-2 and susceptibility to emphysema in smokers’ — $255,000 (2001-03).


Dr D. Kirk, Physiology: ‘Cochlear mechanisms of otoacoustic emission generation’ — $375,000 (2001-05).

A/Prof E. Baker, Physiology: ‘Cochlear mechanisms of otoacoustic emission generation’ — $375,000 (2001-05).

Dr J. M. Young, Public Health: ‘Fellowship’ — $9300.


A/Prof E. Baker, Physiology: ‘Cochlear mechanisms of otoacoustic emission generation’ — $375,000 (2001-05).

Dr D. M. Scale and Dr W. Langdon, Pathology: ‘Regulation of signal transduction by Cbl: investigation of effects on the cytoskeleton, cell adhesion and cell motility’ — $255,000 (2001-03).


Dr S. Krauss, Plant Science: ‘Managing the evolutionary potential of fragmented native plant populations’ — $9000 (2001).


The Joe Lord Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Alisdair Grigg, whose PhD studies cover ‘Arid Zone Mine Site Revegetation Ecology and Ecophysiology: A Case Study in the Great Sandy Desert.’

He is jointly supervised by Professor Hans Lambers from the Plant Sciences group in the Faculty of Agriculture, and Dr Kingsley Dixon from Kings Park.


Dr J. M. Young, Public Health: ‘Fellowship’ — $9300.


Dr S. Krauss, Plant Science: ‘Managing the evolutionary potential of fragmented native plant populations’ — $9000 (2001).


Monday 9 April
BOTANY SEMINAR
‘Genetics and the conservation and utilisation of Western Australian flora,’ Dr Margaret Byrne, CALM. 4pm, Seminar Room 2.14, Botany.

Tuesday 10 April
PSYCHOLOGY Colloquium
‘The brain of the future,’ Professor Susan Greenfield, CBE, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, Senior Research Fellow, Lincoln College, Honorary Fellow, St Hilda’s College. 12 noon, Simmons Lecture Theatre, General Purpose 3 Building. All interested parties are welcome to attend.

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY
‘Grant Taylor on digital imaging.’ Grant Taylor is a Perth-based artist whose installation ‘How to kill a bug’ features in the do it exhibition. Grant will talk about representation and interpretation and discuss the use of digital imaging in contemporary arts practice. 1pm, LWAG.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION
‘Development and use of a spatio-temporal model to understand the risks associated with lupin anthracnose,’ Dr Moin Salam, AGWEST Northam. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

HISTORY SEMINAR
‘Mussolini and me’, Professor Richard Bosworth. 4.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, hackett Hall.

Wednesday 11 April
CHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Structural chemistry of adducts of Simple Group I Salts with (2,9-dimethyl)-1,10-phenanthroline,’ Allan White. 12 noon, White Lecture Theatre.

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
‘Role of mathematical models in the management and design of bioremediation systems’, Dr Prabhakar Clement, CWR. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre.

UNIVERSITY MUSIC SOCIETY
‘Facets.’ Michael Kieran Harvey (piano) presents Book One of Bach’s Well-tempered Clavier. 8pm, Octagon Theatre.

Thursday 12 April
FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT
‘Mozart for Four Hands’, Graeme Gilling (piano) and Jana Kovar (piano). An all-Mozart piano-duet concert featuring the Fugue in G minor K401 and the Sonata in F Major K497. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

Tuesday 17 April
SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION
‘Amazon Authrosols: Phosphate chemistry and human ecology’, Dr Carlos Schaef er, Visiting Scholar. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 18 April
PATHOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Epigenetic modification of DNA and neoplasia with special reference to cytosine methylation,’ Dr Peter Kay, Department of Pathology. 4.30pm, Pathology Conference Room, G14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEIMC.

FRIENDS OF UWA LIBRARY TALK
‘A fortunate life,’ John Rose. Grandson of Albert Facey, John Rose will provide insights into Albert’s extraordinary life. 8pm, Library Training Room, Reid Library.

Friday 20 April
MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Immune dysregulation in HIV patients treated with highly active anti-retroviral therapy.’ Dr Patricia Price, Clinical Immunology, RPH. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIMC.

ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE WORKSHOP
‘Worldwide trends in earning surprise: Evidence and implications,’ Mr Ron Bird, University of Technology, Sydney. 2pm, Room I.93, Accounting and Finance Research Centre, First Floor, Economics and Commerce Building.

ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR
‘King Chulalongkorn defines the Jatakas: Thai Buddhist scholarship in the age of Colonialism,’ Patrick Jory. 1 to 2.30pm, G.25 Seminar Room, Ground Floor, Social Sciences Building.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED
The University of Western Australia and the Department of Cardiology at Royal Perth Hospital are currently conducting a research study titled “Effect of exercise on vascular function in hypercholesterolaemic and/or coronary artery disease populations.” The study is aiming to determine the effect of exercise training on blood vessel function in people with high cholesterol and/or coronary artery disease and therefore provide a greater understanding of the effects and value of exercise training in these populations.

Although exercise training has previously been shown to be beneficial in these people, this study is aiming to provide a scientific rationale for the benefit. There is a belief that abnormal functioning of the inner lining of the blood vessels is the first stage in the development of athero-sclerotic disease, which is the precursor to coronary artery disease and heart attack. This study is hoping to show that exercise training leads to an improvement in blood vessel function in people with high cholesterol and those with coronary artery disease. A positive finding from this study may result in improvements in the management and treatment of those with cardiovascular disease.

VOLUNTEERS WITH HIGH CHOLESTEROL
(and not taking cholesterol-lowering medication) and/or coronary artery disease are needed to take part in an eight-week exercise training programme and testing.

Participants would be required to attend twice-weekly exercise sessions at Royal Perth Hospital for the eight-week period. People must be aged between 25 and 70. Any females taking part must be post-menopausal.

People who are currently not exercising regularly are preferred. People who think they might be suitable and are interested in finding out more about the study can phone Jenny Walsh (Cardiology Research) at Royal
Art goes digital
Perth artist Grant Taylor will talk about representation and interpretation at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery’s Tuesday Live presentation tomorrow.
Grant, whose installation How to Kill a Bug features in the do it exhibition at the gallery, will also discuss the use of digital imaging in contemporary arts practice, referring to his own work as an example.
Robert Cook (pictured), the curator of the do it exhibition, has close contact with some bugs in Grant Taylor’s interpretation of How to Kill a Bug, 1996.
The gallery hosts free talks every Tuesday at 1pm. Bring your lunch; tea and coffee are available for $1.

CAN YOU HELP WITH THIS RESEARCH?
Volunteers are needed for research into COLD SORES AND ASTHMA TREATMENTS
The Department of Microbiology is testing the use of tea tree oil as an alternative therapy in the treatment of cold sores. If you suffer from cold sores but are otherwise in good health, please call Gail Lampacher (9346 4660 or gaillamp@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) or Christine Carson (9346 3288) for more information.
Volunteers will be given a tube of ointment to use the next time they get a cold sore.
The Asthma and Allergy Research Institute is looking for people to help with studies assessing new treatments for asthma of COPD (emphysema).
They need people both with and without asthma or emphysema. If you think you could help, please email: aari@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or phone the centre on 9346 3198 and leave your contact details.
Remember, 2001 is the International Year of Volunteers ... so be part of it!


A/Prof S. Houghton, Graduate School of Education and A/Prof R. Tannock, Graduate School of Education and A/Prof R. Tannock (external): ‘Stimulus response time synchronisation as a primary executive impairment in children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder’ — $12,190 (2001).


Dr. R. Bencini, Animal Science: ‘Habitat and spatial requirements of an endangered marsupial, the dabbler (parantechinus apicalis)’ — $7000 (2001).

Dr H. Millar (left), Plant Science: ‘Physiological adaptations to oxygen stress and associated metal toxicity within a rare and endangered plant community’ — $7000 (2001).


Dr P. Poot, Plant Science: ‘Physiological adaptations to oxygen stress and associated metal toxicity within a rare and endangered plant community’ — $7000 (2001).

Dr M. Ritz, Graduate School of Education, and Dr D. Engel (external): ‘Understanding the meaning of the present perfect: a comparative study of its uses in English dialects around the world and in some romance and germancian languages’ — $11,289 (2001).


Due to the Easter break, the deadline for Campus Diary entries has been moved forward to: 5pm TUESDAY 10 APRIL