Natural law in theory and practice

A PhD and a big family

by Lindy Brophy

St Thomas More has had a huge influence on the life of Dr Pina Ford.

As a young single undergraduate, she was among the first intake of female residents at St Thomas More College. A few years later, she and husband Murray were married in the College chapel.

And now, she had been awarded a PhD with distinction for her work on the natural law context of Thomas More’s Utopia. She dedicated her thesis to the late Fr Tim Quinlan, a long-time friend and former chaplain at the College, who died while she was writing it.

Dr Ford is one of 63 postgraduate students who received their PhDs at two graduation ceremonies earlier this month.

She is also a mother of seven: Kate is a graduate of the Department of Psychology; Matthew is studying Arts; Patrick is studying Architecture; Tim, who is head boy of Trinity College this year (following in the footsteps of both of his older brothers), is also headed for UWA; Andrea, the only member of the family who has so far strayed from UWA, is in her final year of physiotherapy at Curtin University; Michael is in high school and Joshua is still in primary school.

“I was first inspired to think about the concept of natural law many years ago by one of my BA tutors, Professor Julius Kovesi,” Dr Ford said.

“I had always loved philosophy and found it supported my English studies perfectly. When Michael went to kindergarten, I started work on my master’s degree, on medieval Renaissance thought. I hadn’t been finished long when Joshua was born.

Joshua has Down’s Syndrome and needs extra parenting but, even with the extra load, Dr Ford was still intrigued by the idea of natural law and wanted to pursue it.

“I found that nobody had studied Thomas More through his major text, Utopia, from the perspective of his being a man of conscience. I was so excited because I thought it was something that would have been done hundreds of years ago.

“I found out later that natural law was an unusual perspective from which to study the text. But it worked out perfectly for me because Professor Bob White, in the English Department had just completed extensive work on natural law during the Renaissance, and he became my supervisor.”

Dr Ford paid tribute to Professor White and also the Head of the Department, Professor Andrew Lynch. “They have great respect for everybody and intellectual generosity. They make it a wonderful experience to be part of the English Department,” she said.

Dr Ford is now tutoring in philosophy at Notre Dame University, after filling in as UWA chaplain over the winter while Fr Gerald Brennan was away.

She said an original quote from Fr Tim Quinlan summed up her view of St Thomas More, her thesis and her approach to life. “He used to say: ‘Truth isn’t either/or, it’s also/and’.”

Dr Pina Ford and St Thomas More keep crossing paths

(INSET) Dr Ford’s other life — her family

More Graduation stories pages 6-7
A bright light is about to shine on Queensland. The world’s media will be covering CHOGM in Brisbane (2-9 October 2001). Not only will there be a focus on the Heads of State, including the increasingly notorious President Mugabe of Zimbabwe, together with the street protests which the TV cameras find so irresistible, but a veritable array of cultural events which surround the main CHOGM Conference.

Notable among those events will be a Peoples’ Tent, with a focus on education, organised by the International Development Program for Australian universities and colleges. There will also be an academic conference — “The Commonwealth of Ideas” — in which I have been asked to give the lead paper on Commonwealth Studies.

We should all pay attention to Queensland, which is becoming so much more than the Gold Coast and tropical holidays.

For nearly a decade, Queensland has been developing a strategy to become ‘The Smart State’ – investing in the kind of R & D which underpins the Innovation Revolution in the new technologies, notably bio-tech. The aim has been a diversification of the Queensland economy, with more of the controversial new economy, to complement its traditional resource and agricultural sectors of the old economy.

While the world has persisted with popular images of a frontier land, including red-neckism and big pineapples, Queensland has been pushing open new frontiers of education, research and training.

Consider two sets of data in that transformation. One is the sheer scale of State – as against purely Commonwealth – funding places behind research and education, notably in the university sector. Some $300 million has been invested by the State over the past decade in the Queensland universities (for capital development and new places):

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In 1999/2000 a further $50m was applied to major research infrastructure, together with significant direct research grants to support bio-tech laboratories. State funds have also been used to leverage Commonwealth funds.

Most recently, the Beattie Government announced a $500 million Education Export Plan (involving up to $100m annually over 5 years) towards doubling the State’s earnings from the export of education and training. It is reckoned that over 5000 new jobs have already been generated by education exports and that number will rise substantially if the half billion of other expansion is achieved.

In the light of these developments, it is pre-eminently significant for those of us in the West to consider a central question: how is this State investing in the kind of education, research and training which will prepare itself for the global trends towards knowledge economies.

Natural resources have served WA well and they will do so in the future. But they will need the application of new technologies in value-adding production... New R & D will be required to underpin IT and bio-technology initiatives. Exports, involving educational exports, will require stimulation. And education and training will be critical in our workforce.

What are we doing about these seminal matters for the future of WA? The State Government has established a new Science Council. Its budget is modest by Queensland standards, but it is at least focused on R & D matters, with the Premier himself taking up the portfolio of Science. The universities of Perth have urged the State to consider the importance of supporting a push for educational exports in the Asia region. And here, at our University, we are about to launch a major public initiative – A Vision for WA – which aims to develop a wide public discussion on the longer-term future of WA.

In the centenary of Federation, it is important that we develop such State ‘blue prints’ for the future.

The future indeed begins at home.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
Ancient rocks unlock new evidence

Ten years is a drop in the ocean where geology is concerned. But it sure makes a difference when it’s ten years between geological symposiums.

The fourth International Archaean Symposium is at UWA this week. It is held every ten years and always in Perth.

Head of the Department of Geology and Geophysics and chairman of the symposium, Associate Professor Mark Barley, said that there had been many important developments in Early Precambrian geology since the last symposium, in 1990, making for an exciting week.

The availability and widespread use of more precise isotopic dating techniques have produced much better constraints on the timing of events in Early Precambrian terrains,” Professor Barley said.

A highlight of the conference is a session dedicated to the contribution to metallogenic studies by UWA’s Professor David Groves. Dr Neil Phillips from CSIRO Exploration and Mining will honour Professor Groves as one of Australia’s leaders in science.

He has excelled in his field in areas of research, teaching, service to the scientific community and relationships with industry. Dr Phillips says the mining community of WA owes much to his unique perspectives on economic geology over the past three decades.

He holds a personal chair in the Department of Geology and Geophysics and is director of the Centre for Global Metallogeny (CGM).

“Under David’s leadership, UWA economic geology has evolved from a nickel focus in the 1970s to the Archaean Gold group in the early 1980s. Winning National Key Centre state in the late 1980s marked a new phase of growth into many other commodities and the Centre for Global Metallogeny (CGM) now has a truly international breadth,” Dr Phillips said.

Evidence suggesting that there is life on Mars would have been another highlight of the symposium.

Dr David McKay, senior scientist for planetary science and exploration from NASA’s Johnson Space Centre, who first suggested in 1996 that there could be life on Mars, was scheduled to present a public lecture about the possibility of life on Mars.

But, at the last minute, Dr McKay’s trip was cancelled, because of new security arrangements, following the terrorist attacks. Only ‘mission-critical’ travel is currently allowed.

His team’s hypothesis was based on data gathered from a Martian meteorite. The team had since gathered additional information and a free public lecture was planned as part of the symposium.

A paper by Dr McKay, Early evolution of life: What can we learn from planetary science? says that viable life forms have been found on earth in ancient permafrost and in hot springs at temperatures significantly above 100°C. “Can we confidently state that no life can exist at such temperatures?” he argues.

“For example, microbial life trapped inside the Surveyor III camera has apparently even survived a round trip to the Moon with a stopover of 2.5 years in the hard vacuum and high radiation environment. So life is hardy. It can live wherever liquid water can be found. It can survive vacuum and radiation for a while.

“Why would we not expect it on Mars?”

Dr Janet Dunphy, a postdoctoral research fellow in the CGM, and one of the organisers of the symposium, said that WA was the world’s most appropriate venue for the conference, as it contained some of the world’s biggest gold, nickel and iron ore deposits, oldest rocks (3.8 billion years old) and minerals (4.2 billions years old), oldest evidence of life (3.5 billions years old) and biggest cratons (areas of ancient crust).

“It makes WA one of the world’s most important natural laboratories for studying the evolution of the early Earth. Many of the important sites will be visited by symposium excursions,” Dr Dunphy said.

There are more than 450 registrants for this international symposium, including large contingents coming from Canada, China, Russia, Japan, the Netherlands and South America.
Managing asthma and exercise in his life and his work

Emeritus Professor Alan Morton ... an asthmatic who still plays rugby

Walking is good, swimming is even better, but stay away from cross-country skiing.

After 32 years’ research into asthma and exercise, semi-retired exercise physiologist Alan Morton gives this advice for people who suffer asthma.

“Nobody really knows why swimming is so good for asthmatics. Perhaps it’s because they breathe in humidified air just above the water, as they swim. It’s cold dry air that is the enemy of asthmatics. That’s why cross-country skiing is so difficult: the air is very cold and very dry and each event takes a long time, which means a lot of exposure,” he said.

Emeritus Professor Morton, who still comes into his office in the Department of Human Movement and Exercise Science about twice a week, was recently awarded an honorary Doctorate from the University of Victoria in British Columbia, where he taught for two years before joining UWA in 1968.

The former world-class rugby player helped establish the sport program while he was there and he kept in touch with his colleagues over the past 32 years. Some of the hundreds of books and papers published by Professor Morton and Adjunct Professor Ken Fitch on asthma and exercise have kept communication open between the two universities and, indeed, hundreds of universities around the world.

Professor Morton’s interest in asthma started out as purely personal.

“I am an asthmatic but I used to play Test rugby. I used to go through agony not being able to breathe because, all those years ago, there weren’t the medications available for asthmatic athletes to take before an event.”

He said that about 11 per cent of Australia’s Olympic athletes were asthmatic, including Dawn Fraser and Kieran Perkins. That’s indicative of the percentage of Australians who suffer asthma, one of the highest incidences in the world.

“Even if exercise provokes an asthma attack, it must become part of the management of the disease. It’s important for asthmatics, just like anybody else, to exercise regularly,” he said.

Part of his life-long research has been into what sorts of exercise are best for asthmatics (“I tell people, get a dog, and walk it”) and what sort of medications work best for different people. “Every research study we did opened up more questions,” he said.

“There are as many different types of asthma as there are people, and everybody has to manage their own asthma individually.”

Professor Morton and Professor Fitch were contracted to help with drug testing at the Sydney Olympics.

“Ventilin, taken through the mouth, with a puffer is OK for athletes but taken in the much more virulent tablet form, it can affect an athlete’s heart rate. So it was banned but hard to pick up in urine tests. Ken and I had to work out a way it could be identified,” he said.

At the age of 67, three years after official retirement, Professor Morton still plays some touch rugby and tennis and walks his dog. He still takes medication to manage his asthma.

In the recent Queen’s Birthday honours list, he was made a Member of the General Division of the Order of Australia (AM) for his contribution to asthma and exercise research.

He is currently helping Notre Dame University set up a sport and recreation leadership course for Aboriginal people at its Broome campus. The main aim of the program is to improve the health of Aboriginal people through sport and physical activity.

Our vc heads avcc

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, is the new President of the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee (AVCC).

He was elected by the heads of the other universities around the country for a two-year term, from January 2002.

Professor Schreuder said he was delighted on behalf of the University, as he believed his election reflected positively on the standing of UWA, its staff and students.

“If follows the pioneering work done in the AVCC Presidency by my predecessor at UWA, Professor Fay Gale,” he said.

The Vice-Chancellor is no stranger to heading up high-level committees. He is a past President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and former President of both the Australian Historical Association and the African Studies Association of Australasia and the Pacific.

The current President of the AVCC, Professor Ian Chubb, said Professor Schreuder had already played a significant role in steering the Australian higher education sector through difficult times so was well aware of the challenges faced by universities.
The Centre for Land Rehabilitation was shortlisted for an environmental excellence award.

The Golden Gecko is presented annually by the State Government Department of Mineral and Petroleum Resources for consistently high environmental performance in the minerals and petroleum industries.

A huge range of activities can be considered for the highly-prized award, including exploration, waste management, rehabilitation, prospecting, planning, management leadership and new technologies.

The director of the Centre for Land Rehabilitation (CLR), Associate Professor David Jasper, said the centre did not fit neatly into the usual category of entrants for the award, given that other entrants concentrated on a specific environmental project.

“Our centre represents an initiative in environmental management and land rehabilitation that is industry-wide and involves several collaborating institutions,” he said.

“The centre has become a focus of research and training for the mining industry, and makes an important contribution to teaching of undergraduates – the next crop of environment professionals.”

Formed in 1995, and based in the Soil Science and Plant Nutrition group, the centre has been supported by BHP Iron Ore, WMC Resources, and a Centres of Excellence grant from the State Government.

Through their Centres of Excellence grant, the CLR has been able to strengthen collaboration with other public universities and CSIRO.

“Our objective was to engage the University with industry, to link problems with expertise,” Professor Jasper said.

He and training and extension officer Sandra Maynard feel they have succeeded. Apart from research and undergraduate training, the centre conducts short extension courses for people in the industry.

They run up to ten courses each year and had more than 500 people attending them over the past 12 months. The workshops and seminars have covered mine waste and topsoil management, salt lake ecology, ecosystem restoration, remnant vegetation, environment monitoring, soil technology for contaminated land, wetlands, and native seeds.

The people who attend the courses are from mining companies, government, other universities and TAFEs, Landcare groups and environmental consultants.

The centre has plans for courses in salt land revegetation and essential oil crops.

“We make a substantial contribution to environmental excellence in the WA mining industry through these extension courses and our teaching and research,” Professor Jasper said.

“Our research, in collaboration with industry, continually enhances environmental management and site rehabilitation, through increased understanding of the constraints imposed by physical, chemical or biological aspects of the site to be rehabilitated.

“Our undergraduate teaching provides an awareness of the principles of soil science, hydrology, plant science, ecology and resource economics in the context of the mining industry.”

Current research projects include: an investigation into the use of coastal vegetation for revegetation of bauxite residue; the adaptations of nutrient uptake and heavy metal tolerance of plants growing in soils from lateritic nickel deposits in WA and New Caledonia; an ecophysiological approach to arid-zone mine site revegetation (a case study in the Great Sandy Desert); and a gold residue rehabilitation project at Boddington, in collaboration with Murdoch University.

CLR has also worked with some of the previous winners of the Golden Gecko, including gold mining company Placer and Alcoa World Alumina Australia, both of whom won Golden Geckos last year.
This group of Filipino teachers travelled from Manila to attend their graduation ceremony.

Of 20 staff members from the University of Santo Tomas, who graduated with a Master of Education degree from UWA’s Graduate School of Education (GSE), 14 made the trip to Perth to be presented with their degrees in Winthrop Hall.

The first graduation ceremony for the offshore Master of Education degree was held in November, 2000, in Hong Kong, where the GSE began its offshore courses in 1998. This cohort, from the Philippines, are the first to come to Perth to receive their degrees.

In the early 1990s, Professor Keith Punch was training staff at the University of Santo Tomas in research methods. UWA has a sister university arrangement with Santo Tomas, the biggest Catholic University in Asia and one of the oldest.

“Out of this training came discussions about a more formal program,” Professor Punch said. “So we decided to run a master’s degree in Manila, and 20 staff members took the course.”

The Master of Education runs over two years and involves coursework and a major paper. The offshore courses, in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore, are run exactly the same way as the courses in Perth. Staff from the GSE travel to Asia to deliver them.

In Singapore, the GSE is running the Master of Educational Management degree in conjunction with a commercial company, ICMD. One Singapore graduate has travelled to Perth to receive this degree. The School is also delivering a Master of Education degree at the Chinese High School in Singapore. In Hong Kong, the GSE delivers the Master of Education degree and the Doctor of Education degree, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Science and business get the graduates

Just over 720 graduates celebrated the spring graduation season in Winthrop Hall earlier this month.

The first of the two ceremonies saw 109 Bachelors of Science awarded, including the first BSc(Neuroscience) with first class honours to Helen Barbour. The science students dominated the ceremony with 78 Bachelors of Arts and 39 Bachelors of Engineering also presented.

Across the two ceremonies, 63 PhDs were conferred and one professional doctorate, an EdD to Dr Murray Swain.

Masters degrees awarded from the Graduate School of Education went to 54 students: 25 Masters of Education, 18 Masters of Education Management, nine Masters of Education Studies and two Masters of Special Education.

Nearly half of these were from the Philippines (see story left).

There were 55 Masters of Business Administration awarded in the 25th anniversary of the MBA at UWA.

The first Graduate Diploma in Musculoskeletal Studies was conferred on Sing Lun Lau. The recently-formed Centre for Musculoskeletal Studies has brought the study of physiotherapy back to UWA after more than 30 years.

The biggest single group of graduates over the whole season was, once again, commerce students, with 132 Bachelors of Commerce being awarded. They were complemented by 39 Bachelors of Economics and 27 Bachelors of Laws.
Different Doctorate

Tom O'Donoghue wishes sleepless nights on his colleagues at the Graduate School of Education.

His definition of the best doctorate supervisor is somebody who is not only a “top quality academic with supervisory experience, but somebody who will lie awake at night worrying about the students.”

Associate Professor O'Donoghue and Associate Professor Steve Houghton have recently delivered the first course work units for the School's first offshore Doctorate of Education, in Hong Kong.

Although it is an exciting venture for the GSE, the research that went into it caused the obligatory sleepless nights for Professor O'Donoghue and Dr Marnie O’Neill, who designed the course.

Back in 1997, the first student to graduate from a WA university with a professional doctorate was Dr Simon Clarke, who completed his Doctorate in Education (EdD) at the GSE.

(A professional doctorate differs from a PhD, being a research-based degree designed to address a specific problem within the student’s profession. It involves both course work and a 70,000 word thesis.)

“Soon after that, requests began coming in from Hong Kong to Professor Keith Punch, the GSE's director of international programs, for the School to deliver the EdD there.

“There was great excitement about doing the EdD offshore but we were also extremely concerned about getting it absolutely right,” Professor O'Donoghue said.

“Marnie O’Neill and I did a lot of research and found out that some British universities had tried to do the EdD in Hong Kong but many students had been dissatisfied. So we slowed down the enthusiasts until we could develop the best possible course,” he said.

“We developed the course work for this EdD so that it would help with the research work. It covers research preparation, methods, academic writing and thesis preparation,” Professor O’Donoghue said.

“After the course work, the supervision had to be properly planned.”

The school has taken on 33 students (after rejecting about half as many) and has tentatively assigned each of them a supervisor.

Supervisors visit Hong Kong twice a year and students can visit UWA. The course work is taught at the Hong Kong Baptist University.

Some of the students already have PhDs, some have two Masters degrees, which Professor O'Donoghue said was an indication of the esteem in which the EdD was held. The students include academic staff from the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong Baptist University, administrative staff from both of these and the Hong Kong Polytechnic, a school headmaster and university staff development professionals.

“In many ways, this is a research project for us: to flexibly deliver and supervise an off-shore doctorate program that is not distance education.”

BELOW: Associate Professor Tom O'Donoghue and Professor Steve Houghton with their enthusiastic doctorate students in Hong Kong.
Improved management skills and higher financial rewards are the two most common outcomes cited by students who have a Masters in Business Administration from UWA.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the MBA program at UWA, the Graduate School of Management conducted a survey of 1,094 graduates, to find out what they have done with their MBAs, how their lives have changed, what having the degree is worth in financial terms and what skills graduates say they learned during the course.

Since the first graduation of MBAs in 1977, 1266 MBAs have been conferred — the GSM was not able to contact all of them for the survey. When the course started, it was part of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce. The Graduate School of Management was set up 15 years later to administer the course.

Most graduates live in Australia (81 per cent), mainly in WA (72.7 per cent of all graduates), with 11 per cent living in Singapore. Adjusting for inflation, the GSM estimates that getting a UWA MBA produced a net increase in salary of around $40,000 for graduates, although the average increase for female graduates was lower.

Most graduates (88 per cent) agreed that the MBA improved their fundamental business skills. Comments include: “The MBA has been a valuable tool in helping me become a CEO of a top 100 Australian company …”; “From a financial viewpoint, the MBA was a stunning success …”; “The MBA is a life changing experience …”; “I obtained my job directly as a result of doing the MBA … most directors hold MBAs from UWA …”.

The GSM has attracted students from all over the world and graduates speak more than 30 languages. But there has been a distinct shift from European students to Asian students. In 1977, nearly 50 per cent of graduates spoke French. Since the Singapore campus was opened in 1998, there is a much higher proportion of Asian students and, in 2001, a third of all GSM graduates spoke Cantonese. This year, 25 per cent of the graduates from the MBA were Singaporeans.

Diversity policy offers refuge for Elvira

When Elvira Kuresjepi arrived in Australia two years ago, as a refugee from war-torn Bosnia, she had never touched a computer.

But she realised that computer skills would help her to find a job and make a new life for herself, so she quickly learned as much as she could. Her determination impressed the Graduate School of Management when they decided to employ an office assistant under UWA’s Workforce Diversity Strategy.

Elvira won the job from 18 applicants. Office manager Tracy Taylor said the GSM had decided to go for a permanent full-time assistant through the strategy, rather than a traineeship.

“We employed a young woman with a disability earlier in the year under a traineeship. Yew Keng (the finance officer) and I spent a lot of time teaching her skills and, at the end of the traineeship, she decided to take those skills and try for a job somewhere else. We hope Elvira will stay with us,” Ms Taylor said.

“We teach, in our MBA studies, that diversity in the workplace is a good thing, so we’re happy to be able to practise what we preach,” she said.

“I would always recommend to anybody on campus that they advertise their vacant positions through the diversity job bank,” Ms Taylor said.

Silver anniversary for the degree that offers golden opportunities
Technology developed by the Lions Eye Institute is providing a virtual second opinion for doctors in remote areas.

The Institute has set up Australia’s first Centre for E-health and is developing programs which can help medical officers, community nurses, Aboriginal health care workers and dentists in remote areas.

Associate Professor Kanagasingam Yogesan, Director of the Centre for E-health, said the technology was primarily developed for work in ophthalmology but he hoped other medical practitioners would take advantage of it.

“The School of Dentistry is already collaborating with us and our diagnostic software will help them enormously with work in remote areas. Dentists can look at X-rays and other information before they travel long distances to see the patients,” Professor Yogesan said.

“We have also collaborated with the State Government Health Department, who have used our teleophthalmology services in remote parts of the Gascoyne.

“The system can be used for medical advice and diagnosis — a second opinion if you like — from a distance, also training for community nurses and Aboriginal health workers in remote areas.

“We have already successfully trialed our system in WA Prisons and in other areas. We are currently refining the development of an Internet-based multimedia database system and a range of digital, easy-to-operate hand-held imaging instruments,” he said.

The Centre for E-Health is providing education and training, as well as Telehealth and E-Health research and development, for a broad range of medical specialties.

The Director of the Institute, Professor Ian Constable said: “E-Health provides a wonderful opportunity to offer people in remote areas access to medical specialists at minimal cost.”

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**With Professor Brian Stone’s background, it’s not surprising he has a swag of teaching awards.**

As a 16-year-old, Professor Stone began preaching in his native Wales, just a year after becoming a Christian and joining the local Baptist Church. Over the next few years he was frequently preaching in the valleys of Wales. He has always been good at delivering the message from the lectern, whether it’s in a lecture theatre or a church.

And now he has been elected President of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia, for a 12-month term starting in October.

From his teenage preaching, Professor Stone graduated to weekly preaching while he was a lecturer at Bristol University and his involvement with the church continued when he moved to Australia, where he has been on two occasions the acting pastor of his local Church.

He explained that although each congregation within the Baptist Church was autonomous, those churches (more than 100 of them) were part of the umbrella organisation.

“I will visit as many of these churches as I can during my 12-month term,” Professor Stone said. There are also normally three assemblies a year, which he will chair, and the council of the Baptist Churches meets every two months.

While Professor Stone has devoted his life to academe, he says before 1828 that Baptists and other nonconformists were not allowed in to Oxford and Cambridge universities.

“We may be exclusive (in our belief that there is only one way for sins to be forgiven) but we are also inclusive – our church is open to everybody,” he said.

Professor Stone will resign from all his UWA committees for the term of his presidency.
Some of the best ideas and inventions to come out of UWA in recent months have been evaluated ‘in house’ by MBA students.

Dr Andy Sierakowski, director of the Office of Industry and Innovation, brought together the intellectual property of half a dozen academics and the emerging expertise of students in the Management of Technology and Innovation course (part of the MBA).

“We have all these good ideas coming out of the University which need evaluating for commercialisation; and we have the course, run by Martin Cebis, who has a wide range of technology and innovation experience. So I thought why not bring them together?” Dr Sierakowski said.

An added benefit to what Dr Sierakowski calls a win-win situation was a prize of $1000, donated by Foundation Capital, one of a small number of venture capital companies in WA, for the winning team.

Mr Cebis’ students formed six groups of four and took on the evaluation of projects including new cancer technology, laser corneal topography, and a knowledge representation software program.

Each of the teams met with the researchers (after signing confidentiality agreements) and worked on the commercialisation potential of the invention, before presenting their evaluation reports.

They reported to a panel made up of Dr Sierakowski, Professor Michael Barber, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), and two venture capitalists.

The winning team, voted to have made the best presentation (on the knowledge representation program) was made up of Matt Callahan, an intellectual property lawyer, Paul Henhalen, an engineer, Li Huang, a foreign currency dealer, and Chris Denby, an IT manager for the State Government’s Department of Agriculture.

They are all studying for the Master of Business Administration. As Dr Sierakowski pointed out, many of the students had experience in technology, engineering and other areas which helped them assess an invention’s potential.

Mr Simon Hibbert, from Foundation Capital, presented a cheque for $1000 to the winners.

Associate Professor Paul Moyle is now on the board of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law. He was chosen to join the board with Professor Kathy Mack from Flinders University.

The International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law is a non-government association of judges, legislators, lawyers, academics and government officials who work actively on the administration of criminal justice both in their own jurisdiction and internationally. It participates in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice program.

Professor Moyle said the role of the Board of Directors was to set policy directions for the Society, which has delegates from every continent.

Other Western Australians on the Board are two senior judges, Chief Justice David Malcolm of the Supreme Court and Judge Mary Ann Yeats of the District Court.

The University was quick to respond after the recent shocking terrorist attacks in the United States.

UWA offered counseling services through Students Services and the International Office and Study Abroad Centre. The residential colleges also coordinated a similar approach.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, wrote to US students here offering sympathy, support and any help they needed to cope with the crisis.

He also wrote to all of our known alumni resident in the US, to let them know our thoughts were with them.

At the Graduation on the night after the attacks, the Chancellor, Dr Ken Michael, led one minute’s silence at the beginning of the ceremony as a mark of respect for those involved in the tragic events.

Our Safety and Health Office advised staff to cancel all non-urgent travel to destinations considered currently unsafe by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

And an ecumenical prayer service was held on campus a week after the event, for all staff, to offer prayers for the victims of terror and for peace in the world.
... now fathers can “have it all”

It was while he was teaching a group of medical students that the idea of a self-help book on fathering dawned on Bruce Robinson.

Professor Robinson’s newly published *Fathering From The Fast Lane* has already earned him more media exposure than his career as a successful lung physician, medical researcher and university professor.

But, as he says, a father’s paid work and his fathering can co-exist happily. Work does not need to be a father’s enemy. It just takes some thought and planning to make each role enrich the other, and the book has ideas on how to do that. His new role as up-front fathering role model can sit equally happily with his position as a surgeon and lecturer.

Professor Robinson somehow found the time to interview more than 75 fathers, from a pig farmer to the Prime Minister, with several plumbers, a couple of clergymen, an Iraqi refugee and a WWII spitfire pilot in between.

These interviews form the basis of the book and, based on the men’s (and often their wives’ and children’s) ideas, experiences and mistakes, he pulls together ideas and strategies for young dads.

“The goal of the book is to increase the chances that our children will live happy and healthy lives,” Professor Robinson said.

He is quick to point out that he does not claim to be a world champion father: he has made many mistakes and so have the men interviewed. One of the most helpful things about the book is the open sharing of these mistakes with others. Talking to so many and varied people about fathering made him see his own efforts differently and helped him improve his own fathering skills.

But something he was already doing, which he recommends, is taking the children on business trips. He has taken each of his three children (now teenagers) on business trips for a month at a time, turning work-related travel into a fathering advantage.

He says *Fathering From The Fast Lane* is like advice from the extended family we lost a hundred years ago.

Professor Robinson will bring his university colleagues up to speed on fathering at a seminar jointly organised by the Centre for Staff Development, the Safety and Health Office and the Equity Office on Tuesday October 23.

He will talk about the work/family balance at 4pm at the Centre for Staff Development, followed by drinks. His talk is open to all UWA staff members and their partners but please RSVP to csdoffice@csd.uwa.edu.au or call Jen de Vries on 9380 1515.

The password is CUSTOMER

Benefits of the new system for the customer are: increased speed; provision of a Work Order number in order to check on progress of jobs through the Entered, Approval, In Progress, Complete and Closed stages and obtain a summary of costs to date.

Although Mac users cannot input directly into the database, they can check on the progress of jobs and obtain a summary of costs to date.

OFM will continue to email users when a job has been completed.

For additional information or assistance, please contact Peter Hacking on extension 7959 or at phacking@admin.uwa.edu.au

**MAC USERS**


**PC USERS**

Maintenance or chargeable work: http://www.ofm.uwa.edu.au/ops/Jobform.htm

*HELP YOURSELF MAINTENANCE*

It is now possible for OFM customers to place a request for maintenance twenty-four hours a day, seven days week — directly onto the Maximo database on the web and be allocated a Work Order number immediately.

It is no longer necessary to either telephone OFM during working hours or complete a maintenance request form on the web. The job controller at OFM then had to rekey the data into the Maximo System.

Now, when the Job Controller receives the data from customers on a Maximo screen, it is only necessary to check the data and approve the request.

The new request form for PC users can be found on the OFM web page under Operations and Maintenance: http://www.ofm.uwa.edu.au
Schools, as they enter this twenty-first century, have greater challenges than ever before. The diversity of expectations from students and, indeed, the impending choices that face them as they complete their schooling, can be daunting.

Forming alliances with a range of institutions goes a long way towards demystifying the future and can provide the concrete understandings for students so that their decisions are less traumatic. It is the work and activities that occur with students that provide the experiences that enrich their curriculum in the context of what they could pursue in the future and where they might pursue it. So it is with the UWA-Shenton College Learning Links program.

The range of experiences to date have included: a workshop in an Engineering department for the Years 11 and 12 Technical Graphics students, visiting the Chemistry Department to gain a real sense of an academic’s project work, a senior lecturer from the Law School working regularly with a whole class, and the Department of Human Movement working with staff and students to enhance their full understanding of Life Long Fitness. In this particular case the 125 staff members of the College took this opportunity to attend two sessions conducted by Nick Randall and more than 100 of them pursued the cholesterol and sugar-testing program. The opportunity for work experience, in the range of occupations that form the village life at UWA, as well as academic pursuits such as working alongside researchers, has been of great benefit to students.

A student’s perspective of one of the Learning Links opportunities was reported in a recent College newsletter. Christina Li of Year 10 reported: “Ever since it was realised that individual organisms could be identified by their unique deoxyribose-nucleic-acid (DNA), it has become an important part of our science world. The study of DNA has captured the attention of so many people. I, along with a group of Year 10 Academically Talented Program (ATP) students at our College, have set out to investigate the structure of DNA. We were invited to the University through our College’s special Learning Links. There we took part in an important experiment to extract DNA from plant cells. We found the task educational and challenging. It required us to follow instructions carefully and be very precise with measurements. This led us to discover the structure of DNA. Truly, the experience has been a rewarding one. We were able to take away with us a more advanced knowledge of DNA, one of the most popular topics in the science world. We have been invited back to UWA to participate in the cloning of plants, which we will later take back to school.”

There have been opportunities on the reciprocal side as well. For example, groups of UWA students who needed to complete their assignment work in a ‘real world’ environment. They were set the task of preparing a web-site for a real organisation; consequently a terrific group of four e-commerce students worked and developed the Shenton College web site. As part of their assessment they presented their proposals to the college and to industry groups. In another field, a UWA researcher is using our students as part of a research project on change management. And in yet another example, the Department of Classics and Ancient History was responsible for the organisation of a Greek and Roman Festival held at the College, making use of the Arts Arena and other facilities of the Art and Technology complex.

The Learning Links partnership is an evolving one, which provides great opportunities to enhance and enrich people’s experiences in so many fields of endeavour. It is enormously valued by the college.
ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

A/Prof P. Singh, Dr M. Vincent, Chemistry: 'Development of sensor for measuring state of charge of lead acid batteries' — $100,000 (2001-02).

AMERICAN MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

Dr L. Sammels and Dr M. Beilharz, Microbiology, and Prof M. Grounds, Anatomy and Human Biology: 'Modulation of the acute inflammatory response to enhance transplant therapies for Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy' — $185,200 (2001-03).

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE

G Milne, Computer Science and Dr A. Weir (external): 'Language and compiler technology for reconfigurable computing' — $195,831 (external).


EXPORT GRAINS CENTRE LTD.

A/Prof W. Cowling, Plant Science: 'Development of skills in molecular genetics at UWA for improvement of Canola and Lupin' — $25,763 (2001-03).

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RESEARCH GRANTS & CONTRACTS feature in each issue of UWAnews

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis Courses

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2001

OPTICAL MICROSCOPY

November 5-7 9am-6pm Max: 6 Min: 4
This course covers general principles and applications of light microscopy including bright field, phase and Nomarski interference, polarizing and fluorescence microscopy. Students will be encouraged to bring their own samples for practical sessions. Any queries contact Professor John Kuo, ext. 2765, email: jikuo@cmm.uwa.edu.au.

CONFOCAL LASER SCANNING MICROSCOPY

November 8-9 9am-6pm Max: 8 Min: 4
The course covers the theory and practice of confocal microscopy. Students are encouraged to bring their own samples for practical sessions. Any queries please contact Prof John Kuo, ext. 2765, email: jikuo@cmm.uwa.edu.au.

SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

November 14-15 8.30am-4pm Max: 20 Min: 10
The course covers basic scanning electron microscopy, digital imaging and sample requirements. Users will be trained on the instruments appropriate to their needs. Afternoon practical sessions support the theory. Any queries contact Associate Professor Brendan Griffin, ext. 2739, email: bjg@cmm.uwa.edu.au. Please note that this course is a prerequisite for the Electron Microbeam Analysis Course and the Environmental Scanning Electron Microscopy Course.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

November 18-19 8.30am-4pm Max: 10 Min: 6
The special characteristics of the ESEM will be covered with emphasis on control of temperature and pressure of the sample chamber environment. The benefits of the ESEM will be explored on a range of moist and uncoated specimens of a physical and biological nature. The new charge contrast imaging will be covered. Afternoon practical sessions support the theory. Students are encouraged to bring their own samples for practical sessions. Any queries contact Associate Professor Brendan Griffin, ext. 2739, email: bjg@cmm.uwa.edu.au. Completion of the SEM course is a prerequisite for this course.

ELECTRON MICROPROBE ANALYSIS

November 22-23 8.30am-6pm Max: 20 Min: 4
This course is in two parts: Part A will review the nature of a digital image; explaining the relevant terminology, the currently available facilities for printing and transferring of images and the various media for image storage (including a cost and archival comparison). Part B will introduce image manipulation software including Adobe Photoshop, NIH Image, Macromedia Freehand, and PowerPoint. The course is conducted on Macintosh computers but is platform independent and suitable for PC users. Each part will consist of a two-hour presentation followed by hands-on practicals. For further enquiry contact Associate Professor Brendan Griffin, ext. 2739, email: bjg@cmm.uwa.edu.au.

INTRODUCTION TO TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

November 26-28 8.30am-6pm Max: 16 Min: 6
This course provides an introduction to the capabilities of TEM and basic level practical training in the operation of a microscope. It is suitable for biological scientists, physical scientists and engineers. Any queries contact Dr Martin Saunders, ext. 8092, email: martin@cmm.uwa.edu.au or Associate Professor Andrew Johnson, ext. 2764. Please note that this course is a prerequisite for the Biological Transmission Electron Microscopy course and all other TEM courses.

TEM SAMPLE PREPARATION FOR MATERIALS SCIENCE

November 19-20 9am-6pm Max: 8 Min: 4
This course will provide an overview of the TEM sample preparation facilities for materials science applications available within the CMM. The basic techniques will be discussed and practical sessions will be arranged to introduce the relevant equipment. There will be ample opportunity for attendees to discuss their specific sample preparation requirements with CMM staff. Any queries contact Dr Martin Saunders, ext. 8092, email: martin@cmm.uwa.edu.au.

JEOL 3000F FEGTEM: BASIC OPERATION

December 3-5 9am-6pm Max: 9 Min: 3
This course will provide an introduction to the operation and capabilities of the JEOL 3000F FEGTEM. It will only be catered to those with previous TEM experience. The course will consist entirely of hands-on sessions at the microscope and will cover the basic operation of the microscope and the use of the digital imaging system. It will not cover in any detail the advanced analytical capabilities of the instrument. Any queries contact Dr Martin Saunders, ext. 8092, email: martin@cmm.uwa.edu.au or Associate Professor Andrew Johnson, ext. 2764. Please note that the course will be divided into six half-day lab sessions, with each attendee participating in only two of those sessions. Completion of theITEM course is a prerequisite for this course.

BIOLOGICAL TRANSMISSION ELECTRON MICROSCOPY

December 4-5 9am-6pm Max: 6 Min: 4
This course covers both theory and ‘hands on’ practical training for specimen preparation, ultramicrotomy, and TEM operation for biological applications. The final sessions will focus on interpretation of results and problem solving. Any queries contact Prof John Kuo, ext. 2765, email: jikuo@cmm.uwa.edu.au. Completion of the ITEM course is a prerequisite for this course.

DIGITAL IMAGE MANIPULATION AND STORAGE

November 22-23 8.30am-6pm Max: 20 Min: 4
The course is in two parts: Part A will review the nature of a digital image; explaining the relevant terminology, the currently available facilities for printing and transferring of images and the various media for image storage (including a cost and archival comparison). Part B will introduce image manipulation software including Adobe Photoshop,

Compiled by Joanna Thompson
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Facsimile: 9380 1162
Email: joanna.thompson@uwa.edu.au

24 SEPTEMBER 2001 Volume 20 Number 14
Monday 24 September
PHILOSOPHY/INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR

Tuesday 25 September
LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY FLOOR TALK
‘Centenary of Federation Youth Festival—Tour of Geo-Images and Wide Open.’ In honour of this week’s festival celebrating the centenary of Australian Federation, we present a special guided tour of current exhibitions. 1pm, LWAG.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
‘Harnessing the benefits of soil microorganisms in farming systems’, Dr Margaret Roper. CSIRO. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
‘The history of angiosperm diversity’, Prof Peter Crane. Director, The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. 6.30pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 2.

Wednesday 26 September
CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
‘The role of phytoplankton in riverine biogeochemical cycles: linking experi-mental, modelling and mass balance approaches’, A/Prof Paul Bukavechas. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre, Mathematics Building.

RAYNE LECTURE
‘The UK prospective diabetes study: results and follow-up’, Prof Carole A. Cull. Senior Statistician, UK Prospective Diabetes Study, Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford. 5.30pm, The Mary Lockett Lecture Theatre, QEIIIMC.

Thursday 27 September
WABCAP SEMINAR
‘Diet and exercise for attainment of peak bone mass’, Kathy Henderson. 7.45 to 8.45am, WAIMR Meeting Room, Ground Floor, B Block, SCGH.

Friday 28 September
MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Oncoprotein interactions in leukaemia’, Nadia Milech, TVW ICHR. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIIIMC.

Sunday 30 September
MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM
‘From basins to mountains: Rodinia at the turn of the century’, presented by the Tectonics Special Research Centre in memory of the work and vision of Prof Chris Powell. For further information contact Keith Sircombe, ext. 7871 or email ksircombe@tsrc.uwa.edu.au.

Tuesday 2 October
SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR
‘Measurement and estimation of water and solute transport in a deep sand (or how to spend too many years as a PhD student!)’, Yvette Oliver. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

PUBLIC LECTURE
‘Snowball earth: testing the limits of global change’, Paul Hoffman, Professor of Geology, Harvard University. 5.30pm, Octagon Theatre, no charge. For further information, contact Keith Sircombe, ext. 7871 or email ksircombe@tsrc.uwa.edu.au.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
‘The role of the Arts in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance’, Peter Sellars, Artistic Director, 2002 Adelaide Festival. 6pm, Social Science Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 3 October
ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Century of the ‘right brain’—a futurist’s view’, Ann Macbeth. 1pm, Room 1.81, First Floor, Anatomy and Human Biology.

ARCME SEMINAR
‘Therapeutic nuclear oncology’, Dr Harvey Turner, Fremantle Hospital. 5.15pm, Billings Room, Electrical and Electronic Engineering Building.

Thursday 4 October
WABCAP SEMINAR
‘Bone markers’, Prof R. Eastell. 7.45 to 8.45am, WAIMR Meeting Room, Ground Floor, B Block, SCGH.

Friday 5 October
ENGLISH WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR
Stephen Dedman and Rosemary Stevens will present readings of their works as part of the MA in Creative Writing. 1pm, G14, Arts Building.

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Biologist meets enzyme kinetics’, Dr Liz Williams. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre. Enquiries: 9380 3324.

Sunday 7 October
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
‘Xanana Gusmao and Ms Adelziza Magno, a newly-elected member of the Parliament of East Timor, will speak on the current situation of the East Timorese refugees in West Timor and the issues facing their reintegration on return. 2pm, Winthrop Hall. Entry by gold coin or other donation, proceeds to ‘Association for the Veterans of the Resistance’.

Tuesday 9 October
PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP SEMINAR
‘Material girls? Wherefore the Domina in twelfth- and thirteenth-century Occitania’, Jennifer Smith, History. 7.30pm, Post-graduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Wednesday 10 October
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
‘Linkages between gender, culture and religion with reference to Muslim women living in Australia’, Dr Samina Yasmeen, Political Science. 1pm, IAS.

Thursday 11 October
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
‘Parliament meetings and civil society’, Dr Judith Brett, La Trobe University. 6.30pm, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Friday 12 October
BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Metabolic interactions between symbiotic partners in N2-fixing legume nodules’, Prof David Day. 1pm, Simmonds Lecture Theatre. Enquiries: 9380 3324.
Friends of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery welcome new friends.

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DIVERSITY AWARD FOR GENERAL STAFF — 2001

The Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee seeks to acknowledge and recognise a general staff member who has made a significant contribution towards the provision of inclusive services for students.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Demonstrated commitment to providing a quality service that responds effectively to diversity;
- Nature of proactive diversity projects/ideas that have been implemented in the local area;
- Evidence of student satisfaction;
- Extent of improvement in the provision of student services and/or learning environment;
- Extent to which the initiative/project/idea can be applied to other areas.

Submission requirements as follows: Applicants are required to provide 3 copies of their submission (a maximum of 3 A4 pages) in the following format:
1. Nominee details: name, position and faculty/department/school/section.
2. A brief statement addressing the selection criteria with an emphasis on outcomes, achievements etc. An applicant may also include relevant documentation that supports the claims made against the selection criteria.
3. Nominator details (if applicable): name, position and faculty/department/school/section.

Written nominations for this award must be submitted to the Equity Office by Friday 19 October. For further information contact Malcolm Fialho on extension 2252 or email mflyhalo@admin.uwa.edu.au.

All staff are strongly encouraged to widely promote this award and seek suitable nominations.

RAINE BACHELOR OF MEDICAL SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIPS 2002

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

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

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

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

Application forms are available from:

Executive Officer, Raine Medical Research Foundation,
Suite 24, 95 Monash Avenue, Hollywood Specialist Centre.
Telephone: (08) 9386 9880 facsimile: (08) 9386 9522
Email address: libell@raine.uwa.edu.au

Applications should be lodged with the Raine Foundation by 31 October 2001.

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

FOR RENT

2-BEDROOM APARTMENT, fully furnished home in Shenton Park. Air-con., pool, near buses and shops and five mins from UWA, available from January to February. $250 per week. Call 9381 4492.

SWANBOURNE, ONE LARGE BEDROOM available with personal phone line from a 3-bedroom house. $80p/w, available 30 Sept. Close to Allen Park, shops, beach and public transport. Highly pleasant environment. Call 9384 2220 or 0407 938 422.

WANTED TO RENT

VISITING SWEDISH PROFESSOR wanting to rent fully-equipped house close to UWA during October and November. Call Lars Zhristersson on 9386 0304.

FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION WANTED for visiting couple from UK in Perth/Fremantle from October through until March 2002. Non-smokers. Excellent references. Contact Dave on 0438 05 7056 or email dwebb@ecel.uwa.edu.au.

HOUSE TO SIT OR RENT. Two visiting academic couples from the UK wish to sit or rent a house in the vicinity of the University for January and February 2002. References are available on request. Please contact Dr Natasha Lebas, nl10@st-andrews.ac.uk or Dr Joseph Tomkins, jtomkins@st-andrews.ac.uk.

FOR SALE

TOYOTA CARRY 1995, economical family-sized manual Sedan, 2.2L, 4 CYL. Air-con., remote C/L and immobilizer, tow bar, service history. 117,000kms, very good condition, bargain price at $10,500. Child/baby seat also available. Call Caroline on ext. 1752 or 0414 255 935.

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