Images captured by geography honours students working in exotic locations around the world … see centre spread
Who can ever forget Tuesday 11 September 2001?

The tragic events in America will mark our lives for all time. Indeed I suspect we shall all be able to recall the exact moment when we first heard of the terrible news.

Just as I can still vividly recollect when I learned of the assassination of President Kennedy, so now I will also remember the moment – as I left the opening night performance of Mozart’s “Marriage of Figaro” at His Majesty’s – how two elderly ladies suddenly said as we descended in the lift to the Cloisters car park, “New York has been attacked…”

I was soon home in front of the CNN TV images which provided those first horrendous pictures of the towers aflame. Then falling in ruins. It is all now part of our collective consciousness. As I write, the world anxiously awaits the American counter-response to terrorism.

A vast amount has been written about the meaning of that day which changed the world. Here is merely a small comment from the perspective of our University.

It was most important that we marked the tragedy as an institution. Graduation on the next day, Wednesday, provided the appropriate formal occasion when we could publicly express our sorrow and then stand in silence before the playing of the national anthem. The following day an inter-faith prayer service was held in the Murdoch Lecture Theatre at which I read opening words of deep sympathy, support for our American students (over 150 currently at UWA) as well as support for our Islamic community who unfairly begin to feel the target of hostile comment.

Our International Centre has also greatly assisted in contacting any students from the USA with offers of practical support. They have also helped my office and the Development division in preparing a letter of support to be sent to our graduates in the USA itself.

Some of those graduates indeed work in Manhattan, even a few in the WT Towers. We have heard of miraculous escapes from the buildings, but there are deep concerns for others. (It seems there are over 15,000 Australians in New York, mostly in the finance industry.)

A global integration of markets and economies has become a defining feature of our age. The American tragedy and global crisis of security has shown us all how closely the world is also now integrated in terms of public cultures and public awareness of events. The ‘global village’ has become a reality beyond a catchy slogan.

Universities are also now critical to that internationalising process and our understanding of it. Suddenly scholars were needed on the media to provide commentary on the events, analysis of the options for the governments of the world, and historical background on key societies and nations – not least Afghanistan.

More broadly, it has been repeatedly remarked that an unstable world environment desperately needs a combination of education, prosperity and mutual understanding between cultures if an enduring global stability is ever to be achieved.

At that educational level, for all of us at UWA, it simply reinforces our commitment to internationalisation in all our programs and indeed in our outlook in all we do.

A positive element, as we ponder the awful news, has been the very international activities on campus this past semester. In particular, the IAS cross-disciplinary programs have given us wonderful connections with critical international issues in research: Professor Chris Leaver from Oxford has led fascinating discussions on GM plants and foods (plus advisory discussions on the commercialisation of research) … Professor Nadia Rosenthal from Harvard and the new EU gene research centre in Italy, has brought the stem cell debate into vivid and accessible public presentations … while Dr Joanna Innes of Somerville College, Oxford, has not only shared her work in early modern European studies but contributed significantly to our own equal opportunity discussions in relation to gender and inclusivity.

Reaching outwards from UWA into the wider world of higher education institutions, our new Internationalisation Committee has just completed a major in-depth analysis of our global operations. New, focussed strategies are developing.

The language of internationalisation is, I find, naturally talked on our campus. We are an exceptionally well connected and internationally trained community of scholars. We are also a strongly multicultural society.

In the week of the 11th of September 2001 that is a powerful statement of hope.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
Forensic science is changing the face of policing all over the world.

... and forensic scientists at UWA are well placed to help solve crimes in both WA and south east Asia.

“We have all the expertise here ... I'd love to see this University's forensic skills used to solve 'cold cases'. It's just a matter of applying the science to crime investigation,” said Robin Napper, the new director of research and development at the Forensic Science Unit.

Mr Napper, a former police officer in the UK for more than 30 years, has been on secondment to the NSW police force for two years, to introduce forensically-driven policing. He has also lectured extensively around the world, in the UK, to the FBI in the USA, and Interpol in France.

His investigative skills are now bringing together the forensic experts at UWA, at a time when the State Government has just committed $22 million to ensure adequate resources to effectively link WA to the National DNA Database and to utilise DNA as a crime investigation tool.

“Professor George Stewart, Professor Win Bailey and Dr Ian Dadour have some great ideas for the future of forensic science. It's the way the law is going. It's completely changed policing in the UK and it will start happening here too. There is nobody doing this kind of work in south east Asia and it would be good to see the University become involved in this arena”

“There is a great demand for forensic teaching and I hope to be able to market the forensic potential of this University in south east Asia and wherever else it's needed,” Mr Napper said.

“There is nothing to stop the University working as an independent source to solve cold cases — crimes that were never solved. It’s staggering how many cold cases have been solved in the UK since forensically-driven policing was introduced,” he said.

Mr Napper helped to set up UK’s National Crime Faculty (NCF) in 1995, the same year that a national DNA database was established.

“Until the NCF, there were 53 police forces all operating independently in the UK, with nobody sharing expertise, information or experience. So we set up a centre for best practice and hundreds of forensic experts came tumbling out of the woodwork!

“We were able to bring together all the best resources for crime solving, coupled with the new DNA register.”

Mr Napper said the biggest problem he faced in introducing forensically-driven policing to NSW was the lack of DNA legislation.

“Despite that, I was part of the team which managed to solve the rape of the elderly woman in Wee Waa within ten days, thanks to using DNA,” he said.

“DNA can be used to help identify recidivism too. There is strong empirical evidence that it is not, as was previously believed, ten per cent of the population that commits 90 per cent of the crime; DNA has helped us prove that it’s only five per cent.”

Teleforensics is an area that Mr Napper would like to see introduced at UWA.

“'When a crime is committed, say way out in the bush, the police can take a video camera to the scene and relay it in real time to forensic experts who can then guide the officers at the scene regarding taking forensic evidence.

“With the advanced telecommunications facilities at CTEC, the University is brilliantly set up to run this kind of operation. And all the experts are here together on the campus, in biology, pathology, zoology, geology, botany, chemistry and so on.

“Good forensics, together with victimology (the victim’s background), accounts for the solving of 75 per cent of crimes.”
The future of legumes in our agricultural industry has become more than just a possibility, with CLIMA stepping out on its own.

CLIMA, the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture, based in the Faculty for Agriculture, had been operating as a federal government-funded co-operative research centre until June last year. With that funding drying up, the centre recently restructured and celebrated its commercial launch with $4 million of industry funding, $3 million from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC).

CLIMA also has significant ‘in kind’ contributions from its four partners, the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, University of Western Australia, CSIRO and Murdoch University.

About 60 researchers, growers, processors, marketers and other key stakeholders attended an industry consultation workshop to launch the new centre. Chairman of the CLIMA Industry Advisory Group, Trevor Flugge, told the gathering that crop rotations were vital for WA’s Mediterranean soil types.

"Improving rotations is one of the best ways of improving wheat quality, and pasture and grain legumes have a great role to play in this," Mr Flugge said.

"Up to a third of wheat harvested in WA has quality below what the market prefers. Developing suitable legume crops and pastures for rotations is one of the best ways to lift this quality," he said.

CLIMA’s director, Professor Kadambot Siddique, said that, as well as being essential to cereal crop rotations, pulses were a productive and stable cash crop in their own right.

"Chickpea prices, for example, haven’t dropped below $300 a tonne since early 1990’s, field peas have hovered around $250 per tonne for more than a decade and lupins are delivering similar prices to wheat.

"Similarly, there are exciting opportunities in the use of novel pasture legumes to boost animal production and in strategic management of herbicide resistance on farms," Professor Siddique said.

"The only thing holding legumes back is how far behind barley and wheat we are with yield stability, disease and pest resistance and weed management.

"Under CLIMA’s grain and pasture legume programs, we’ll target specific areas of legume research and continue to develop viable options for farming systems," he said.
Award-winning scientist with innovative answers

Fields of lupins, chickpeas and field peas dotting Western Australia’s traditional wheatbelt mark a revolutionary change in our cereal-based agriculture.

And the man overseeing the research into this paradigm shift in the state’s agricultural patterns is Professor Kadambot Siddique, the new Director of the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA) at UWA.

Although his appointment as director is recent, Professor Siddique has been working with CLIMA for about nine years. His experience in crop physiology, production agronomy, germplasm development, breeding, quality improvement and market research is extensive and committed.

He has recently been awarded the 2001 Urrbrae Memorial Award, a distinguished prize for an outstanding contribution to the science or practice of Australian agriculture.

During Professor Siddique’s 20 years in agriculture, he has earned an international reputation as a leader in his field of crop physiology, production agronomy, breeding and development of pulse and cereal crops. He has worked on various international projects between Australia and Syria, India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Turkey.

After leading the Pulse Productivity and Industry Development Program for the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, Professor Siddique now heads up CLIMA, as it sheds its Commonwealth government funding and becomes a commercially-viable research centre.

He aims to target yield stability, disease and pest resistance, quality improvement and weed management in grain and pasture legumes, to make them competitive with cereal crops.

It is this sort of innovative research that has won the Urrbrae award, which will be presented in Adelaide on November 2. The award is a memorial to the students of Urrbrae Agricultural High School who served in WWII. (The name Urrbrae comes from the family whose bequest founded the school.)

As director of CLIMA, one of Professor Siddique’s primary tasks now is to attract funding from the agricultural industry and related areas.

“With this sort of funding, rather than CRC funding, you tend to lose a little flexibility but I see it as a challenge rather than a disadvantage,” he said.

“We have established a new structure, with an industry advisory group, two programs running concurrently (grain legumes and pasture legumes) and fortnightly seminars. I have ensured there is space here at UWA for key people from the other partner institutions when they need to work here, for example, when they are supervising postgraduate work.

“It is a unique structure with no parallel that I know of. If I can oil this machine and keep it running smoothly, CLIMA will be one of the most powerful groups in legume science in the world.”

CLIMA employs about 40 people, half of them located at UWA. Professor Siddique has an extensive network of agricultural researchers, industry people, Australian growers and exporters and overseas growers and importers. Professor Siddique is also a member of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) WA panel. So CLIMA’s net is spread wide to ensure that the centre will attain the excellence to which Professor Siddique aspires.

While at the Western Australian Department of Agriculture, he was behind in setting up four pulse growers’ groups: in Merredin, Mingenew, Pingrup and Esperance.

Two years ago, he led a group of legume growers on a fact-finding tour to Dubai and India where they looked at both the farming and importing of pulses. One of his team members recently took a similar group to Canada to examine the industry there.

Professor Siddique said there were excellent human consumption markets overseas for chickpeas, field pea and other pulses grown in Australia. CLIMA has also been involved in developing new species of pasture legumes for the animal industry, which he says is looking very prosperous in Australia.
Fairozah Abdul-Wahid’s thesis examines and discusses globalisation, the emergence of global cities and their impacts on local communities. She returned home to Singapore for six weeks’ field work.

“I used various techniques of data acquisition (observation, interviews, textual analysis) with people from different realms of society.” Fairozah said. “I explored the notion of kampung, which means village, in Malay, and its close links to the notion of community. I looked at whether the kampung spirit is kept alive amidst rapid urban development and Singapore’s strive to embrace global city statues in the 21st century.”

Dr Ian Eliot, the department’s honours supervisor, said their work and their presentations had been of a particularly high standard this year.

More than 20 young honours students have travelled the world this year, enhancing the sum of knowledge that links the social and physical sciences. Geography, says senior lecturer Dr Ian Eliot (pictured above), is and always has been that important link. He and the rest of the staff of the Department of Geography feel so strongly about the value of that link that every year they help to fund around 20 honours students to spread their wings around the globe.

This year, their research took them from China in the north to Narrogin in the south, from South Africa in the west to Samoa in the east, and many parts in between.

A reconnaissance trip to Krueger National Park was more like winning a raffle than conducting field work for Marcela Alvarez. Her project involves investigating and identifying bush encroachment in the park and the role that fire has had in influencing this phenomenon.

“Bush encroachment is an ecological process where a grass-dominated community changes into one dominated by woody plant species,” Marcela explained.

“My trip was mainly for reconnaissance because my data had previously been gathered by Dr Andrew Kennedy, a research fellow in the department. As well as getting familiar with the vegetation, we got very familiar with the wildlife!”

Marcela and her field assistant hired a car to drive through the park and found the animals were familiar with cars and happily let themselves be watched in their native habitats.
A national park closer to home was the site for Kristy Winn’s project, looking at salt water intrusion in Kakadu National Park.

“Although it is a natural process, it’s become a major coastal management problem with respect to the preservation of freshwater wetlands,” Kristy said.

“Evidence of salt water intrusion has been associated with tidal creek extension and subsequent mangrove encroachment, Melaleuca dieback and the disappearance of water birds.” Her project was to help understand the process of tidal creek extension and to offer insight into managing the salt water intrusion.

Brad Palmer’s project took him to a fishing village in Samoa to compile a catalogue of the common fish and other species caught in the area.

“My honours research involves analysing a data set of catch figures for an entire year from the village, which participated in the year-long monitoring program as part of the South Pacific Biodiversity Conservation Program (SPBCP),” Brad said.

“My first week in Samoa was spent assisting at a workshop teaching Conservation Area Support Officers from other conservation areas in the SPBCP about terrestrial indicators of biodiversity. This included two days field work in the fishing village of Uafato so I was able to befriend the people who would be helping me later on.

“The next week was spent in the capital Apia, researching local community-based fisheries management programs. From there I went to live in Uafato to study the fishing methods, interview local fishermen, compile the species catalogue and generally relax in the unreal village setting.”

Dimity Smith is another student who went home for her field work. She made a study of salt lakes in Perenjori, where she grew up.

“From afar salt lakes can give the impression of vast and lifeless wastelands but on closer inspection they reveal a great diversity of organisms including invertebrates and microalgae, many of which are endemic. There is growing interest in preserving these environments as they house great biological and genetic diversity. They also represent sources of largely unexplored biochemical resources,” Dimity said.

“My project focuses on identifying the types of microalgae that live on the benthos of several ephemeral salt lakes and how these communities change over space and time. Previous biological studies on salt lakes in the area have been limited and focused mainly on invertebrate communities, which makes my study rather unique.”

Other projects included: development of rice agriculture in Jianxi Province, China; the impact native title has had on regional development in WA; crime in Joondalup; a case study of rural youth projects, carried out in Narrogin, reconstruction of fire frequency on Rottnest Island, habitat selection by wading birds in the Alligator Rivers region of northern Australia and parkland and infrastructure management in the City of Stirling.
The Centre for Oil and Gas Engineering is a prime example of university-industry collaboration — but this relationship usually hinges on research. A recent project at the Centre has taken the partnership into another sphere — teaching.

Simon Hall, a senior piping engineer with Transfield Worley, is completing his Master of Oil and Gas Engineering. His project was to design and build a flange testing rig for use in the oil and gas industry.

The project was paid for and supervised by Woodside Energy, with Dr Michael Hamblin, a Woodside senior mechanical engineer and a graduate of UWA, overseeing the project.

Mr Hall was co-supervised by Associate Professor Terry Edwards, from the Centre for Oil and Gas Engineering, who said the project was a unique example of academic-industry collaboration in a teaching program.

“The Head of the Department of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, Professor Mark Bush, and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, have been very keen to keep an eye on this project and ensure its success,” Professor Edwards said.

Mr Hall and Dr Hamblin demonstrated the rig to Woodside and others in the industry, who along with other students at UWA, will have the opportunity to use it.

In the field, flanges don’t always line up perfectly; technicians and pipe fitters may force the fit, it could be assembled in a distorted way, it could have uneven torques on the bolts, all of which compromise the safety and reliability of the join, and when internally pressurised it has a higher probability of leaking, with possibly disastrous consequences.

Simon Hall explained the project: “Methods for estimating when leakage from piping flanges occurs are still unreliable, nearly 100 years after the first piping flanges were designed.

“Aside from providing a chassis to be able to mount piping flanges, the rig is able to apply hydrostatic pressure to a piping spool and test for leakage under the action of bending moment and axial load. Other stresses can be measured via strain gauges.”

Dr Hamblin said Mr Hall’s design experience from industry resulted in a very useable rig, which provided an ideal teaching and testing platform.

“I firmly believe that exposure of students to relevant industry problems will provide a more practically aware work force to industry,” he said. “And, on the other hand, involvement by Woodside in this sort of project enhances our engineering skills base.”

Professor Edwards said the rig would be used for training purposes by both the University and the oil and gas industry. Ben Matthews, a mechanical engineering student, will perform flange testing with the rig next year as part of his honours work.

The annual Campus Challenge for high school students is proving a challenge for its organisers.

Joint co-ordinator Rachel Schmitt, from the Prospective Students Office, is currently contacting academics to woo them into giving up some time in January for the five-day camp.

The students live in at St Catherine’s College and Head of College, Yvonne Rate, is one of the organisers of the Challenge, along with Julie Peterkin from UWA Sport.

If you can help with Campus Challenge, please call Rachel on 9380 7311 or email her on rschmitt@admin.uwa.edu.au
Festival 2002 gets its first airing

A golden spinning dancer who seems to be floating on air is the new image for the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) 2002.

A unique collaboration of local artists has created a poster for the Festival that captures the air theme, the third of the Millennium Celebration Festivals representing the four elements, water, earth, air and fire.

Dancer Danielle Micich, who says she was inspired by the textiles she is wearing (created by Anne Farren) was photographed by Ashley de Prazer. This image was combined with a photograph of a cloud-filled sky by Richard Woldendorp and the Festival’s graphic artist, Justine Capelle, brought the images together, added text and colour, and created the poster.

It was unveiled recently at the launch of what is being called the Festival of Festivals: PIAF is being reshaped as the southern hemisphere’s version of the world’s leading multi-arts festival in Edinburgh.

This reshaping takes the form of what PIAF calls a “critical mass of mini festivals”.

New additions for this festival include the Fremantle International Jazz Festival, to be run over the extended long weekend in January. It is being brought together by Perth’s doyen of jazz, Helen Matthews.

Another new element is WA’s first opera fest, the Mandurah Opera and Song Festival. It’s designed to be a celebration of food, wine and song, with 100-minute intervals for enjoying the food and wine.

The Celestial City is a new concept for the city’s cultural centre, which PIAF will flood with light and fill with visual art, theatre, dance, performance art, street art, music, literature and film every night of the festival.

The University will again host the Perth International Chamber Music Festival, with 15 of the world’s finest young classical musicians ‘resident’ in Winthrop Hall over eight days. This mini festival offers both classical and contemporary music, master classes, pre-concert talks and late night concerts in the Sunken Garden.

The world’s geographically biggest fringe festival will take performances from Broome to Albany, from Kalgoorlie to Exmouth, with, in the tradition of fringe festivals, lots of comedy.

Details of the program will be released over the next six weeks and, closer to the performances, there will be discount tickets available for UWA staff.

The University is PIAF’s founding partner, with the 50th anniversary of the festival that started at UWA being celebrated next season (2003). The other partners are the City of Perth and the Lotteries Commission of WA.

UWAnews is planning a special festival edition in December.
Computer Science lecturer Dr Marion Cottingham epitomised the spirit of Shed Your Car Day at UWA.

A devotee of public transport, she was left in the lurch when her local bus service to the campus was discontinued. She was determined not to drive but cycling all the way was asking a bit much.

So Dr Cottingham acquired a bike with an electric motor and has recently started cruising to the campus without causing pollution.

Shed Your Car was promoted all over the world and, locally, the University and Subiaco railway station hosted breakfasts for commuters who walked, cycled or used public transport.

UWA’s Shed Your Car Day was sponsored by the Guild Environment Department.

As well as breakfast, they provided information on cycling and public transport, entertainment, in the form of the outrageous drumming band, Sambanistas, and raffled a hybrid bike (won by engineering/commerce student Gareth Briggs).

Guild Catering, the Co-op Bookshop and UWA Sports Centre all donated prizes which were given out on the UWA-sponsored Subiaco shuttle bus throughout the day.

Car use in Perth is growing, with more than 75 per cent of trips in the metropolitan area made by car. About 65 per cent of the 40,000 trips to and from UWA each day are made by car.

Information from the Guild Environment Department says that if the car continues to be the most popular form of transport to and from campus, another 1700 car bays, at a cost of about $25 million, will soon be needed to cater for growing numbers of staff and students.

(A FROM TOP) Sambanistas spread the word; Dr Marion Cottingham on her electric bike; and raffle winner Gareth Briggs with his new bike.

A maritime boundaries expert at UWA said he warned the Federal Government four years ago that they were setting their maritime boundaries too close to shore.

Dr Viv Forbes (pictured), also the University’s map curator, said the Tampa saga had proved that his concerns were correct.

“The boundary is just 39 nautical miles off Christmas Island, which makes it easy for people smugglers to anchor just outside the zone, then duck in under cover of darkness, reaching shore before daylight, discharging their sad cargo, then getting away undetected,” Dr Forbes said.

“If the boundary was mid-way between Christmas Island and Java, where it should be, it would be 94 nautical miles off-shore. That would make it harder for the smugglers to get close without being spotted. There is more chance of our patrols apprehending them,” he said.

Dr Forbes said it was not too late to have the boundaries changed because the 1997 treaty on seabed boundaries and exclusive economic zones between Australia and Indonesia is yet to be endorsed by Federal Parliament.

Recently, Dr Forbes has been concentrating on maritime problems in other areas. He has just published Conflict and Cooperation in Managing Maritime Space in Semi-Enclosed Seas (published by Singapore University Press).

Semi-enclosed seas around Australia include the Timor Sea, the Arafura Sea, Torres Strait and, further off-shore, the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.

Dr Forbes said the aim of his book was to develop a framework to explain the impact of conflict resolution as a means of managing the marine commons. The book also includes an evaluation of selected cases of dispute resolution over territorial claims and border discrepancies.
Trinity, with its distinctive purple and gold colours, is the new identity for the combined Kingswood and St Columba colleges.

The University residential colleges combined 18 months ago and it has taken the past five months to arrive at a name for the new college.

Head of College, Alec O’Connell, said the name Trinity represented a spiritual symbol and a union between three key elements. They are the union of St Columba and Kingswood, the Uniting Church in Australia and The University of WA.

To avoid confusion with the Catholic secondary school, the word college will not appear as part of the formal name.

The new college’s motto, ‘Friendship. Learning. Growth.’ is another link with the Trinity concept of three being one.

The new crest has symbolic representation from the two previous colleges, as well as symbols associated with the University and the Uniting Church.

Mr O’Connell said the college’s goal was to provide the family experience for its vastly diverse residents. They include students from all over WA, Australia and from 26 other countries. The residents attend all five of Perth’s universities, not just UWA.

The amalgamation of the colleges has resulted in more variety of accommodation and services. The modern new dining room has its own Cappuccino Café. And one of the previous dining halls is now an in-house sports centre.

The new name and crest will take effect from the start of 2002.

Greg Madson is reviving a UWA tradition that started in the Faculty of Economics more than 50 years ago.

Mr Madson is the new receptionist for the Co-operative Research Centre on Dryland Salinity and the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA).

He is blind and brings his guide dog, Pollock, to work with him each day in the Faculty of Agriculture. It was in the 1950s that economics lecturer Arnold Cook brought the first guide dog into Australia. He had gone to England on sabbatical and brought a guide dog back to Perth with him.

Mr Madson’s guide dog sits under his desk out of sight of visitors to CLIMA and the CRC. Only a sign requesting that visitors announce themselves verbally gives an indication that anything might be different.

His appointment, through the University’s Workforce Diversity Strategy, is being facilitated by Edge Employment, which helps to ease people with disabilities into the workforce.

The employment service, the Faculty of Agriculture and Mr Madson himself have worked out strategies for sorting mail, answering phone queries, booking meeting rooms and greeting and directing guests.

“My computer has a screen reader which speaks the text on the screen. I have a scanner which reads typed envelopes and messages and they are then spoken through the computer,” Mr Madson said.

He has a mail sorter with braille labels, then he delivers the mail to the staff’s boxes using a grid pattern (eg Phil Cocks might be A1, Kadambot Siddique, C4).

Jason Mar, from Edge Employment, said that easing Mr Madson into his new job was not just a matter of working out how he could performs tasks but also educating the other staff to take into account his visual impairment.

“I don’t really like the term visual impairment,” Mr Madson said. “It sounds as though you’re ugly, rather than blind!”

This is first time he has done receptionist work, after spending the last eight years training with the paralympic cycling team. He is also president of an advocacy group, Blind Citizens of WA.

UWA Diversity Officer Malcolm Fialho said Mr Madson’s appointment was an excellent example of a department displaying flexibility in the selection process, encouraging greater workforce diversity.

“Professors Phil Cocks and Kadambot Siddique and administrative officer Sue Dodimead have shown great leadership in casting their recruitment net as widely as possible,” Mr Fialho said.
On these rocks, we build our lives

Life-long Earth Science addicts like myself aver that geology is the most relevant and engrossing subject for human beings to study.

Why? Bad question, since it allows me to launch into the topic with the enthusiasm of a fanatic: good question, because it gives me the chance to preach to the unconverted and perhaps introduce some of you to a subject which will change your perceptions of this planet of ours.

Geology is ubiquitous. It shapes the world we see: even our city streets. It links space and time. Concerts in the Quarry Amphitheatre take on another dimension when one realises one is sitting inside an ancient sand dune, and a stroll on the rippled sandstones at Kalbarri, criss-crossed by trails of animals dead for 440 million years, lets us step back in time in our imagination.

Geology answers the questions: “What is the Earth made of?” and “Why is it here?” What could be more relevant for humans, who are tiny life forms derived from and dependant on this ball of rock, water and gas flying through Space at thirty kilometres a second? Geology takes us through the development of life, from the earliest living things which left their three-and-a-half billion-year-old fossils in the rocks here in Western Australia. It helps to answer the questions: “Why are humans here?” and “Where did we come from?”

These days geology isn’t just about rocks. The holistic Earth Systems approach now taught considers all parts of the Earth - the biosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere as well as the lithosphere - and how they interact. Links with other sciences, such as chemistry, physics, botany and zoology, are wide-ranging. For example, our understanding of plant and animal diversity is assisted by knowledge of the local rocks and resultant soils of an area, and on a continental scale, we can appreciate how the ancient movements of crustal plates over the face of the Earth have split populations or affected migration patterns.

Not so obvious is the relationship to Arts subjects, like history and politics, but early settlements were linked to areas rich in natural resources: good soils for farming are related to the underlying rocks, and in early civilisations the availability of stone for tools or the presence of ores were important in the siting of their centres of population. Many European cities owe their position and origins to an easily-defended rock outcrop: most notable Nordlingen in Germany, which sits within the circle of a huge meteorite crater!

Lands have been invaded and colonised because of geological factors. Think about the Spaniards causing havoc in South America in their search for gold, and other examples of economics-driven imperialism.

Wars have been fought over rocks and minerals. Remember the Gulf War? Fought over oil reserves. East Timor politics? Don’t forget the oil in the Timor Sea. Wars themselves can be won or lost because of geological factors, like mountain ranges blocking an advance, or rocky plateaux putting paid to trench warfare. Powerful nations grew to be powerful by exploiting natural resources. Civilisation itself is based on geological materials: no glass-and-concrete skyscrapers without minerals, no rapid transport or computers, no synthetic fabrics or plastic, no bathrooms or television.

Although these are all perfectly good reasons for being interested in geology, there are two far more important ones. Firstly, unlike the subjective fields of Art and Literature, geology is objective. A rock is the way it is not because an arbiter has decided so, it just is. There are no good rocks or bad ones, none fashionable or unfashionable, and a geologist is not bound by other people’s perceptions or dogma. Theories come and go as we constantly try to improve our knowledge of the Earth, but we work with real things that can be seen and tested by others.

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly for me, geological materials are aesthetically supremely satisfying. On whatever scale, from the revelations of the microscopic world, to continent-sized sweeping structures, the shapes and colours of geology are a constant delight. If you saw the UWA Access Exhibition, “Geo•Images”, at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, you would know what I mean.

... the last word

Jenny Bevan
Curator
Edward de Courcy Clarke
Geological Museum

... the last word
The University will be part of the final chapter in a research project to document an important time in Greek history. Professor John Melville-Jones (pictured) has been selected as a senior research fellow by the Alexander S Onassis Foundation in Athens to make a study of the medieval remains of the city of Thessalonica.

It was during this time (1423 to 1430) that the Byzantine Greek despot who ruled Thessalonica handed it over to the Venetians, in the hope that their naval strength could save the city from being overrun by the advancing Ottoman Turks.

“The events of these years, ending with a siege which saw Thessalonica and the northern part of Greece become Turkish for nearly 500 years, are extensively documented in Venetian papers and by contemporary Byzantine historians,” Professor Melville-Jones said.

The final history should please everybody.

“The documents will be published in two volumes, the first presenting the Venetian point of view and the second the Greek one,” he said.

Professor Melville-Jones will take up his fellowship in January.
Tuesday 9 October

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK
Brenda Croft on Across’. In the context of the exhibition Across, Brenda, an artist and curator at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, will talk about the diversity of indigenous arts practice in WA. 1pm, LWAG.

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP SEMINAR
Material Girls? Wherefore the Dominas in twelfth- and thirteenth-century Occitania’, Jennifer Smith, History. 3.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

Wednesday 10 October

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
Linkages between gender, culture and religion with reference to Muslim women living in Australia’, Dr Samina Asmaeen, Political Science. 1pm, Geography Lecture Theatre I.

ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
Fish & Chips’, Symbiotica Research Group. 1pm, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology.

HISTORY SEMINAR
Monastic gardens’, Lea Macneil, 1pm, Room 1.46, History.

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR
A microstructural investigation of Gibbsite crystallisation in Bayer process’, Dr John Doherty. 4pm, Chemistry Lecture Theatre 1.

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
Spatial and temporal characteristics of saline springs: Sea of Galilee, Israel’, Dr Alon Rimmer, Kinneret Limnological Laboratory, Israel Oceanographic and Limnological Research Ltd. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre, Mathematics Building.

Thursday 11 October

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Duty to care: preventable physical illness in people with mental illness’, launch by Minister for Health, the Hon. Bob Kucera MLA APM. 9.15am, Clima Seminar Room.

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK
‘Wide Open: Tom Gibbons: “Random Landscapes”’, Tom will discuss the ideas behind his work, including his deliberate imitation of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographic technique and his critique of the picturesque. 1pm, LWAG.

Friday 12 October

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Infection of dendritic cells by murine cytomegalovirus induces functional paralysis’, Daniel Andrews, 9am, Seminar Room I.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII.MC.

ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

BIOCHEMISTRY SEMINAR
‘Metabolic interactions between symbiotic partners in N2-fixing legume nodules’, Prof David Day. 1pm, Simmons Lecture Theatre.

Monday 15 October

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP SEMINAR
‘Dante and medieval romance: Francesco da Rimini’, E/Prof John Scott, Italian Studies. 1pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
‘Symbiotic parners in N2-fixing legume symbiosis’, Lee Smith. 9am, Seminar Room 1.81, First Floor, Anatomy and Human Biology.

Tuesday 16 October

LAWRENCE WILSON ART GALLERY TALK
‘Wide Open: Tom Gibbons: “Random Landscapes”’, Tom will discuss the ideas behind his work, including his deliberate imitation of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographic technique and his critique of the picturesque. 1pm, LWAG.

SOIL SCIENCE AND PLANT NUTRITION SEMINAR

HISTORY SEMINAR
‘Gender and state: Singapore’s women’s magazines’, Wendy Chew. 4pm for 4.30pm, PSA Lounge.

Wednesday 17 October

GEOGRAPHY SEMINAR
‘Australia’s engagement with Indonesia: threads of significance’, Elizabeth Scott. 1pm, Geography Lecture Theatre I.

ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Evolution and inequality’, A/Prof Jim Chisholm. 1pm, Room 1.81, Anatomy and Human Biology.

CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH/ENVIRONMENTAL DYNAMICS SEMINAR
‘Experiments on improving the efficiency of rural water stores in semi-arid WA’, Matthew Hipsey, CWR. 4pm, Blakers Lecture Theatre, Mathematics Building.

PATHOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Inborne resistance to encephalotrophic flaviviruses in mice’, Dr Nadia Urosevic, Microbiology. 4.30pm, Pathology Conference Room, G14, Ground Floor, M Block, QEII.MC.

CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

Thursday 18 October

FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT
‘The Devil’s Trill’, Daniel Kossov (violin) and Mark Coughlan (piano). 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

CIVIL AND RESOURCE ENGINEERING SEMINAR
‘Non-classical boundary value problems in elasticity’, Dr S. Galbin. 3.45pm, Rm E151, First Floor, Civil Engineering Building.

CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Advantages of outcrossing clover species in a pasture conflicting with PBR legislation’, Dr Sarita Bennett (4pm); ‘Economic and environmental benefits of serradella based pasture for low rainfall, highly acidic soils’, Mark Lang (4.30pm). CLIMA Seminar Room.

Monday 22 October

UWA PRESS LAUNCH

ADVANCE NOTICE
Wednesday 24 October

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP SEMINAR
‘Power with glory, but at a price: the voices of the Castrati’, Dr Des Gurry, Paediatrics. 3.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

FRIENDS OF THE UWA LIBRARY
‘Symbiotica: a new venture for collaborative art and science’, Prof Miranda Grounds. 7.30pm, Seminar Room I.81, First Floor, Anatomy and Human Biology.

Tuesday 25 October

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SEMINAR
CENTRE FOR STAFF DEVELOPMENT

What’s on Next

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

- Winning Research Grants
- How the University Works: Human Resources Issues
- Supervising Postgraduate Students
- Applying for Discovery Projects: Critical and Peer Review of Applications

UWA News
Copy deadline for the next issue, October 22 is OCTOBER 10

Book Sale.

8 October – 28 October.

Genuine reductions on a wide range of quality titles,
PLUS if you are a Co-op Member you receive an additional

50% off the sale price.

Anyone can become a Co-op Member. Come in and ask us how!

The Co-op Bookshop
The Guild Village, Hackett Entry 2
Hackett Drive, Nedlands WA 6009
Phone: (08) 9380 2069, Fax: (08) 9380 1007
Email: www.info@coop-bookshop.com.au

Duty to Care:
Preventable physical illness in people with mental illness

This unique study has examined the health experience of 240,000 Western Australians who have used mental health services during 1980–98, and who represent about 8% of the population. Using anonymous data, their hospital admission rates, cancer incidence rates and death rates have been examined. Comprehensive research of this nature has never been possible before anywhere in the world.

The results reveal that this marginalised group has high rates of all major illnesses that require hospitalisation (such as heart and respiratory diseases, HIV and hepatitis) and are more likely to die prematurely from these illnesses. The research has highlighted a number of deficiencies in the delivery of health services for people with mental illness.

The Minister for Health, Hon Bob Kucera MLA APM, will launch the reports. A short presentation of the key findings will be delivered by Professor D’Arcy Holman and Professor Assen Jablensky and a mental health consumer perspective will be included.

We invite you to come along on Thursday 11 October at 9.15am at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery RSVP to Marion Ager, 9380 1697 or email: mager@dph.uwa.edu.au
Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWA newsletter. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2546 for details.

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

Redundant Equipment for Sale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
<th>EMAIL/EXTENSION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 x Pentium 100MHz 32MB RAM</td>
<td>$200</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Ian</td>
<td>3510 <a href="mailto:iand@cyllene.uwa.edu.au">iand@cyllene.uwa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iMac 233 MHz, G3, 160MB</td>
<td>$900</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
<td>3917</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bids should be accepted by Monday 22 October with departments to have first option.

Works by some of Perth’s best artists will go under the hammer at the Cullity Gallery to aid a seriously injured artist and UWA graduate.

Dr Drewfus Gates, who studied — and later taught — physics at UWA, is a self-taught artist who has become a renowned portrait artist.

Hanging in the Vice-Chancellor (pictured) is his portrait of former Vice-Chancellor Professor Fay Gale. At the time of his accident, Dr Gates was part-way through a portrait of former Chancellor, Justice Geoffrey Kennedy, for the University.

Dr Gates was badly burnt when caught in a spinifex fire a few weeks ago while painting near the remote Patjarr Aboriginal community in the state’s far north. He has received severe burns to more than a third of his body.

Artist colleagues D’hange Yammanee and Gareth Gorman have arranged the auction to assist Dr Gates, his artist wife Chelinay and their four young children.

He said he was most appreciative of assistance from Patrick Beale, head of the School of Architecture and Fine Arts, who has arranged for the auction to take place in the Cullity Gallery, in the building in which Dr Gates has taught painting during University Extension Summer Schools.

The auction is on Sunday October 21 at 2pm, with viewing from 12 noon.

Any other donations should be forwarded to:
D’hange and Aura Yammanee
Phone 9275 4580 or 0411 025 004 or 041 3017 870
email: artdimen@git.com.au
or Gareth Gorman on 0417 186 440
email: garethw@iinet.net.au

FOR RENT

SHENTON PARK/DAGLISH, modern and light 3 bed, 2 bath house, double carport, storage, private retic. courtyards. Walk to Shenton College, train and bus to UWA. Long lease, $255 p/w. Phone Nancy on 9386 8643.

NEDLANDS MODERN TOWNHOUSE, 5 mins to UWA. 2 beds plus study, 2 bath and separate WC, air con., 2 parking spaces. $260 p/w. Long or short lease, available now. Tel: 9346 2281.

WANTED TO RENT

THREE-BEDROOM HOUSE wanted to rent by academic and family for 3 to 6 months from Jan 2002. A strong preference to be within the catchment areas of Nedlands or Rosalie Primary Schools. Contact Michael at mburton@agric.uwa.edu.au.

VISITING SWEDISH PROFESSOR wanting to rent fully-equipped house close to UWA during October and November. Call Lars Christersson on 9382 4948.

Classified advertising in UWA News is free to all university staff.

To place your advertisement email joanna.thompson@uwa.edu.au

ESSENTIAL OILS WORKSHOPS

Walpole, 10 November
Toodyay 13 November

Demonstrations of steam distillation process for lavender and native peppermint, oil analysis and much more. Cost: $175. Contact Sandra Maynard at the Centre for Land Rehabilitation.

Email sandra.maynard@uwa.edu.au or call ext 3827.