New dentists learn about the world’s oldest culture

They have been trained with the most modern, most expensive machinery and equipment, but last week, final year dentistry students returned to basics.

They learned how to find water in the bush, which native plants they could eat, how to carry fire and how to wash their hands with leaves.

As part of a cultural awareness training program set up by the Centre for Rural and Remote Oral Health, the first group of 11 out of 32 fifth year students from the School of Dentistry spent a morning in Kings Park with Noel Nannup, an Aboriginal cultural consultant with Conservation and Land Management.

He shared with them Aboriginal stories from the Dreamtime, stories of creation that focused on Western Australia.

“You must understand spirituality before you can learn about our culture,” Mr Nannup said.

Many of the students will be serving time as dental interns in the bush this year and, as Professor Lou Landau, Executive Dean of Medicine and Dentistry, pointed out at the launch of the program, “most students who enter medicine and dentistry haven’t had much contact with Indigenous people.”

... something always sticks and one day, they will have an Aboriginal patient who will say something that will click ...

He said the cultural awareness training program was an important initiative in the changing dental curriculum.

“As dentists, you have a very special privilege, to develop an intimate relationship with your patients. And with that privilege comes a responsibility to provide the very best care, to be sensitive to special needs and to adapt to them, both at a personal and a technical level,” Professor Landau said.

Jill Milroy, Head of the new School of Indigenous Studies, said the initiatives taken by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry were quite outstanding. “It is possible to work together, but not without a lot of hard work and good will on both sides,” she said.

Head of the School of Dentistry, Professor John McGeachie, said that when he trained as a dentist, it was with a group of...
The Winds of Change

One of the most dramatic sights which I quite often see while running along the banks of our Swan River on a weekend is the coming of a wind to a becalmed squadron of racing yachts. There they are bobbing on a gentle swell, pointing in several directions — and then comes the wind in gentle gusts, usually from the south or up the throat of the river. The wind strengthens. Action!

Sails swell, all swing in uniform to face race direction and they are off, cutting through the water with new purpose and grace, powered by the wind and steered by skill.

In higher education we have also been somewhat becalmed since the failed ‘West Review’, which the Government set aside. And the later Kemp secret cabinet submission which Government also abandoned, after it was prematurely leaked to the media and the Opposition.

Neither document was ideal, to put it politely, but the Kemp cabinet submission in particular did raise fundamental issues about higher education policy and university resourcing which badly needed debate.

These issues have endured, appearing to be too intractable to resolve in a comprehensive way, though research and research training was addressed in the Commonwealth’s innovation statement, Backing Australia’s Ability (2001), which began a process of greater investment in university research, infrastructure and research and development.

But the environment has quite suddenly changed. And a new current of reform can be detected in public affairs concerning higher education.

The Federal Election did see education emerge as a significant social issue, with Labor’s Knowledge Nation document in particular placing a major emphasis — in policy and finances — on the role of universities, colleges and schools.

The ‘border security’ issue pushed the debate aside, but the challenge has remained, partly spurred on by the Senate Enquiry Report Universities in Crisis.

The return of the Howard Government, with a new ministry and agenda has begun to change the prospects for the educational environment. The Prime Minister has identified education and health as key areas warranting attention. A new and energetic minister (Dr Brendan Nelson), coupled with the new Minister of Science (Peter McGauran) and a new head of DETYA — now reshaped as DEST (education/science and training) — in the form of the very able and approachable Dr Peter Shergold, has opened new prospects.

Minister Nelson has in particular identified higher education as deserving a reform agenda to produce a framework of policy and a set of institutions appropriate for Australia in the decades ahead.

Having consulted widely — AVCC, business community, student and union organisations, etc — and having already visited many educational institutions, the Minister has declared his intention to undertake a major reappraisal of higher education this year, indeed to complete the review towards a cabinet submission in October — in time to implement any financial implications in the 2003 Commonwealth budget.

Press coverage of this initiative has only just begun and it has been predictably critical — “Unis to justify themselves again” (The Australian Saturday 16 March 2002). And no doubt there is every reason to be cynical over whether the government has already decided on its agenda outcome.

But there is also every reason rather to take the positive view. There is a huge opportunity for our universities to put forward the kinds of changes, in policy and resource issues, which are critical if we are to deal with our current problems.

The process of review will facilitate just such a pro-active approach. Rather than draft a state paper in secrecy, the Minister has proposed a dual process of public debate — a series of key discussion papers and a representative reference group to advise him on that debate. A cabinet paper will follow (and not precede) the wide-ranging debate.

At UWA we must seize this opportunity to make our case as a research-led University with major regional, national and international obligations. As current President of AVCC I shall encourage a wide and inclusive national debate over policy and funding.

The winds of change have huge potential. But we need to be skilled ‘yachties’ to make the most of it all.
Calling UWA

They’ve dealt with bomb threats, suicide calls, sick children and a house fire.

But they still remain calm and are continually praised as one of the best switchboards in Australia.

“We get a lot of people telling us we’re the best — but not many put it in writing!” said Beth Paterson, one of three full-time telephonists and two casuals who staff the UWA switchboard.

The operators are supervised by Shelley Fong and, between them, they answer more than 600 calls a day, and no caller ever waits in a queue or is forced to listen to recorded messages.

“We’re the only university switchboard in WA that doesn’t have a queuing system,” Shelley said.

“People often say how happy they are to hear a real person on the other end of the phone, instead of a recorded message,” said Tracey Kelly, another of the full-timers.

Dot Murchie is the third full-timer and Lorraine Tainsh and Tina Gould are the casual telephonists who make up the happy band that keeps us all in touch with the outside world.

Tracey worked in London, just off Fleet Street, during the 1980s, and she was trained by Scotland Yard how to deal with bomb threats.

“So it was lucky that when we got one here, it was me who took the call,” she said. “It turned out to be a hoax but I knew what to do — what questions to ask (even though he didn’t let me ask any), to write down everything he said and to listen carefully to any background noise that might identify him or the place he was calling from.”

The women love to help where they can. One day, they took a call from a man who was having a stroke and needed to contact his wife, who was swimming in the University pool. So they called Human Movement who sent someone to the pool to give her the message.

Another time a man rang to say his neighbour’s house was on fire and he knew he worked at University but didn’t know in which department.

“We found him and he got home fast,” they said.

Tracey told of an architecture student who called to say she was going to be several hours late coming back from a field trip.

“Her parents were going to meet her at the School of Architecture and she had no way of contacting them to tell them she wouldn’t be there. So Shelley and I went over there to find them for her,” she said.

They have a lot of laughs in the switchboard room, which is hidden away under the Reid Library behind a bushy garden.

“We love the calls from mothers of first year students: ‘I want to contact my son. He’s very tall with dark hair, I was wondering if you’d seen him…’ and ‘My daughter’s left her lunch at home. I need to get a message to her…’

Occasionally they’ll get a call on a Monday morning: ‘I met this girl on Saturday night. I know she goes to UWA and I was wondering …’.

Donations can be a bit of a giggle. Benefactors have been known to call and say: “I want to donate my body; where shall I leave it?”

New telephone numbers in Perth with a 6 prefix have also caused some amusement. A few people have rung the switchboard to book a full body wax or to ask how much for a leg wax — the number of the new beauty salon is the same as UWA but for the 6 prefix.

And there is a former staff member who now lives in Adelaide who often rings UWA by mistake, thinking he’s ringing the University of Adelaide, and gets very abusive when the operators can’t put him through to the person he wants.

The switchboard was computerised two years ago. There is no ringing, just flashing lights on the screen which tell the telephonist whether it’s an internal or external call.

The speed with which queries are answered is impressive. Even as callers are still speaking, the telephonists are already keying in a name or a department so they can connect a caller without delay.

Continued on page 4
New dentists learn bush skills

young Caucasian city-bred males. “When they went out into the country to work, they were in crisis! Luckily, I had lived in the country so it wasn’t so bad for me.”

Noel Nannup said he didn’t expect the students to remember all the details of the stories he told. “But something always sticks. And one day, they will have an Aboriginal patient who will say something that will click, and they will be able to relate to that person,” he said.

He also showed them traditional indigenous survival techniques, so that they would be able to look after themselves in the bush.

For example, he explained that if you lit the flowering stem of a banksia that hadn’t set seed, it would smoulder for about 20 minutes, so you had time to carry fire to another location. He told the group that they could eat the fruits of native fig trees, that they could find water by digging around the roots of a kurrajong tree and that they could always find an underground creek if they followed a line of big trees.

“You use up far less energy digging for water in the shade of a big tree than walking through the sun to a place where you hope there might be a water hole,” he said.

Professor Hans Lambers is the plant sciences equivalent of a best selling author.

Professor Lambers, Head of the Plant Sciences Group, has recently been named as one of the most highly cited researchers in his field, worldwide.

The American Society for Information Science and Technology (ISI) has previously identified the world’s most cited authors – less than one half of one percent of all publishing researchers – and, based on the important scientific developments of the past two decades, it updated its list, including Professor Lambers in its new category of plant and animal science.

“The recognition of your contributions by your fellow scientists, reflected in the outstanding number of references your papers have garnered, has placed you in this group,” reads the congratulatory letter from ISI.

isihighlycited.com is a free website to give everybody access to these leading researchers.

ISI presented Professor Lambers, a world expert in plant ecology, with a certificate honouring his contributions to scientific literature.

As a bone specialist, Associate Professor Ming-Hao Zheng had no qualms about exposing his skull.

He and medical colleague Dr Nik Zeps both had their heads shaved to raise money for cancer research, an area in which they both work.

Friends and staff at the Queen Elizabeth Medical Centre sponsored the orthopaedic surgeon and the oncology specialist to the tune of more than $2,000, as part of the Cancer Foundation’s Me No Hair fundraising effort.

A surprise bonus was that their colleagues thought they both looked great without their hair!
Remote communities have a champion in Perth

Remote, rural and regional communities have their own resource centre at UWA.

The Institute for Regional Development (IRD), established in 1999 as a resource centre to assist governments and others working in regional Western Australia, has already developed enduring relationships with some of these communities.

“Often consultants fly in and fly out of regional areas,” said Associate Professor Neil Drew, Director of the IRD. “But we have worked at and will continue working towards developing enduring relationships with these communities, that are not dependent on project-by-project funding.

Dr Drew, who took over from Peter Waterman late last year, aims to make the IRD the preferred resource centre for regional development throughout Australia and, later, internationally.

One of the steps towards this goal is the institute’s hosting of the WA Community Leadership Workshop next month for 300 delegates from all over the state. It will be opened by the Minister for Regional Development, Tom Stephens.

Sponsored by the Department of Local Government and Regional Development, Department of Family and Community Services and the Rio Tinto WA Futures Fund, the two-day workshop will lay the foundation for government policy on leadership in WA.

“Considerable investment from the State Government and the University support the three main IRD functions,” Dr Drew said.

They are to develop and deliver the on-line Masters in Regional Development, to run a research facility and to provide a consultancy service.

“The Masters program is our flagship, with 30 students enrolled from Karratha to Esperance, as well as students from Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Tasmania. The beauty of the online program is that students do not have to leave home to access tertiary education. This means that skilled people can remain as a valuable resource in their local community.

“Most of the students doing the four-year part-time course are already experienced practitioners, working in areas of local government, tourism and regional development.

“As the course is delivered on-line, we can source the best possible lecturers who can deliver their lectures from anywhere in the world,” Dr Drew said.

The Institute’s academic program is co-ordinated by Sabrina Dei Guidici.

“With our research facility, we have established industry partnerships and conducted research jointly with companies like BHP-Billiton, as well as the State Department of Agriculture, and groups on campus, including Geography, Agricultural and Resource Economics and the Graduate School of Management.

“Our consultancy service has associations with many experts, on whom we call for different projects.”

Dr Drew’s background is in community psychology. “It’s quite extraordinary how close community psychology is to human geography,” he said. “I think there has been an emphasis on economic and environmental development of rural regions, at the expense of social development. It is very important to strike a balance among these three key elements. And this is where my personal expertise comes in.”

He talks about capacity building for regional communities. “We can help build resilience in communities and create an environment where people feel empowered. Capacity is about leadership, networks, provision of information, participation and engagement with the wider society,” he said.

These are the issues that participants in next month’s workshop will discuss. They will identify the challenges and opportunities in community leadership and how collaboration and partnership can contribute to successful initiatives in communities.
Extra-curricular activities, or what kids do after the school bell, have a bigger role than simply keeping them amused until dinner time.

Drama teacher Kathleen Cocks, who completed her Masters of Education last year under the supervision of Dr Penny Lee in the Graduate School of Education, was involved with six Rock Eisteddfod Challenges before she enrolled at the GSE.

The eisteddfod, a competition in which students interpret rock music with dance and movement performances, was the obvious platform for her thesis on the undoubted success of extra-curricular activities.

"Some educationalists suggest that participation in extra-curricular activity makes little or no difference to students who otherwise may not have stayed at school or to students who lack motivation to achieve academic success," Ms Cocks said.

"But I found that, not only was that untrue, but that the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge actually made a difference to lives, both educationally and personally."

Her research was drawn from a study of three high schools in WA which had taken on the Rock Eisteddfod Challenge. She worked with the students, school principals, teachers and parents.

She found that the eisteddfod, as a tool for working with students who were at risk of dropping out of school, contributed directly to an increase in self-esteem, academic motivation, organisational and communication skills.

"Such skills can be transferred to the in-school-hours curriculum and, in turn, influence the individual to increase their academic aspirations," Ms Cocks said.

She particularly believes that at-risk boys would benefit greatly from participating in the eisteddfod. Unfortunately, as it is a dance-based project, not many boys in WA participate.

"In the eastern states, there are more boys involved and the boys' schools seem to win the eisteddfod every year, because their presentations are so lively and energetic," Ms Cocks said. "But in WA, only a handful of boys from co-ed schools take part and very few boys from boys-only schools. Although Guildford Grammar School won it a few years ago."

Each school entering the eisteddfod must prepare and stage an eight-minute presentation. It is not called a dance competition, to leave the parameters wide open.

"I've always encouraged at-risk students to take part. There is always something they can do, even if they don't want to be on-stage. It depends on the teacher who co-ordinates it, but once you establish the culture of using these students, it becomes an accepted and expected part of the eisteddfod."

"What makes the event unique is that the focus is more on the process of creation than on the end products ..."

Activities outside the classroom and creativity within: both are as important as literacy and numeracy, in the molding of successful, well-rounded, confident young people. In the Graduate School of Education, Dr Penny Lee has just supervised a Masters student, Kathleen Cocks, whose thesis on the Rock Eisteddfod has caught the imagination of both the State Government and the music industry. Dr Felicity Haynes is concentrating on a different kind of artistic expression, at the beginning of a three-year research project into creativity ...
Can you teach creativity? It's a short question but the answer will be a long time coming.

Dr Felicity Haynes has a $250,000 Australian Research Council grant over the next three years to look at the way teachers teach creativity in an integrated arts program.

Dr Haynes and a research assistant, Dr Josey Fantasia, will follow the creative processes of students at 19 different schools, culminating in the annual Awesome festival, in the city centre.

She explained that, initially, the children chosen to participate selected an item from an inspiration bag and were asked to write something about the imagined owner.

The artist comes in to help the children create a visual collage of their characters and they are printed on cards called Chuckleheads. Eventually, collections of selected Chucklehead cards are given to high school students to inspire a work of art, be it a painting, a piece of music or a performance, to be presented at the public Awesome festival.

"It’s a year-long process and we’re interested, to see to what extent the children’s creativity is influenced by the directions from Awesome, the teacher and the artist,” Dr Haynes said.

"We’ll be videotaping sessions in the classrooms to see if what the children produce is authentic, or how much the teachers ‘manage’ the children’s production of an artwork or whether the production is what’s wanted by the noisiest kids in the class, or …”

She and Dr Fantasia will be following at least three children over three years to see if the creativity that is inspired by the Awesome project is carried on into other work.

At last year’s Awesome festival, Girrawheen Senior High School held a culinary competition to match certain foods to a person, based on the assumption that you are what you eat. Perth Modern School presented a fragmented symphony built around a school day.

The question that intrigues Dr Haynes is what did these students and teachers and artist learn about creativity in being creative?

"We hope to discover, over the next three years, what works best in teaching creativity, both in terms of student outcomes and for teaching creativity for life,” she said.

"We wondered if our research was creative and open enough? But we came to the conclusion that creativity flourishes best under some structure or constraint, that it is not just a matter of being original, but that it requires intelligent adaptability to a problem.”

Dr Haynes said her students in the Graduate School of Education were always encouraged to question ideas and adapt them to suit themselves.

"The more creative the post-graduate student, the better teacher he or she will be. Our graduates are always considered very creative and critical. They’re not always popular in their schools, but they are very good teachers!”

She said this latest creativity research was consistent with her ongoing inquiry into critical and creative thinking.

She hopes to write a book called Rethinking Thinking on the basis of this research.
Student Services adding value
(...) for staff

Experienced psychologists at University Counselling Services: Leanne Dusz, Avonia Donnellan, Tom Sputore and Sylvana Oates in the comfortable surroundings conducive to counselling

The University is looking after the well-being of its staff. The University Counselling Service has recently been recognised and endorsed as a provider of employee assistance.

For many years, the psychologists, resident in Student Services, have helped students. Now, increasingly, staff have also been calling on their services.

Senior counsellor Tom Sputore said the service had been endorsed by Human Resources as an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provider to university staff.

They become joint providers with Davidson Trahaire, a private national firm specialising in employee assistance programs, also endorsed by Human Resources.

"Some staff might prefer to go off-campus for counselling but others prefer the convenience of being on-campus and our sensitivity to the specific demands and culture of the higher education sector," Mr Sputore said.

Increased funding flowing from EAP endorsement has enabled the counselling service to employ a fourth psychologist, Leanne Dusz. This has made it possible to roster two counsellors on duty during the working day.

"The counsellors believe that working with both staff and students advantages all concerned," Mr Sputore said. "Counsellors benefit from understanding the personal and systemic experiences of both students and staff and this enhances their potential in providing support and advocacy, conflict resolution and crisis management for both client groups."

Avonia Donnellan, one of the counsellors, who has just spent three months seconded to Woodside Energy's employee assistance program, said that, although the counselling staff were always busy, she felt they were under-utilised by schools and centres on campus.

"We can run workshops on specific topics that can be tailor-made for that group," Ms Donnellan said. "The re-structure could provide a good opportunity to build cohesion within working groups."

Counsellors are also available to see immediate family members of University staff. The counsellors can be contacted individually (numbers in the internal directory) or by contacting reception on extension 2423.

Davidson Trahaire can be contacted on 9382 8100 (office hours) or 9480 4847 (24 hour pager).

The University has saved an estimated $800,000 on power bills over the past two years.

Director of Facilities Management, Russell Candy, said that the supply of electricity to UWA was put out to tender in January 2000. Western Power won the contract and, compared with the previous tariff, the savings from the two-year contract amounted to $787,962.

Facilities Management’s consultants have now negotiated with Western Power to supply electricity to employ a fourth psychologist, Leanne Dusz. This has made it possible to roster two counsellors on duty during the working day.

"These savings can only be guaranteed if the University can control its maximum demand," Mr Candy said. "If this can’t be kept below the figure of 6.9mW, it will not take very long for the savings to disappear."

"Western Power’s penalty for exceeding maximum demand is $25 per kW but I feel that by judicious load shedding and support from the University community on particularly difficult days, the limits can be met to a significant extent."

"In the longer term, as the campus continues to grow with new buildings being connected to the network, important strategic decisions will need to be made to contain the maximum demand."

"Possible options are to construct another thermal storage tank or to construct a co-generation plant. Action to reduce consumption by switching off unnecessary lights and power will also be required;" Mr Candy said.

He encouraged all staff to be aware of extra power consumption on very hot and very cold days and to do what they could to keep consumption down.

$aving power, $aving money

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French pharmaceutical company, Laboratories Fournier, recently concluded a significant licensing arrangement with UWA.

Research into cardio-vascular disease carried out by Associate Professor Gerald Watts and Dr David Playford from the University Department of Medicine two years ago led to a patent being lodged by UWA. The patent proved the key element in the licensing deal which includes an upfront fee and an ongoing royalty fee.

On a recent visit to Perth, Dr Jean-Claude Ansquer, Head of Medical Research at Laboratories Fournier, visited UWA to complete the sign-off of the patent assignment and licensing deal.

Dr Ansquer was also interested in discussions with UWA regarding further collaborative research into new treatments to prevent and reverse heart disease in diabetes and obesity. This might take the form of a large-scale clinical trial involving the UDM.

UWA’s Office of Industry and Innovation helped with finalising the licensing deal and with the new discussions. Manager Dr Andy Sierakowski has recently been appointed a co-vice-chair of Knowledge Commercialisation Australasia (KCA), previously known as the Australian Tertiary Institutions Commercial Companies Association.

KCA’s new executive director, Anne Howard, said knowledge commercialisation was very complex and involved relationships between universities, industry and the community.

“It is a profession that is little understood, although it’s tremendously important to Australia’s future,” she said.

Dr Sierakowski’s new position will ensure that UWA remains at the forefront of developments in knowledge commercialisation.

Students are honoured
no bones about it

When the Anatomy and Human Biology had its application for a new Honours room knocked back, they went straight to the heart of the matter.

“We knew there were plenty of deserving projects across campus applying for minor works funding but we really felt our Honours students deserved better than the cramped, unsatisfactory conditions they had been putting up with,” said manager Ray Ryken-Rapp.

Somehow we found the funds within the department and our 12 honours students plus the neuroscience honours students now have excellent working conditions,” he said.

The old room was a tangle of computer cables and electrical leads, poor lighting and a petitioned kitchenette.

The students now have individual lighting at their desks, plenty of shelf space, lockable drawers and excellent computer access.

“We have a high retention rate of postgraduate students: about 75 per cent of our honours students go on to further study. We had to look after their needs,” Mr Ryken-Rapp said.

“The increased intake of honours students in recent years is part of a significant move in increasing PhD and research output and is part of the department’s strategic plan,” he said.

He said the then Head of Department, Associate Professor Linc Schmitt, had last year been the driving force behind the project and he had been delighted by the co-operation, professionalism and high quality of work from the Office of Facilities Management.

“Particular mention should be made of the wonderful work done by Simon Chapman and our chief technician, Steve Parkinson, who were instrumental in organising and co-ordinating this superb project,” he said.

Involved in refurbishing this room: Anne Boyce, Steve Parkinson and Simon Chapman

The room before they got to it
Snoring and kidney failure both point to heart disease

Dr Sharan Dogra … one of 17 winning medical researchers

A young researcher at Royal Perth Hospital is trying to save the lives of people with kidney failure.

But though she is a nephrologist, a kidney specialist, her research is centred on heart disease.

Dr Sharan Dogra, who is completing her PhD at RPH’s Medical Research Foundation, has recently won a Cardio Vascular Lipid (CVL) research grant to try to work out why people with chronic kidney failure have a markedly increased risk of heart disease.

“It could in part be due to abnormalities in blood fats that often develop with the onset of kidney failure,” said Dr Dogra, who came from Ireland to do her postgraduate nephrology training at RPH.

“There is medication for lowering blood fats but the effect of that medication on blood vessel function and risk for heart disease has not been studied in people with kidney failure.

“This study is designed to assess the effect of two different types of blood fat-lowering medication on blood vessel function in people with moderate to severe kidney failure. I hope it will identify reasons for the increased risk for heart disease in these patients,” she said.

Dr Dogra is one of two West Australian researchers to share in the million dollars worth of CVL grants, funded by pharmaceutical company Pfizer. They are for medical graduates who have entered the field of research within the past five years.

The other local to win a CVL grant is senior lecturer in medicine at RPH, Dr Nigel McArdle, whose work in the field of sleep apnoea may draw connections between snoring and vascular disease.

“Sleep apnoea is now recognised to be a factor in causing hypertension. It may have a role in causing vascular diseases. If this is the case, then the treatment of sleep apnoea may reduce the serious problem of atherosclerotic vascular diseases in our community,” Dr McArdle said.

“We aim to study this problem using relatively new non-invasive ways of measuring how blood vessels function among a large number of patients with sleep apnoea. We will then compare them to closely matched (for age, sex and obesity) patients without sleep apnoea.

“We should be able to determine whether the sleep apnoea patients have abnormal function of the blood vessels well before they develop vascular diseases,” he said.

Sir Gustav Nossal announced the 17 young winners late last year. The grants are designed to make a contribution to cardiovascular medicine but also to provide a significant opportunity towards establishing the recipients’ careers.

Daniel Dennett has written some fascinating books

Perth people are fascinated by the magic of the mind.

Winthrop Hall was filled to capacity last month when UWA’s Institute of Advanced Studies invited Professor Susan Greenfield to give a public lecture on the brain of the future.

Now the second lecture in the series, Consciousness, Cleverness and Human Nature, presented by the Institute for Advanced Studies, will feature American philosopher Daniel Dennett.

His free public presentation, this time in the Octagon Theatre, is Explaining the Magic of Consciousness.

Professor Dennett, the author of Darwin’s Dangerous Idea, is Distinguished Arts and Sciences Professor, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Centre for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University.

He has published several books and more than a hundred scholarly articles on various aspects of the mind, ranging from artificial intelligence, brain sciences, poetics, aesthetics and arts criticism.

Given the previous public response, it’s recommended you arrive early for his lecture on Wednesday April 3 at 7pm. If you would like more information, please call the Institute for Advanced Studies on ext 2114 or 1340.
A game of Grace against the government

The ghost of cricketing legend W. G. Grace will preside over the University’s annual Festival of Cricket.

England’s answer to Bradman will be there in spirit as his great-great-grand niece, Masters student Claudia Green, tosses the coin at the start of the main game.

Claudia, who is studying industrial relations, says her family are all cricket fanatics and, within five minutes of any of them meeting, the conservation always turns to the gentlemen’s game.

“It was a great thrill, when I was in England, to visit Lords, the home of W.G.Grace’s club, the Marlborough Cricket Club, where his portrait hangs in the Long Room, above Sir Donald Bradman’s. There is also a grand gateway to Lords dedicated to him, the W.G. Grace gate,” Claudia said.

Although the family connection comes from her mother’s side, her father was also a “mad Yorkshire” cricketer. It’s in her blood. So it will be with great spirit that she tosses the coin for the captains of the Vice-Chancellor’s First XI and the Premier’s First XI on Friday April 12 on James Oval.

Both sides are keeping close about their players, although the VC’s team has leaked that Zoe Goss, captain of the Western Australian women’s team and famous for bowling out West Indian champion batsman Brian Lara, will be in their line-up. And Dr Geoff Gallop has pulled rank to ensure that he gets a bat in his team.

The Festival of Cricket is a free day of cricket from 10.30 to 5.30. There will be food and drink vans around the oval. All staff, students and their families are welcome.

For more information, call Diane Valli at the Office of Development on 9380 7955.

After nearly 90 years, the University Cricket Club felt it needed to improve its figures ... not its batting averages but its bank balance.

The Club launched a foundation at a glamorous dinner at the WACA just before Christmas. Club President Tony Fairweather (a law graduate from 1988) said members and guests pledged $125,000 on that night.

“We hope to set up a system of scholarships for players so those initial donations were a great start,” he said.

The foundation dinner was the biggest function the club had held since its inception in 1913. Special guests included former Australian Test player Geoff Lawson, who came from Sydney for the dinner, an 82-year-old former UWA player and seven players from the premiership side of 1951/52.

Inquiries about donations should be directed to Tony Fairweather (on 9321 5500 or 0407 198 795) or to Professor Keith Punch, in the Graduate School of Education (on ext 2396).
I love this place. I have loved it for as long as I can remember.

My earliest memories of the University are of coming here with my grandfather. He was a retired pioneering pastoralist and spent his retirement collecting friends, relatives and colleagues from ocean liners calling at Fremantle. He would take them on a tour of the city, but the highlight of his tour was always a visit to the University … his University, although he never studied here.

Wouldn’t it be good if we could recapture that sense of ownership and pride that the community felt for the University in those days?

By the time I was five I was coming here for my annual ballet concert in the Sunken Garden, and at six, I was coming with my class from Nedlands Primary School to be observed at the Child Study Centre. By the time I was eight, I was climbing the steps of the tower to submit to the torture of AMEB piano exams.

But then my family moved to Geraldton and I didn’t see the university again until I came here as a student. I spent a blissful time here doing my degree and then embarked upon about 30 years of adventures before returning to work, first in the International Office and then in the Prospective Students Office.

I mention all this because the thing that struck me when I came back to work here was that really nothing had changed. People who had taught me were still here and everything was really just as I remembered it. Contrast this to the last 12 years that have been working here and think about how many changes we have been through.

I have found the repeated demands to try to do more with less has had a very bad effect on my enthusiasm and creativity. I wonder how much more serious, therefore, must be the consequences for those of you trying to do research in this climate. With hindsight, I feel we should not have let the government get away with it. I wish we had all been much more politically active.

I have calculated that in my 10-plus years in the PSO, I have seen, either as class groups, or individually, about 68,000 prospective students. I always threw in the idea that happiness and job satisfaction were important factors in choosing a career. They usually thought this was a rather funny idea, nowhere near as important, for example, as making a lot of money.

Working in the International Office was always fun. The PSO hasn’t always been fun but mostly it has. What tremendous fun we had trying to improve the ghastly Courses Book. What fun we had designing, building and standing in our polystyrene not-quite-life-size model of Winthrop Hall at expos at the Superdrome and City West.

What terrific fun we had with our program of primary school campus visits. Who can forget the Year 3 City Beach PS performance of The Three Bears, in German, on the New Fortune stage? It was their thank you to us for having them at UWA. We are reaping the benefits of the primary school program now. If things look a bit lean in a few year time, you might well reflect that an investment in those little kids is time and money well spent.

There are some things that have not been so much fun but have definitely contributed to job satisfaction…the scholarships. I nagged about them for about six years. Those of you who were at the recent award ceremony cannot doubt the PR value of the scholarships in the community. In the schools, the effect has been even more dramatic. From being seen as the representative of that filthy rich but stingy university, I have been able to hold my head up high as attitudes changed markedly.

I charge you all with the responsibility to seeing through my two remaining hobby horses. If you can get a decent transport system to UWA from the hills and the eastern suburbs, and if you can see that no first year classes commence before 9.00am, then you will have the whole recruitment thing sewn up. No other institution will be able to hold a candle to you.
Research Grants & Contracts

ARTHITIS FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA
Dr Lawrence Abraham, Dr Daniela Ulgiati, Biochemistry: “Regulation of the complement C4 gene: Relevance to systemic lupus erythematosus” — $12,000 (2002).

ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

AUSTRALIAN UROLOGICAL FOUNDATION
Dr Justin Vivian and Dr Rosalie McCauley, Surgery: “Disruption of glutaminase activity using antisense therapy” — $25,000 (2001).

AWWARF

CALM

CANCER FOUNDATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Dr Lawrence Abraham, Biochemistry and Prof Dominic Spagnolo, Pathology: “Regulation of CD30 expression in Hodgkins and non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (EOI)” — $55,000 (2002).
A/Prof Peter Leedman, Medicine: “ELAV proteins and prostate cancer” — $55,000 (2002).
Dr Rodney Minchin, Pharmacology: “Genetic variation in the activation and detoxification of carcinogens in prostate cancer” — $55,000 (2002).

CLIVE & VERA RAMACIOTTI FOUNDATION
Prof Lyn Beazley and Dr Sarah Dunlop (right), Zoology and A/Prof Alan Harvey and Dr Giles Plant, Anatomy and Human Biology: “Strategies for restoration and function after neurotrauma” — $20,000 (2002).

GENEVA INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMANITARIAN DEMINING

GRDC

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION
Dr Daniel Green, Prof Brian Blanksby, Adj. A/Prof Gerry O’Driscoll, Human Mvmt & Exercise Science, and Prof Roger Taylor, Medicine: “Effect of physical activity on vascular function and body composition in obese children and adolescents” — $92,735 (2002-03).
A/Prof Peter Barrett and A/Prof Gerald Watts (right), Medicine, and Prof Trevor Redgrave, Physiology: “Regulation of HDL metabolism in obesity” — $91,479 (2002-03).
A/Prof Peter Barrett, Medicine: “Career Development Fellowship”.

NHMRC
Dr Timothy S. Pierre and Dr Wanida Chua-Anusorn, Physics, and Dr Gary Jeffrey and A/Prof John Olynyk, Medicine: “Development Grant - Non-invasive measurement and imaging of hepatic iron concentrations using nuclear magnetic resonance imaging” — $345,000 (2002-04).
**Wednesday 27 March**

**PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP A.G.M AND TALK**  
A.G.M. at 7pm in the Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall, followed by Lea MacNeil, History, talking on “Medieval Gardens”.

**Thursday 28 March**

**FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT**  
A recital of songs including Britten’s exquisite *A Charm of Lullabies* and Kabalevski’s *Seven Nursery Rhymes*. Featuring Megan Sutton (mezzo-soprano) and Graeme Gilling (piano). 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

**Wednesday 3 April**

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PUBLIC LECTURE**  
“Explaining the ‘magic’ of consciousness”, Daniel Dennett, author of *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea* and distinguished Arts and Sciences Professor, Professor of Philosophy, and Director of the Center for Cognitive Studies at Tufts University. 7pm, Octagon Theatre.

**Thursday 4 April**

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PUBLIC LECTURE**  
“The new genetic technologies, ethical and educational issues”, Dr Kim Summers, Director of Queensland Genetics Education Program, Queensland Clinical Genetics Service. 1pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

**Friday 5 April**

**CLIMA SEMINAR**  
“Transgenic Pulse Development Project”, Dr Steve Wylie, Murdoch University. 4pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

**Microbiology Seminar**  
“What’s that smell? Lesbian subcultures now and then”, Prof Judith Halberstam, University of California. 7pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

**Monday 8 April**

**INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PUBLIC LECTURE**  
“Language evolution and the evolution of Language”, Dr Simon Kirby, University of Edinburgh, as part of the Language Puzzle Program. 6pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

**UWA Employee Assistance Program**

There are times when all of us have challenging issues to deal with. When personal or work related issues make life difficult, the University has an Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to help staff manage these issues more effectively. The EAP is a professional, confidential counselling and consultation service. The services of Davidson Trahaire are available FREE to you and your family for up to six sessions a year. **For appointments, please ring Davidson Trahaire on 9382 8100 or if urgent 9480 4847 (24 hours). Their offices are located at Suite 11, 100 Hay St, Subiaco. Further information can be obtained at www.admin.uwa.edu.au/sho**

**Tuesday 16 April**

**PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP TALK**  
“The sacred landscape: natural imagery in Italian Renaissance art”, Vicki Bladen, English. 7.30pm, Postgraduate Lounge, Hackett Hall.

**Thursday 11 April**

**FREE LUNCHEON CONCERT**  
Roger Smallly (piano) performs *Fourteen Aubades* by his former teacher Peter Racine Fricker, Poulenc’s *Eight Nocturnes* and a selection of pieces by John Ireland. 1.10pm, Octagon Theatre.

**Friday 12 April**

**Microbiology Seminar**  
“Xenotransplantation and infection risks”, Dr Mark Farrington, Cambridge. 9am, Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEIMC.

**Masterworks of Stage and Screen**  
A concert of diverse musical styles from popular classics to classic jazz, including Barber’s poignant *Adagio for Strings* (from the film *Platoon*), Bernstein’s immortal West Side Story and haunting melodies from the films *Meet Joe Black* and *The English Patient*. Book through BOCS outlets on 9484 1133 or the Octagon Theatre on 9380 2440.

**Centre for Staff Development**

**What’s on Next**

Places are available in the following workshops 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.

**Applying for an Internal Position:** The Written Application; Cross-Cultural Communication; Introduction to Management; Staff Selection for Chairs of Academic and General Staff Panels; Staff Selection for Chairs of General Panels; Staff Under Stress: Do you know what to do?; Stress Management Through Meditation
Taking a deeper look at shallow dive injuries

Each year about 25 Australians become quadri-plegics as a result of an accident in water.

Most of these are young males, aged between 15 and 29, and most injuries are sustained by diving into shallow water.

The financial cost to the community is estimated to be more than $1 million for each person and, of course, the emotional impact on the injured people and their families can not be calculated.

Most strategies for prevention of spinal cord injuries have revolved around awareness campaigns. But Human Movement and Exercise Science doctoral student, Jenny Blitvich, wanted to explore other avenues to prevent these injuries. Together with supervisor Professor Brian Blanksby, who was assisted by Keith McElroy, Jenny investigated the effectiveness of teaching safe diving skills to the high risk group of young men.

She is also researching the regulation and legislation aspects of injury prevention. The group’s work so far earned them the Rojen Award for Research in Aquatics, presented recently at the inaugural Victorian Aquatic Industry Awards.

Brian Blanksby (left) with Jenny Blitvich and Keith McElroy display their award

Jenny and Keith McElroy are both now based at the University of Ballarat, in Victoria.

Their continuing research into prevention of diving spinal cord injury has been presented at several conferences, with further presentations in Vancouver and Montreal in the calendar for May. They have also published five papers and have several more in preparation.

Research rewards

Accolades for outstanding academic work continue to be won by UWA staff.

Over the past few months, researchers in Physiology, Environmental Engineering and Electrical and Electronic Engineering have received international recognition in the form of prestigious awards.

Professor Trevor Redgrave, from Physiology, has been made an International Fellow of the American Heart Association and the council of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology. Few researchers in Australia have been recognised by this association.

Professor M. Sivapalan has been elected as a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences. Working with the Centre for Water Research, Professor Sivapalan has made significant theoretical breakthroughs towards development of predictive models for management of floods, sediments, nutrients and salinity in ungauged catchments.

The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering has awarded Dr Eugene Ivanov the international Cady award. Named after the first person to use quartz oscillators as time-keeping devices, the award will be presented in the USA later this year.

Congratulations to Professor Redgrave, Professor Sivapalan, Dr Ivanov and all the University’s researchers who keep UWA at the forefront internationally.
Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWA news. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2546 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.

Bids should be accepted by Monday 8 April with departments to have first option.

Classifieds

WANTED TO RENT

FURNISHED ACCOMMODATION to suit couple (without children; non-smokers) for the period of 15 July 2002 to 15 January 2003. Preferred area: in reasonable proximity to both Floreat Park and Nedlands. Contact Professor Jetse Kalma, University of Newcastle, Callaghan NSW, 02 4921 5736; email: cejk@alinga.newcastle.edu.au

FOR SALE

COMPUTER TROLLEY. Solid steel frame, on castors. Ergonomic design. Three levels (printer/computer/slide-out keyboard) plus clip on side panel to hold work. $150ono. Contact John Tonkin, Arts Room 1.28, ph: 9380 8090 or email: jtonkin@arts.uwa.edu.au.

Classified advertising in UWA News is free to all university staff. To place your advertisement contact Joanna Thompson on extension 3029 or Wendy Palmer on 7306.

Redundant Equipment for Sale

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UWA SMALL RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME


Dr C. E. King, external: “Optimising re-innervation of brain centers after central nerve regeneration” — $16,000 (2002).


Dr G. W. Waterer, Medicine: “Essential equipment grant for the establishment of a cytokine polymorphism research laboratory” — $1,0148 (2002).

DRIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT SOCIETY

Mr Peter John Sandercock and Mr Karl Heinz Wyrwoll, Geography: “Post-dam sedimentation and adjustments to the Ord River channel reaches upstream of Lake Argyle” — $1,000 (2002).

NORWEGIAN GEOTECHNICAL INSTITUTE

Prof Mark Randolph, Civil & Resource Engineering: “Sediments in deep water” — $146,500 (2001-02).

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Research Grants & Contracts

continued from page 1