A Welsh doctor working in Toronto in the 1980s with the young medical researcher Peter Le Souëf asked him why he didn’t use his imagination in his research.

“He said to me: ‘You’re always doing imaginative things with the rest of your life – why don’t you apply that to your work?’

“Charles Bryan was a wonderful mentor whom I respected greatly and I’ve always tried since to do what he suggested,” said Professor Le Souëf of the Department of Paediatrics.

His rewards have been rich: successful research that has changed the treatment of asthma around the world, a mix of research, teaching and clinical work that he loves and the respect of colleagues and friends all over the world.

But perhaps the pinnacle of his career was the presentation of an international award which has put Professor Le Souëf, his team, the Department of Paediatrics and the University in the spotlight.

The Founder President’s Award for Distinguished Achievements in Paediatric Respiratory Science was presented for the first time this year on behalf of the board that organises the biannual international paediatric respiratory congress, Congres International de Pneumologie Pediatrique (CIPP).

“I was absolutely stunned when they announced my name. There are so many other people who deserve this award. I had never thought that I had done enough to warrant any sort of international recognition. It’s an enormous honour,” Professor Le Souëf said.

There is no official international paediatric respiratory group in the world, no college or academy to give out awards. This is the first time a practitioner in the field has ever been honoured internationally.

“I have always tried to be innovative in my research, but sometimes that approach makes it hard going. You can get knocked back by your peers when you’re short of preliminary data and the literature to support your theory is lacking.

“But you persevere, and finally you succeed and your work is accepted by your peers. But the same thing can happen the next time you come up with a new theory.

This is the first time a practitioner in the field has ever been honoured by an international paediatric respiratory group.

“Winning this award gives me confidence to keep on persevering.”

Professor Le Souëf graduated in medicine at UWA, went to London for his paediatrics training, then spent several years in research in London, Toronto and Melbourne. He returned to Perth in 1984 as founding Head of Respiratory Medicine at Princess Margaret Hospital. He relinquished that position in 1998 but still keeps up his clinical work in the hospital.

The Department of Respiratory Medicine has become one of the biggest training groups worldwide for paediatric respiratory research and clinical work.

One of the milestones in his group’s work was the redesign of aerosol delivery systems for children with asthma.

“Asthma is one of the most common ailments in the western world and the most effective treatment is inhalation. But nobody had designed a system for babies and children. They were given nebulisers designed for adults, on the premise that they...
Well — in the commercial world, a great deal turns on a name - a brand, a logo, a slogan, an image. Established enterprises spend a deal of money in not only protecting the copyright of their product, but in constantly advancing the brand in a great range of advertising and positioning.

As many would be aware we have recently moved to introduce a faculty branding system to provide consistency and coherence, while providing design flexibility for publications. Does any of this matter to universities in an era of change? After all, we represent an ancient traditional institutional history, which has seen us successfully through every revolution of the last 1,000 years.

Moreover, universities are not manufacturers of anything — not if they are true to their fundamental missions of developing knowledge and involving their students in a scholarship of discovery and self-knowledge.

There are important reasons why we should be concerned with public perceptions, public understandings, public valuing of our university and its mission. Even the most ancient of university foundations have long realised the value of their name and crest in seeking philanthropic support for their development. They may not have had to handle the sophistication of modern fund-raising campaigns, however they understood how reputation and image could be translated in the kind of benefactors and endowments which increasingly underpinned universities before the age of big government and public funding of higher education and research.

Now we live in a complex world of funding and resourcing; an environment of diversifying income to support fundamental missions; and in which competition for resources has become a critical feature between higher educational institutions — a competition for both best funding and best human resources (top students and top staff). Being world class has become the slogan of our era.

So there are strongly material reasons why we should invest thought, effort and resources in both protecting our brand name, in jealously guarding the historic crest of UWA, and in advancing the institutional mission of the university through a modern branding policy.

In a complex organisation like a university, that policy will range from generic positioning of UWA, through a public affairs strategy of disseminating the work and achievements of the university, to a more internal strategy of co-ordinating all the publications and communications of UWA under recognisable institutional symbols of crests and letterheads, so as to maximise the positioning of the institution.

It is important for us to present UWA in ways which produce strong recognition of the academic values and ideals which make up our mission, and those institutional signs which enhance our success in attracting the resourcing, students and staff, which ensure UWA’s journey to world-class status. Indeed, there is internal value in developing a successful branding policy. It is, after all, not possible to engage in such a public exercise unless we know our traditions, values, and sense of identity as an institution.

Ultimately, brands can only represent the character and spirit of an institution. No amount of branding can cover lack of quality, shortcomings in the educational and research environment, poor graduate outcomes, and a lack of commitment to excellence.

Instead, a good university can only benefit from being presented and known through its symbols and its good name. The pursuit of international excellence — the declared goal of our Operational Priorities Plan — will at least in part rest on public perceptions of excellence associated with The University of Western Australia and our crest.

My work interstate and overseas — both as your Vice-Chancellor and as AVCC President — has made me acutely conscious of the critical issues of recognition and values associated with ‘brand’. Because we have much to be proud of at UWA, let us not keep that a secret!

I urge your support of the new branding system and faculty colours, which are built, around our traditional, recognisable and most valuable crest.

Professor Deryck Schreuder
Vice-Chancellor and President
vc@acs.uwa.edu.au
For the love of mathematics

Physics lecturer Paul Abbot is one of a group of elite mathematicians who solved a series of problems sent around the world on the Internet.

And Dr Abbot is the only representative of an Australian university among the members of the 20 teams who solved the SIAM 100-dollar, 100-digit Challenge.

Earlier this year, Professor Lloyd (also known as Nick) Trefethen, Professor of Numerical Analysis at Oxford University, offered $100 to anybody who could solve 10 computational problems, each of which had a 10-digit real number as the answer.

The challenge was first published in the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) magazine.

The challenge problems ranged from numerical integration to the solution of ‘random walks’ (movement of particles). A total of 94 teams from 25 countries entered the competition, with 20 of them scoring a perfect 100 points.

Dr Abbot’s team mates work for a software company that designs mathematical software. He worked with them in the 1990s. Brett Champion, Yifan Hu, Danny Lichtblau and Michael Trott all live in Illinois in the United States. They used their company’s software, Mathematica, to solve the problems.

“We all looked at the problems and tackled as many as we could. I solved five and Michael solved six,” Dr Abbot said.

“Some of the problems were very easy to state, for example: ‘A particle at the centre of a rectangle undergoes a random walk with infinitesimal steps until it hits the boundary. What is the probability that it hits at one of the ends rather than at one of the sides?’ Professor Trefethen wanted the problems to be deceptively simple.”

Dr Abbot estimates he would have spent about two weeks on the problems. “Many were research problems that had relevance to physics, engineering and design of apparatus. I should be able to adapt most of them for the course I teach in third year computational physics,” he said.

Professor Trefethen did not anticipate so many winners and he is randomly selecting three teams to be awarded $100 each.

“I don’t think we’re one of them – we have already received our certificate, but no cheque. But it doesn’t matter. We really enjoyed the challenge and I know that I can use at least one of them in my teaching,” Dr Abbot said.

China needs UWA to help solve crimes

UWA has introduced China and Hong Kong to a whole new way of solving crimes: forensically-driven policing.

And there is now a possibility that UWA will become the first Australian university to conduct regular forensic training in China and Hong Kong.

Robin Napper, director of Research and Development at UWA’s Forensic Science Unit, recently gave a presentation on forensically-driven policing at the Institute of Forensic Science in Beijing.

“The only thing they use DNA for in China is to identify kidnapped male children,” Mr Napper said.

“They didn’t know anything about using it to help solve other crimes.”

Mr Napper said human trafficking was a particular problem in China, which has a one-child policy and a society built on male dynasties. “In 1999, 1,662 male children were abducted. Of those, 814 were recovered, by police linking the parents’ and the child’s DNA.”

Other statistics of crime in China are unavailable. “The crime rate is unquantifiable. Who knows what it could be, with a population of 1.4 billion? They are so poor and the forensic labs and facilities in the provinces are so inadequately resourced. But the Chinese police realise they need to do something to come up to speed before they host the Olympic Games in 2008,” Mr Napper said.

He has been invited back next year to give the same presentation to the heads of all the forensic institutes in China.

On the way home, he delivered two talks in Hong Kong to 160 police officers: the history of DNA in crime investigation and a forensic case review of a murder which he ran in the UK when he was a police officer.

“Unlike China, Hong Kong has the technology, they just don’t use it,” Mr Napper said.
would not breathe in as deeply as adults and so would self-regulate their dose of chemicals,” Professor Le Souëf said.

“I started in 1989 to find out how well the system worked for children. We found that the nebulisers used then worked on a continuous flow, that babies couldn’t keep up with the flow, so the system was inefficient for them and the expensive drug was being wasted, yet children were probably being overdosed.

“As a result of our work, which was published in Lancet, nebulisers were redesigned, and aerosol therapy improved almost overnight.”

Another milestone in children’s respiratory health was an innovative method of measuring lung function in infants.

“When we measure older children or adults’ lung function, we can ask them to take a deep breath and blow out hard as we measure the capacity. But of course you can’t do that with children. Another group had already worked out how to push the air out of a baby’s lungs. Our group designed and built a system for blowing up a baby’s lungs, as if a deep breath had been taken.

“That system has now become the world standard,” he said.

Some of his latest research with his asthma genetics group is comparing the immune systems of people living at the Equator with those living in the Arctic Circle.

“Through evolution and the need to fight aggressive tropical parasites, different races have different inflammatory responses. These are more intense in those from equatorial places than in people with European or Arctic origins.

“We predicted correctly that if we compare Arctic with equatorial people, we would find mirror images in their genetic patterns. We now have DNA from at least 10 racial groups from collaborators around the world with offers of DNA from several other collaborators. I think it will prove that if you take people to a different environment, their susceptibility to asthma and allergies will be determined by their previous origins.

“This work is particularly important with Western society spreading out around the world, taking asthma and allergies with it.”

Like some of his earlier theories, this work still has a long way to go before it is accepted around the world.

But Professor Le Souëf’s peers, who witnessed and supported the presentation of his unique award at the flamboyant Hotel Negresco earlier this year, now have reason to give it a second look.

Continued from page 1

an imaginative life

Bookworms — stock up on winter supplies at the annual Save the Children Fund booksale.

Once again, the Winthrop Hall Undercroft will be transformed into a treasure trove of reading material, all at very low prices.

The sale, which raises money for children in need both in Australia and overseas, has been running for more than 30 years and has raised close to $1.25 million.

It opens at 6pm on Friday July 26 (be prepared to queue for the best opening bargains) and runs through weekend and early week until noon on Wednesday July 31.

The booksale will run from 6 – 9.30pm on Friday; 9.30am – 5pm on Saturday and Sunday; 9.30am – 7.30pm on Monday and Tuesday; and 9.30am – 2pm on Wednesday. Any queries, call Rosalind Lindsay on 9381 3423.
Allies lead support for sexuality issues

“Your identifying yourself as an Ally might one day make a real difference to a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual or intersex person — but you may never know it.”

Dr Allan Goody’s encouragement of the newly formed community of Allies at UWA spoke volumes to the staff and students who crowded into the Institute of Advanced Studies for the recent launch of the Rainbow report and Ally project.

The Rainbow Project, launched a year ago, to identify and address issues for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) staff and students on our campus, came to fruition when the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, released the report.

While it revealed that UWA generally represented a tolerant and accepting environment, it highlighted the need for a greater level of awareness and proposed that staff development programs address sexuality issues.

Student surveys and staff forums identified unacceptably high levels of discrimination and harassment and a low level of awareness of transgender issues.

Professor Robson took the opportunity to re-emphasise the University’s commitment to diversity, highlighting the positive, creative energy that flowed from environments that were free from intolerance, bigotry and prejudice.

“Allies will wear a pin or display a poster on their office doors, to let everybody know they are informed about and sensitive towards GLBTI people and their issues. Awareness training and information sessions are an important part of being an Ally.”

Dr Allan Goody and Jen de Vries, instrumental in initiating the Ally project

said Ms Wood, who has a long history of working for social justice.

The Rainbow and Ally Projects are joint initiatives of the Guild, the Centre for Staff Development, Students Services and the Equity and Diversity Office.

Dr Allan Goody and Jen de Vries, instrumental in initiating the Ally project

former Commissioner for Equal Opportunity June Williams and Professor Alan Robson
A small ‘green room’ within the grounds of Sydney’s Government House has been designed as a gentle interactive lesson in Australian politics.

Or, you can just go there, following a little creek, throw a pebble into a pool and sit on a rock ledge and contemplate the thick green hedges and big bronze urns.

This garden design has won Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts senior lecturer Richard Weller another national design competition.

A few years ago, Richard and his design company, Room 4.1.3, which always works with students from UWA, won the nationwide competition for the design of the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. Its construction has only recently been completed.

The current project asked that entrants represent Australia’s contemporary culture in a form suited to the public grounds of Government House in Sydney. The team won the competition for a small, finely crafted garden about half the size of a suburban front yard.

“The idea is this: As visitors walk along the circuitous main path through the gardens of Government House they will notice a large granite slab tilted up out of the ground. From under the slab a fine rill of water flows off into the distance and disappears behind some trees and shrubs. On the surface of the slab is a brass plaque explaining that visitors should follow the flow of water and that it will lead into a secret garden,” Richard explains.

“The garden is a simple ‘green room’ made from very high and thick hedges. At the entrance to the room are two large bronze urns, one full of black pebbles and one full of white. The plaque back on the tilted slab has explained that visitors are invited to select a pebble and enter the green room. Inside they can throw the pebble into a large pool of water as in a wishing well. The water from the rill which leads to the garden spills into this pool.

“The simple action of selecting a pebble recalls the ancient Greek method of voting on the issues of the day and indeed the garden is called Epicheirotonia, meaning referendum. Similarly, one might have also noticed that the urns containing the black and white pebbles sit in squares of terracotta fragments. These fragments are the same as those upon which the Greeks would inscribe the name of a political figure to be ostracised from the polis. (ostroika).

“So, apart from a pool of water with a mixture of black and white pebbles and maybe some terracotta fragments there is nothing much else in the garden. For those wishing to stay after they have ‘cast their vote’ there is a long solid stone block which works as a seat. The seat is made by selecting the highest quality stone from each state and territory of Australia and then joining them exactly according to the shapes by which the states and territories are joined on a map of Australia. Visitors then leave the garden by a small gap in the hedges and continue on their path.”

Richard hopes this small intervention in Sydney’s Government House will not only recall western political traditions and remind us that our nation was formed by the vote not violence, but that it is also mindful of the fact that indigenous Australians were indeed ostracised from the political processes of much of the history of our first 100 years of Federation.

“I also hope that, unlike the National Museum, there will be enough time and money to build this project to the highest possible standards,” he said.
Nafyn Pattiaratchi spent some of the coldest wettest days this year diving into the pool at Human Movement and Exercise Science.

Lana Tian was surprised by the number and size of the machines used in medical research. And Scott Christopher topped more pizzas than he’s ever likely to do again.

They were part of a cohort of 15 Year 10 students from Shenton College who enjoyed a week’s work experience at UWA recently.

Tricia Gardiner, the first year coordinator and mentor scheme project officer at Student Services, organised the week and liaised between the high school and the University. She matched the students’ preferences and interests with what was available on campus and helped staff to prepare meaningful activities for them.

“The aim is to provide work placements but also to promote the University as a reputable workplace in the community,” she said.

Nafyn is an all-round sports star at school and, like his father, Associate Professor Chari Pattiaratchi from the Centre for Water Research, has an interest in science. He helped out PhD student Nat Benjanuvatra, who is trying to find out whether asymmetry contributes to inefficiency in motor performance.

“With diving, you have the option of a bilateral push of (symmetrical) of the so-called track start (asymmetrical), so it’s a good place to start,” said Nat. “We have a pad on the diving platform wired to the computer, so we can measure the differences between the diving styles.”

Postdoctoral research officer Dr Jennette Creaney and other staff at the School of Medicine and Pharmacology introduced Lana to some basic research methods.

“I’ve been cutting cells and counting cells using a microscope. It’s all fascinating but I wasn’t prepared for the amount of machines and big pieces of equipment they need,” Lana said.

Scott hopes to be a chef when he leaves school and says he often cooks for his family at home. But he’s never made as many pizzas as he did at the Guild refectory, under the watchful eye of Guild Catering chef Mark Upton.

“Catering for such big numbers is very different from cooking at home, so it’s good for students like Scott to come and experience the difference if they’re thinking of cooking as a career,” Mark said.

Other students worked at Uniprint, Unigrounds and the UWA Employees’ Child Care Centre, the Perth International Arts Festival office, and the biochemistry laboratories.

“This is the third year of this Shenton College Work UWA Scheme and each year it’s been easier to find placements for the students. The students have always given us very positive feedback and one of the boys who worked at Unigrounds last year started his apprenticeship with UWA this year,” said Tricia Gardiner.
More women are diagnosed with breast cancer than any other cancer — which means that doctors have to break this news, more than any other bad news, to women.

And while doctors are trained at UWA to diagnose and treat cancers, they often find it hard talking about them.

BreastScreen WA (formerly the National Program for the Early Detection of Breast Cancer), recently ran a one-day seminar for general practitioners on Breaking Bad News. Breast physicians from Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital helped to coach the GPs through role playing so they could understand how a patient feels when she's told she has breast cancer.

Lynley Coen, co-ordinator of recruitment and promotion for BreastScreen WA, said the doctors had learned a lot from the seminar and they had requests to run more, including a seminar in the wheatbelt for rural doctors.

Facilitator Dr David Oldham, with presenters Mary Steel-Scott (clinical psychologist), Dr Moira Sim (GP advisory group member), Dr Sue Ewing (breast physician, RPH) and a GP participant

"The doctors generally knew that when they had bad news to break, they should forward their phones, ensure they wouldn't be interrupted and choose a quiet, pleasant space," Ms Coen said.

"We focussed on attentive listening and helping them to identify the patient's 'agenda'. Some of them were very surprised when we said that they shouldn't presume that all women want treatment. Some don't. They feel they've had a good life and don't want to end it either without a breast or undergoing painful or debilitating treatment."

The doctors learned that using simple language was important, that they should always give patients a phone number and encourage them to call if they had any worries and make sure that their partners understood everything.

"It's also really important not to give false hope," Ms Coen said.

One in every 11 women is at risk of contracting breast cancer. Figures for 2000 from the Australian Cancer Registry show that there were 10,000 new cases of breast cancer in Australia and 2,500 deaths. In WA, 1,010 women were diagnosed and 221 women died of breast cancer.

Early diagnosis has become higher since the BreastScreen program was implemented statewide ten years ago.

The new co-mingled recycling program was launched in style at a breakfast at University House last month.

About 85 cleaning staff, who will be the driving force of the program, enjoyed bacon and eggs as Visy Recycling Managers talked about the process and explained how the materials such as paper, plastic and glass were prepared for recycling.

UWA environmental manager Gordon Walsh said that, because of the nature of the University’s waste, Visy believed that 90 per cent of the co-mingled material collected would be recycled.

“We are already on the way to reducing our other waste substantially,” Mr Walsh said.

How you can help the program:

• Recycle as many glass bottles, aluminium and tin cans, plastic and cardboard drink containers and paper products (including dispenser paper) as possible
• Remove lid from containers and give a quick rinse
• Set the example for others to follow
• Provide feedback on the new program to Environmental Services (ext 3534 or GWalsh@admin.uwa.edu.au)
The idea of migration implies a one-way journey, moving to a new country and leaving the ‘old country’ behind.

But Associate Professor in Anthropology, Dr Loretta Baldassar’s award-winning book, Visits Home, exposes the common practice among immigrants to Australia of returning again and again to the ‘old country’.

She explores the sense of homelessness commonly felt by both immigrants and their children (of which she is one) and concludes that visits home are central to the identity of many of them.

Visits Home recently won the NSW Premier’s Book Award (Community Relations Commission Award) for the best contribution to Australian literature portraying the interaction of Australia’s diverse cultures.

Dr Baldassar’s book, which began its life as her PhD thesis, tracks a century of visits home to the village of San Fior by Italian-Australians now living in WA.

The judges for the award said Dr Baldassar “deepens our understanding of migration by showing its complexity, the links between place and identity and the inextricable interweaving of old and new, there and here”.

“I felt incredibly honoured to have my book shortlisted with such great books, in particular Peter Mares’ Borderline: Australia’s treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, and Andrew Marcus’ Race: John Howard and the remaking of Australia,” Dr Baldassar said.

One of Dame Rachael Cleland’s last acts of philanthropy was a significant donation to the Berndt Museum of Anthropology.

Shortly before her death in April, Dame Rachael gave to the Museum the second of two outstanding 16th century Japanese icons: a pair of lanterns that would have graced the family temple of Toyotomi Hidoyashi (known as the Napoleon of Japan) and his contemporary the first Tokugawa Shogun, Emperor of Japan.

The first lantern had been donated to UWA several years ago by Dame Rachael’s sister, Mary Ritson. Both lanterns once stood at the front steps of her aunt Bessie Rischsbeth’s house in Peppermint Grove. (Bessie was one of Perth’s great women activists—and Dame Rachael advanced this family ‘tradition’ through her support of many worthy causes.)

Dr John Stanton, Director of the Berndt Museum, is delighted that the two lanterns will be united on the UWA campus — they will flank the entrance to the Asian Gallery planned to be included in a new museum next to the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery.

Dame Rachael’s contributions to UWA were widely appreciated and her service to the community, particularly her contribution to the protection of old-growth forests in the south-west, were well recognised.

At UWA, she supported Zoology’s native animal research. She also donated to the Berndt Museum of Anthropology an extensive collection of artefacts, books and other materials assembled by her and her late husband, Don, who was the last Administrator of Papua New Guinea before independence. Other books went to the University Library.

Dr Stanton said Dame Rachael Cleland was a very special person. Her wit, her passion for just causes, her thirst for knowledge and, above all, her enthusiasm and commitment to the broader society were her remarkable contribution to our state, and our nation.”
Should 2 become 3?

Chinese New Year, school leavers, air-conditioning and child care are some of the myriad issues facing Dr Mike Partis (pictured) as he reviews the structure of the academic year.

His three-month review comes after the Federal Government said that universities should make better use of their facilities.

“The Vice-Chancellor is also very keen on making the most of our venues and facilities, some of which are only used for about half the year,” said Dr Partis, who is talking to people on campus to see if a three-trimester year is feasible.

“Bond University has always operated on three trimesters, with three points of entry (January, May and September) and three sets of exams. But there are so many issues to consider.

“There is no way we could have our new first year students through the rounds of offers and acceptances by mid-January. And it would be very unpopular saying school leavers couldn’t start until mid-May.

“The timing issue is crucial and I can’t see the solution at this stage,” he said.

The idea of three trimesters would be that academic staff would teach for two semesters and devote the third to research. But, while some academics might welcome that, it would not have the same advantages for general staff.

“Most people are against the idea of three semesters because they can’t see how it can be done without increasing the workload. If more people were employed to cope with the extra work, that would be fine, but a third semester will not necessarily generate any extra income.

“Some of the other ramifications include health and safety issues. If classes are running through January and February, then perhaps more air-conditioning would be needed. Parking, childcare and other staff and student services would also have to be stepped up. The residential colleges would also have to make changes.

“And what about our overseas students? Would three semesters be a help or a hindrance? Certainly, they could fast track their courses, but Chinese New Year is very important to many of them, so we don’t want to include that in the teaching year if possible.”

Dr Partis said centres like Microscopy and Microanalysis ran courses for staff in non-teaching times. If there were no or fewer non-teaching times, it would make things very difficult for them and other staff courses.

“The students wouldn’t be forced to do three semesters a year. They would be able to choose to fast-track their course or stay with two semesters. And that raises the question of courses to be taught in that third semester. Would there only be electives on offer or would core units be offered?”

He said he was not just looking at the trimester system but also at the possibility of expanding the current summer sessions, which this year offered about 15 units. Students used the summer sessions to accelerate their degrees or to catch up on units.

“That seems like a workable alternative to three trimesters,” he said.

Dr Partis has talked to about 60 staff members and is also liaising with the unions. He hopes to complete his review in late July or early August and report to the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Partis welcomes your comments on extension 7943 or mpartis@admin.uwa.edu.au

New group concerned for students

A local drug action group (LDAG) has been established on campus to develop interventions aimed at minimising the harmful effects of alcohol and other drugs.

The group was set up after a public meeting in May, initiated by staff from Student Services, to discuss drug issues within the UWA community.

The membership includes staff students and other interested members of the UWA community. Tricia Wylde, a nurse at the Medical Centre, who was instrumental in getting the group going, said alcohol and drug harm reduction strategies would be a priority for the LDAG.

They said they didn’t want to go out preaching or to be seen as being anti-fun. An early initiative might be to distribute bottled water, bearing the LDAG label, at a student party.

The next LDAG meeting is from 12.30 to 1.30 on Wednesday July 3 in Guild Seminar Room 2 (on the first floor of the south wing of the guild building).

For information about UWA LDAG, visit the Web site http://www.uwa.edu.au/uwaldag
The global market for higher education makes a significant contribution to Western Australia’s economy.

International students studying here bring $600 million into the State each year and provide 2,500 permanent jobs. High education is the eighth highest export earner for WA.

The Global Market for Higher Education is also the subject of a book, recently launched by MLC Graham Giffard for its authors, Professor Geoff Soutar, Director of the Graduate School of Management, and Dr Tim Mazzarol, senior lecturer at the GSM.

The book represents a decade of research that Dr Mazzarol began as a doctoral student at Curtin University.

“When we started, there was very little published about this important facet of higher education in Australia,” he told a gathering of academics and colleagues at the launch. “We gathered data from hundreds of educational institutions, including schools and English language colleges as well as universities. We also surveyed thousands of students, both here and in Asia.”

The book is concerned with attracting overseas students to Australia, and is aimed at academics, administrators and government policy makers.

The authors said Australia was in its third wave of global education.

“The first wave came after WWII, then the second wave occurred during the late 1980s and early 1990s, much of which was commercially driven,” said Dr Mazzarol. “We have recently begun the third wave, which is establishing ‘branch’ campuses offshore.”

UWA’s Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Michael Barber, said the book added significantly to the community’s understanding of the issues surrounding global education, with implication not only for universities, but for the State.

The launch followed the Graduate School of Management’s high rating by Hobsons Group Australia.

Their report in the Good Universities Guide to Business and Management Courses ranked UWA’s GSM fourth in a list of 38 institutions around Australia. (Murdoch University was ranked 14th, Curtin and Edith Cowan equal 29th.)

Higher education a high earner

Dr Tim Mazzarol (centre) and Professor Geoff Soutar (right) keep MLC Graham Giffard informed about international education.

Having a sweet time

Associate Professor Bob Stick’s book Carbohydrates: The Sweet Molecules of Life has been chosen as Book of the Week on an international chemistry website.

And Bob Stick (pictured) is this week chairing the 21st International Carbohydrate Symposium in Cairns. It will cover aspects of the chemistry, biochemistry, biology and biotechnology of carbohydrates.

Associate Professor Stick, from the new School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences, describes carbohydrate chemistry as a new wave science. It was not recognised as a separate field until 1970, but it is a development of organic chemistry, which dates back to the 1800s in Germany.

His book, published last year, explains the basics of carbohydrate chemistry.
The last acceptable prejudice?

Jen de Vries
Senior Staff Development Officer,
Organisational and Staff Development Services

What is it like to be a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex staff member or student on campus? The University is beginning to ask and address this question.

Discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sexual orientation are unacceptable behaviours according to the 1990 UWA Equal Opportunity policy. Sexual orientation was not something that the University was obliged to include by law at that time, but it soon will be under recent legislative reform. The WA Gay and Lesbian Law Reform Bill passed earlier this year, and soon to be proclaimed, will make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of sexuality.

So has the University been a step ahead all this time? Have we been more enlightened than the general community? I suspect not. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) staff and students on campus have been all but invisible and the issues ignored. However there are now two projects that have put GLBTI issues on the agenda, and made UWA notable as being pro-active and visionary in this area, the Rainbow Project and the Ally Network.

The Rainbow project set out to explore the ‘climate’ on campus for GLBTI staff and students.

Issues for GLBTI staff were explored through staff forums and a peer networking group for GLBTI staff began at around this time. The message from staff was clear – homophobia was alive and well on campus, although mini cultures of tolerance do exist. The main issue for staff was around the safety or otherwise of being ‘out’ (publicly identifying as GLBTI) in the workplace. Many felt that being ‘out’ would be detrimental to their working life and chose to be closeted. They endured the homophobic tea room chat and avoided letting slip details about their personal lives that might identify them. No talk of same sex partners, no family photos on the desk, and minimal detail about social activities and holidays that might have a different focus, for example that trip to Sydney for Mardi Gras. A feeling of discomfort, not belonging and not being able to be themselves in the workplace is the result.

An attitudinal survey of some 700 students painted a picture of a tolerant majority and a largely unchallenged vocal homophobic minority.

Obviously UWA policy, in place since 1990 has not created a tolerant and safe work and study place for GLBTI staff and students.

It became clear that a more pro-active and educative approach was needed. The Ally Network is one strategy to address this. The concept of being an ‘ally’ is not new in social justice circles. An ally is someone belonging to the dominant majority who ‘allies’ her/himself with an oppressed minority group. The aim is to educate a network of staff and students on campus, who will challenge and educate their peers and colleagues on GLBTI issues. An ally for example is prepared to speak up in the tea room and challenge misinformation about the Gay and Lesbian law reform bill.

Publicly identifying themselves as Allies at the recent launch has already resulted in confronting responses for some Allies. One Ally commented:

“On the less pleasant subject of prejudice: it seems that sexual orientation is one place that people feel they have permission to express their prejudices out loud. There are some interesting myths entrenched in general opinion. I have been shocked not only by what people have said, but by the fact they thought they had the right to say it. We are still living in the dark ages in this area. I was very surprised to encounter such reactions on this campus, which I thought was a reasonably enlightened workplace.

I suspect there are a lot of people like me who don’t have any idea of the extent of prejudice still faced every day by the GLBTI members of our community, and just knowing that is important to stimulate changes.”

Senator Brian Greig, quoted in The West Australian, said: “We have a culture which makes homophobia the last bastion of acceptable prejudice.” It is my hope (one that I know is shared by many) that at UWA, homophobia and prejudice against GLBTI staff and students becomes totally unacceptable. And more than that, through the Ally network we will be working to create a University environment that is supportive and affirming of all GLBTI people.

More information on the Rainbow and Ally Projects can be found at www.uwa.edu.au/ally
J
acinta Purnell is seeking volunteers for a study on the many and varied effects of menopause.

“Some women sail through without any problems while others find the symptoms of menopause very distressing,” she said.

“It is a natural part of every woman’s life and women usually experience its symptoms between the ages of 45 and 60, although there are early onset cases in women as young as 35.”

“I hope to study symptoms other than the common hot flushes on a daily basis, to look at possible immediate triggers — particularly stress,” said Jacinta, an honours student in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology.

Participants will be asked to complete an initial questionnaire regarding lifestyle, personality and symptoms and, over a four-week period, to complete a daily questionnaire detailing daily activities and symptoms. They will also take saliva swabs several times a week to measure stress hormone levels.

Participants can do all the activities involved in the project at home, apart from an initial meeting with researchers on campus.

Those interested in participating in the study should contact Jacinta Purnell on extension 3490 or email her at jpurnell@anhb.uwa.edu.au.

More information can be found on the web at: www.anhb.uwa.edu.au/research/humanbiology/ menopause.htm

LAND & WATER RESOURCES R&D CORP.
Dr Peter Davies, Zoology, A/Prof W. Blacklow, Agriculture and Mr R. Jasper and Mr L. Penn (external): ‘Framework for education and training for river catchment’ — $55,000 (2001).

RURAL INDUSTRIES R&D CORP.
Mr Grant Revell, Architecture and Fine Arts: ‘Farm forestry and landscape architecture: a feasibility study’ — $15,000 (2002-03).

Dr Nigel Laing, Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, and Dr B. J. Hilbert (external): ‘A clinical and genetic investigation of equine idiopathic laryngeal hemiplegia’— $54,000 (2002-04).

Dr Clive Francis and Ms Margaret Campbell, CLIMA: ‘Travel to UK, France, Finland: processing and distribution oils’ — $3000 (2002).

RUTE (DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY) JAPAN

THE GOVERNMENT OF YUKON, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Dr Pauline Grierson and Dr Neal McNaughton, Geology and Geophysics: ‘Intrusion-related gold deposits: Mayo Area, Yukon’ — $17,000 (2002-03).

UWA RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME
Dr Paul Fournier (right) and Dr David Lloyd, Human Movement and Exercise Science: ‘Energy cost of bipedal locomotion: biomechanical determinants and benefits to locomotion performance’ — $5000 (2002).


Dr Allan McKinley, Chemistry: ‘Developing the biological capability for electron paramagnetic resonance at UWA’ — $4200 (2002).

Continued on page 4
Monday 1 July

PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Alkaloids in narrow-leaf lupin’, Patrizia Gremigni, CLIMA/Plant Biology. 4pm, Agriculture Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 3 July

ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Functional genomics plus proteomics = promotoromics’, Lawrence Abraham. 1pm, Room 1.81, ANHB Building.

Friday 5 July

LWAG TALK
‘Sidney Nolan: myth and history’, Sally Quin. 1pm, LWAG.

Friday 12 July

LWAG TALK
‘Derek Kreckler, artist and recipient of an Australia Council Fellowship 2001/2, will discuss his work including the installation, Blind Ned. 1pm, LWAG.

Friday 19 July

LWAG TALK
‘Myth and Australian culture’, Dr Kieran Dolin. 1pm, LWAG.

Saturday 20 July

CLASSICS AND ANCIENT HISTORY/ADESTE HUMANIORES SEMINAR
‘Alexander the Great: why the fascination? Adeste Humaniores invites you to attend an afternoon with Professor Brian Bosworth, world famous expert on Alexander the Great. Professor Bosworth will unravel the mystery of the mystique for us, and help us to learn how we too can win friends and influence people using the Alexander technique! Then Dr Sherylee Bassett will enthuse with an illustrated discussion of the mysteries of the amazing Alexander Mosaic. 4.30pm, Murdoch Lecture Theatre. $15 payable at the door (includes afternoon tea). Enquiries to Dr Judith Maitland, 9380 2162 or jmaitla@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

Wednesday 24 July

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Interplay between peripheral and central descending control mechanisms in hearing’, Professor Don Robertson. 5pm, Physiology Seminar Room, Second Floor, Physiology Building.

Friday 26 July

LWAG TALK
‘Leda and the Swan: from the Greeks to Nolan’, Professor Bob White. 1pm, LWAG.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Saturday 3 August

PERTH MEDIEVAL AND RENAISSANCE GROUP 10TH CONFERENCE
‘Language, life and literature in medieval and early modern Europe.’ The conference will be held at St Catherine’s College. 9am to 5pm. Conference fee (includes coffee, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea) is $30 or $20 full-time students/conc. Enrolment forms are available from English or History offices and should be forwarded with payment to Talia Marsh cl- English, UWA by Friday 26 July.

Wednesday 21 August

RAINE VISITING PROFESSORS’ LECTURE SERIES
“Skeletal complications of cancer and the endocrine and paracrine roles of PTHrP”, Professor Jack Martin, AO, Director, St Vincent’s Institute of Medical Research, and Professorial Fellow, University of Melbourne. 5pm, The Mary Lockett Lecture Theatre.

There will be no issue of UWAnews published on 15 July.

Many staff take advantage of the semester break coinciding with school holidays, which means a much-reduced readership.

The next issue of UWAnews will be published on 29 July

(see copy deadlines listed next page).

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Monday 4 July 1pm

Professor Michael Barber, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation, UWA) and Secretary for Science Policy Australian Academy of Science. Setting national priorities in research and innovation. (This is a chance to hear Professor Barber present his National Press club address (delivered in Canberra on Wednesday 26 June) to a UWA audience. Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

Monday 22 July, 4pm


Tuesday 23 July, 1pm

Genomics, Society and Human Health 2002 Program lecture by Professor Terry Speed, Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne. Simmonds Lecture Theatre.

Tuesday 23 July, 7pm

Genomics Society and Human Health 2002 Program lecture by Professor Terry Speed, Department of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley and The Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Melbourne. Genes, disease and genetic disease. Social Science Lecture Theatre.

Thursday August 1, 7pm


Friday 2 August, 9am to 5.30pm

Law, Ethics, Science in an age of Biotechnology seminar with Professor Lori Andrews, Princeton University; Professor Loanne Skene, University of Melbourne; Dr Margaret Otlowski and Professor Donald Chalmers, University of Tasmania, Ms Judy Allen, UWA; Professor Alan Birrell, Edith Cowan University, Professor Alan Petersen, University of Plymouth; Dr Judith Thomson, Murdoch University. Registration required: $30/$10 student. Contact Judy Allen, ext. 3437, Beverley McNamara, ext. 2742 or Terri-ann White, ext. 2114. Law Lecture Room G31.
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. Counselling is also available for staff on campus through the Support Centre (Student Services). Call Tom Sputore on extension 2426.

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.

Classified advertising is free to all university staff. To place your advertisement please email Joanna.thompson@uwa.edu.au

UWANews Copy deadlines editorial and advertising 2002

DEADLINE PUBLICATION

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FOR SALE
SONY Video Camera, Handycam LCD 560X, hardly used 10 months with case and extra tapes, excellent condition. Bargain $700 ono. Tel: ext 3792, 9 to 4pm; after hours: tel: 9245 2026.

TROMBONE Amati Kraslice with case and stand. Very good condition, hardly used. $325 ono. Tel: ext 3792, 9 to 4pm; after hours: tel: 9245 2026.

AUDI 100 2.3 (1989) Auto Sedan. Full electrics, sun roof, new tyres, radiator and battery. Excellent condition. $6500. Contact Sarah on ophysiol@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or Brian on 0417 939 701.

TO LET
SHENTON PARK, character house, 3 bedrooms plus study, formal lounge, sep. dining, games room/studio. 1.5 bathrooms. Close to UWA, Medical Centre, schools, shops, etc. Fully furnished $400 per week, or unfurnished can be arranged. Non-smokers. Pets OK. Available September 2002. Contact 9381 5452 or chucks@iinet.net.au.

WANTED TO RENT
Academic Visitor from Canada on sabbatical at LEI requires fully furnished three or more bedroom home in Claremont or surrounding area. January to August 2003. Please contact Megan Dallas, megan.dallas@lei.org.au; tel: 9381 0723.

FULLY FURNISHED HOME with 3 bedrooms in QEII area from 27 Jun to mid Jan 03 for academic visitor from NZ on sabbatical. Phone 9389 6202 or email isabelle@es.co.nz.

classifieds-01.png
Health and Dr Johanna Badcock
habitats’ — $8000 (2002).

Dr Pieter Poot, Plant Science: ‘Significance of adaptations to waterlogging in woody perennials: a comparison of Hakeas from different habitats’ — $8000 (2000).

GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA
A/Prof Michael Dentith, Geology and Geophysics: ‘Aeromagnetic study of the Meckering Earthquake Faulty Scarp and surrounding region’ — $34,100 (2002).

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE

Dr Pauline Griersen, Botany and Prof M. A. Adams: ‘Ecological sustainability and changing land use in the Pilbara’ — $368,950 (2002-06).

ARTHROSIS FOUNDATION OF WA
Dr Amanda Devine, A/Prof Richard Prince and A/Prof David Bruce, Medicine and Prof George Jelinek, Surgery: ‘Vitamin D and calcium effects on bone, balance and falls in elderly Australian women’ — $20,200 (2001).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING: MISCELLANEOUS
Prof D’Arcy Holman, Public Health, Dr Beverley McNamara, Anthropology, Ms Lorna Rosenwax, Public Health and Mrs E. Nightingale (external): ‘Ncy, utilisation and impact on health care: a Western Australian-based epidemiological and sociological study’ — $150,000 (2002-04).

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCHER EXCHANGE PROGRAMME
Dr Michael Tobar, Mr John Gideon Hartnett, Physics and A/Prof J. Krupka and A/Prof J. E. Mazierska (external): ‘Investigation and characterisation of new materials for wireless communications’ — $16,440 (2002-04).

FISHERIES R&D CORPORATION
Prof Lawrence Beilin, Dr Valerie Burke and Dr Trevor Moi, Medicine: ‘Health promotion program incorporating fish for withdrawal of anti-hypertensive drugs in overweight hypertensives’ — $103,528 (2002).

NHMRC: EQUIPMENT GRANTS
Prof Peter Le Souef, Dr Sunalene Devadason, Mr Peter Franklin and Dr S M Stick, Paediatrics: ‘NHMRC Equipment Grant — high performance liquid chromatography system’ — $28,950 (2002).

DEFENCE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION
A/Prof Jon Dell, Electrical and Electronic Engineering: ‘Micro-Spectrometer Feasibility Study (MEMS Technology)’ $36,365 (2002).

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH MANAGEMENT GROUP
Prof Lawrence Beilin, Prof Ian Puddey, Dr Trevor Morii and Dr Jonathan Hodgson, Medicine: ‘A controlled trial of the effect of alcohol on cardiovascular risk in Type II diabetic patients’ — $56,000 (2002).

WA POLICE SERVICE

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

AUSTRALIA COUNCIL – PERFORMING ARTS
Mr Orn Catts and Mrs I Zurr, Anatomy and Human Biology: ‘Symbiotica presentation of ‘Biofeet’: a biological art exhibition at PICA (Perth Institute of Contemporary Art)’ — $37,491.5.

Research Grants & Contracts will feature in each issue of the UWAnews. Any queries about the research grants published in this issue should be directed to the Research Grants Office, ext. 3702.