The Lotteries Film season at UWA’s Somerville Auditorium boasts the jewels in the crown of the film industry — read about them on page 10.
It took a mighty national push in policy and implementation across the Commonwealth to create the current Australian system of higher education at the end of the 1980s.

A reforming Federal Minister, in the form of UWA graduate, John Dawkins, determinedly pressed his vision of a greatly expanded university sector — involving the doubling of universities both through the transformation of Colleges of Advanced Education and the amalgamation of colleges and universities — and a great advance in access, not least dependent on the new HECS provisions. A national research council was also brought into being. A major Commonwealth Ministry grew up to oversee, fund and administer this new national phenomenon of the unified national system.

A distinctly centralised system had been set in motion, in which the best outcomes lay in access and research focus, and the least attractive aspects in a ‘one size fits all’ funding and policy model.

That centralising paradigm, and tendency of levelling down to a national norm, is in urgent need of transforming reform, towards the creation of a system of genuine diversity and recognised missions among Australian universities.

In all the debate about funding and budgets, that policy thrust has been far too little discussed. And yet the move towards a more pluralistic system, of excellence through diversity of choice and institutional initiatives, could be the transforming hallmark of the Nelson review initiative.

As with micro-reform in the economy at large, the universities are ready for an environment of much greater flexibility and freedom, which draws from the capacities of universities themselves, recognising the importance of a national framework of operation and accountability for public funding from the Commonwealth.

There are fears that such a flexible framework of choice, as advanced strongly by the AVCC, might lead to a hierarchy of universities and not a pluralism of quality and equal institutions. That could happen in an inappropriate policy framework and funding mix.

But it should not happen if some fundamental policy and funding changes were put in place, namely:

- raising the base-funding of all universities with significantly more core funding and more appropriate indexation of all aspects of that Commonwealth resourcing;
- new fully-funded places to meet demand, combined with a dynamic model for redistributing places between regions and institutions based on demand and mission;
- additional research and infrastructure resourcing distributed on the basis of highest quality performance;
- significant contestable funding aimed to support regional provision of higher education and major equity initiatives;
- flexibility for universities to set a HECS level above (or below) a standard rate, coupled with an equivalent volume of resources for contestable allocation for those institutions not wishing to vary HECS charges; and
- support for universities to build their entrepreneurial incomes – in overseas students, industry resources and philanthropy.

Such a major set of initiatives would, over a period of time, significantly lead to the creation of universities that represent very different missions, have very different cost drivers, and that wish to pursue their own sense of development in the future.

While all Australian universities could now benefit from reform of policy and reform of funding allocations which recognises the missions special to each university, UWA is a classic case of a fine university constrained in its growth, performance and potential by the ‘one size fits all’ policy paradigm.

There is also a new collaborative role for the States to play in building higher education capacity in their special regions — without lessening Commonwealth responsibilities in core funding. And there is a great opportunity for the Commonwealth to replace the old policy paradigms and excessively bureaucratic reporting demands, with a more responsive and modern approach.

A new century needs a new spirit to shape university education for the changing society in which we live. It is diversity rather than conformity which will deliver the excellence which our staff and students deserve.
New school, new strategies extend the vision

Professor D'Arcy Holman sits in an office in the State Government’s Health Department and compares the beginnings of UWA’s Department of Public Health in 1991 with the launch of our new School of Population Health last month.

The biggest difference is the reputation the School has developed – reflected in the fact that the Head of School is also now a key player in the State health system. He is leading a highly respected and widely recognised school of teachers and researchers who are well on the way to achieving the vision to which they aspired back then.

That vision remains at the top of the new school’s strategic initiatives and it is: We will influence policy and practice to improve the public health through leadership in education and in the discovery and communication of knowledge.

From modest beginnings, the enthusiastic health professionals who made up the Department of Public Health took on research projects, ran stimulating courses and came up with innovative programs for public health. They became recognised, they were asked for advice and the department grew rapidly during the 1990s, constantly breaking into new areas and proving themselves.

“Our position in the health system has consolidated over the past few years,” Professor Holman said. “But now that we are better known and more confident, we must be careful not to lose our excitement, not to become complacent. We must be breaking new ground all the time.”

The launch of the new School, hosted by Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, with the Health Minister Bob Kucera, as the special guest, engendered excitement. Professor Fiona Stanley spoke about the importance of population health as an academic discipline, Associate Professor Matthew Knuiman recalled the development of the department which became a School, and Professor Holman talked about the School’s strategic future.

Professor Holman’s immediate future is a metaphor for the rest of the School. It is partly dominated by the review committees, councils and forums he chairs, as a leader in public health policy making. He is currently chairing reviews of the Mental Health Act and the Mentally Impaired Defenders Act, which involve more than 100 people in the committee structure.

He is President of HealthWatch, a standards and surveillance council, and chair of the Wagerup Medical Practitioners’ Forum, looking at the health problems associated with the Wagerup Alumina Refinery.

He is also chair of the Data Linkage Committee and has just drafted a memorandum of understanding between the State and Federal governments which will open the way for national health records to be brought into the State’s record linkage project.

The project, which links the medical records of the people of Western Australia is unique in Australia and one of only six such systems in the world. It has already provided valuable information for the Duty to Care study of the physical health problems of people who use Mental Health services in WA, and the Quality and Safety of Surgical Care project, which evaluated outcomes of common and important surgical procedures in WA.

“The new School will build on the successes achieved through the collective contribution of all our staff, past and present, and aims to increase our contribution to the national and international research and teaching effort through partnership with others,” Professor Holman said.

“Symbolic of this approach is our joint success with the Institute for Child Health Research in winning the first awarded National Health and Medical Research Council’s Capacity Building Grant.

“This will guide the spirit of our endeavours over the next five years.”
UWA has spearheaded a campaign which will result in up to 19 regional centres getting vastly improved telecommunications services.

Alex Reid, the University’s IT policy executive officer and Professorial Fellow in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, was the driving force behind the bid for National Communications Fund money, to improve technology links for health and education institutions around the state.

He represented all the public universities in WA and the group also included the government departments of industry and technology, health, education and training.

“We put in a bid for $20m and eventually we were allocated $8m,” Mr Reid said. “The initial bid was to upgrade services at 58 schools, hospitals, university centres and other health and education sites within 19 towns from Esperance to Kununurra. We are now negotiating with Optus and Telstra to see how much we can do with $8m. It could mean that we could improve services to all those sites but they would have a slower capability than we would have preferred.”

Mr Reid said the funding would mean potentially better telecommunication links between UWA’s Crawley campus and its Albany, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie centres.

"Curtin and Edith Cowan universities will actually benefit more than us as they have more regional centres. But it is important for UWA to be out there, playing its part in the community, even if we don’t benefit hugely,” he said.

“It certainly helped our bid to have the whole of the education and health systems applying together. It was one of the strongest bids in the country.”

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said Mr Reid’s involvement in the bid was critical and it was his enthusiasm that got the consortium going.

“When I became aware that this federal government funding was available, I contacted the State Department of Industry and Technology to see if they were making a bid and they asked me to join them in a co-ordinated bid. I encouraged the other universities to join with us,” Mr Reid said.

It will take up to three years for the funding to be deployed and telecommunications with the bush significantly improved.

How is your engine running?

There were a few high performance Ferraris, some clapped out old Holdens and lots of middle of the road family sedans.

The UWA Medical Centre’s Pit Stop last month attracted all sorts of ‘vehicles’ as men on campus took the opportunity of a free comprehensive health check.

The health promotion program targeted men and invited them to take themselves ‘over the pits’, encouraging them to look after themselves as they look after their cars.

The program was made up of eight pit stops, including chassis check (weight issues), oil pressure (blood pressure), exhaust (smoking), fuel additives (alcohol), spark plugs (testicular cancer), duco (skin cancer) and torsion (flexibility).

More than 70 students and staff took the opportunity of ‘passing the pits’ at the Guild Village. Tricia Wylde, who organised the health check, said she was delighted with the response. Everybody who attended was given individual advice and left with their work order completed and new ‘rego sticker’ proclaiming that the vehicle was licensed and roadworthy.
We all know that if you want to find something out, you go to a library.

But the University Library’s Telephone Inquiry Service (TIS) has carried this assistance beyond usual library boundaries.

Since 1998, the service has been staffing an information line 10 hours a day, five days a week, and dispensing such excellent and diverse information that one caller exclaimed: “You have all the information I need … can you give me the numbers for Saturday’s Lotto?!”

Under the supervision of Sally Kenton, Client Services Supervisor, six Library Officers from the Business Library share the calls. They staff the phone for an hour-and-a-half at a time, and deal with inquiries ranging from advice on book borrowing and library membership to the availability of teleconferencing facilities at UWA.

“If we don’t know the answer to a query, we find out as quickly as possible and get back to the caller, then record that information in our TIS guide for future reference,” said Sally Kenton.

While the majority of queries are library related, the service has grown to include referral to information sources in the University at large.

“We are not a switchboard but an information service which collaborates with Shelley Fong and her switchboard team,” Sally said.

Helen Wallace, Business and Law Librarian and manager of the section, said the success of the service was due to the people on the TIS team who had a dynamic approach to their work and always followed everything through.

One of the Library Officers who staffs the phone, Don McSkimming, said callers appreciated getting a real person on the phone instead of a recorded message.

At night, the TIS is switched through to the staff in the Humanities and Social Sciences Library until library closing time of 10pm. On the weekends, it carries a diversion message with an option to speak to a staff member.

The staff said they were busiest on public holidays when callers knew they were one of the few information services in Perth which were open.

Another TIS member, Angela Germanier, said the non-library queries she might deal with during her hour-and-a-half shift could include a question about where a caller could buy a book; members of the public wanting to book venues; staff needing to borrow audio-visual equipment; copyright queries; people looking for lost property; where to find a JP and how to make a bequest.

Sally Kenton said the staff occasionally dealt with stressed callers (particularly parents of young students) and it was important that TIS staff provide an empathetic ear.

“It’s a low tech personalised service with the emphasis on providing friendly, helpful and accurate service,” she said.

“Shelley Fong, on the switchboard, says the service has been trouble free and one for which they receive no complaints!”

One of the many positive responses from callers encapsulated the service: “…it is so good to get help, advice and service with no attitude … with no regard to whether or not I was a student, academic or a member of the public…”

As well as providing an excellent service and promoting the good name of the University, TIS staffing reflects the Library’s support of UWA’s Workforce Diversity Strategy: two of the 10 members of the team were employed through the Diversity Job Bank.
Archaeologists of the 21st century tend to get more excited by the scrapings of a domestic fireplace than the statues from a temple. “Of course everything is precious and vital to building up a picture of a community, but these days, we are more interested in the environment and the ecology of a particular place and time, rather than the public life of a community,” said eminent archaeologist Professor Graeme Clarke (pictured right), who visited UWA recently.

Professor Clarke, the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens Visiting Lecturer for 2002, presented some of his past 16 years’ work in Syria at a public lecture for the School of Humanities (Classics and Ancient History).

Since 1986, he has been leading an excavation of the abandoned Hellenistic city of Jebel Khalid on the west bank of the Euphrates River in North Syria, about 60 kilometres south of the Turkish border.

He discovered the lost city while conducting a survey for a Melbourne team of archaeologists who were excavating a Bronze Age site further up river. “I came across some pottery pieces, which eventually led me to the remnants of a city wall, and I realised what I had found,” Professor Clarke said.

Excavation of the site began two years later and Professor Clarke, who was then a professor of classical studies and Director of the Humanities Research Centre at the Australian National University, got together a team which goes to the site every year for two months. “We have to employ a guard for the other 10 months of the year. But it’s just not practical to work at the dig for longer than that period each year,” he said.

“For a start, the conditions are very hard and it’s difficult to get a team of experts together for any longer than a couple of months.

“Each year the team we take with us might include an illustrator, a photographer, a conservator, an architect, a surveyor, metal, glass and coin experts and a botanist. We take between 15 and 18 people and employ up to 90 locals at the site. It looks like Raiders of the Lost Ark when we’re at full strength!”

Jebel Khalid was a Greek fortress 30 hectares in area built on a limestone plateau at the beginning of the third century BC. “It was newly conquered territory for Alexander the Great and the city was a

“The charcoal remains from the fireplaces tell us what wood grew in the area so we know how damp it was. Soil samples can also tell us what sort of plants grew and we can build up an ecological picture...”
homes rather than public buildings. “We have found a lot of stew pots which means they didn’t eat their animals until the end of the stock’s useful life. They would have used their sheep, goats and horses for carrying loads and providing milk for cheese and yoghurt, and for wool. The only young animals they slaughtered were pigs and the native gazelle.”

Professor Clarke said his team worked ‘fiendishly hard’ every March and April, rising at 4.30am, working at the dig until midday, then spending the afternoon analysing, conserving and cataloguing their finds until the light faded.

“Essentially, we work a double shift every day. And living in a Bedouin village in the heat and dust where we must communicate in Arabic with the locals and share two showers between 18 people makes it hard going.”

He said they had found coins at the dig from the fourth century AD. “These were dropped by what we call stone robbers. A lot of the stone has been taken from the city. There is evidence that tractors came in during the 20th century to take stone away. The French encouraged the Bedouins to become sedentary. So many of them robbed the city of its building blocks, to provide their permanent homes. It’s still happening. When we were there this year, some locals came to take away some stone blocks because somebody in their village had died and this is how they bury them, under stone blocks.”

Everything the team unearths at Jebel Khalid belongs to the Syrian government. The major pieces go to the museum at Aleppo, the nearest city and the second biggest city in Syria, after Damascus.

“But they are only interested in whole pieces. As it’s an abandoned site, there are plenty of broken plates, which are fine for the information they can give us, but not for display in a museum. “There are many more years of work in the dig but eventually, we will probably get permission to take some of the unwanted pieces out of the country. In the meantime, they stay in storage,” he said.

Professor Clarke explained that his team would not excavate the entire site. “These days we leave something for the archaeologists who come after us because they’ll be looking for different things,” he said. “Thirty years ago, we wouldn’t have been interested in the ecology and environment of a site; we would have been looking at different aspects. And it will change again.

“So we only ever ‘sample’ a site now. We have only excavated one of the 30 columns in the fortress wall. We don’t need to unearth all 30 because they will all tell us the same thing.”

As the visiting professor for the Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens (AAIA), Professor Clarke is touring Australia and visiting all the universities which support the AAIA.

“I am very pleased to report that the classical studies departments around the country are hanging on. They seem to have stabilised after being under threat for a while. But who knows what will happen in the future?”
The University has topped the sector in reducing energy consumption.

A survey of 24 higher education institutions world-wide has put UWA at the forefront of energy management. The study by Energetics (a corporate arm of Western Power) indicated that UWA had progressed from two stars (representing 33 per cent achievement in reducing energy consumption) in May 2000, to three stars (representing 53 per cent) in August this year. Energetics has assessed 767 sites world-wide, 51 in the education sector. Of these 51 sites, 24 are higher education institutions. UWA's rating of 2.4 is the highest recorded in the sector. The average in the sector is 1.4.

UWA's environmental manager, Gordon Walsh, said it was important that the very good work carried out by OFM staff, particularly Tony Humphries, John King, Stuart Townsend, Bruce Thompson and Russell Candy, with regard to energy management and environmental sustainability, was recognised.
Two thousand, three hundred days of care for kids do not come cheaply.

Between three full day picnics and three week-long camps, Uni Camp for Kids (UCFK) provides this care for many of Perth’s less privileged five to 12 year old children every year. That is equivalent to caring for a single child for more than six years.

Throw in trips to Adventure World, water slides, Perth Zoo and a host of other must-sees for youngsters and the annual bill to keep the charity afloat hovers near the $70,000 mark.

The students’ latest fundraiser was the annual UCFK Car Rally, which was, as usual, well attended and a social as well as a financial success. But this time of the year heralds the critical fund-raising period, with the coffers being depleted by the recent picnic and three weeks of camps coming up in January.

UCFK welcomes public and corporate support. Anyone wishing to make a donation to help this year’s camps can call 9380 2648.
Food, flowers, Finland & Francis Ford Coppola

A comedy to open the season, a sumptuous food film for Christmas week, and a movie set in the freezing Arctic wilderness for the first blistering week of February – the Somerville film season is perfectly planned.

The Lotteries Film Season is always the first part of the Perth International Arts Festival to get up and running – and the last to finish, with the final film screening at the Somerville Auditorium from March 31 to April 6.

The final offering is a documentary featuring 11 of the world’s leading filmmakers and their 11-minute viewpoints of September 11.

The first film, Greenfingers (December 2 to 8) gives new meaning to ‘flower power’ as the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show is hotly contested. Helen Mirren is an eccentric and flamboyant gardening guru in the mould of Joyce Grenfell.

For completely different female characters, wait for the second film, The Business of Strangers (December 9 to 15), which has been described as maliciously funny and with more bite and wit than the mainstream can provide. Two businesswomen are stranded in an airport and their relationship becomes a psychological thriller.

Dinner Rush (December 23 to 29) is set in a trendy Manhattan eatery with the themes of food, fun and family.

This year’s Cannes Film Festival winner of the Grand Prix and best actor awards went to a Finnish film, The Man Without A Past (January 6 to 12). It’s the quirky and uplifting tale of a man whose life and memory are taken away from him, a story about people living it tough on the fringes of society who still know how to be gentle.

The first feature film made in the Inuktitut language, Atanarjuaq – the Fast Runner (January 27 to February 2), is set in the eastern Arctic wilderness, sure to cool you down on a hot summer night.

A new view of piano teachers, a new life for a Tunisian widow and a new print of Francis Ford Coppola’s Palme d’Or winning film of 1974, The Conversation (March 5 to 8) are all included in the season. An Italian political satire, an Iranian ‘work of art from a visual poet’ and the touching story of two elderly French sisters, one with an intellectual disability, provide plenty of variety.

Tickets for the Somerville season are available from BOCS or at the door. Standard tickets are $13, Friends of the Festival $11, pensioners, students, seniors, backpackers and unemployed, $8. Gates open for picnickers from 6pm and the films begin at 8pm.

Extending services to Motorola

By the time you read this, those staff and students who walk past the geography, geology and physics buildings each day, will probably be able to do so as easily as they used to.

For several weeks, the path outside those buildings has been dug up as contractors and some staff from the Office of Facilities Management have upgraded underground services.

Project officer Bob Davies explained that the main purpose of the work was to extend the chilled water services to the new Motorola building on Fairway.

“While we were at it, we decided to update the irrigation mains. The old irrigation mains now carry optical fibres to the Motorola building,” he said.

The work has extended to the back of this precinct, alongside the computer science building and to the south of the art gallery.

Gas mains have also been extended. Mr Davies explained that after the old storm water system was replaced in front of geography/geology, the drains needed to be back-filled and the soil around and above them compacted before the gas mains could be laid.

“It might have looked to the uninitiated as though we had filled in everything, then suddenly remembered the gas mains and dug it all up again, but this is how it had to be done,” he said.

There are seven sites on campus where services are being progressively upgraded.
A tribute to the first DVC

The man who created the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor at UWA died in the UK last month.

Current Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, paid tribute to Professor Charles John Birkett Clews, who became the first DV-C in 1962.

Professor Robson said that prior to 1962, the University’s executive structure had not included the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

“From 1962 until late 1972, Professor Clews helped steer UWA through a vital decade of development, as deputy to Sir Stanley Prescott, and later, Professor Robert Wheelan.”

Born in London in 1912, Professor Clews studied physics extensively in both the UK and Europe, and from 1940 supported the British war effort as a scientific adviser with direct links to the War Cabinet Office.

In 1952, he accepted the position of Professor of Physics and Head of the Department of Physics at UWA. Two years later he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Science, and was also a member of the University governing body, the Senate, and Chair of UWA’s Professorial Board from 1956-57.

In the early 1960s he was a consultant to the Australian Institute of Nuclear Science and Engineering, and for many years a member of the State committee of the CSIRO.

What a difference a day makes

Aboriginal school children in the Albany area have started thinking about aiming for a university education.

Two groups of Noongar children, a dozen from local primary schools and another similar group from regional high schools, each spent a day at UWA’s Albany Centre recently, under the Vocational and Educational Guidance for Aboriginals Scheme (VEGAS).

UWA Albany’s development officer, Randall Jasper, talked to the children about UWA, the Albany connection and tertiary study in general.

The students then spent time with one of the Albany tutors, Graham McKeich, who teaches geography. He and Mr Jasper co-ordinated hands-on activities, mapping and using stereoscopes.

“They loved finding Noongar place names on maps,” Mr Jasper said.

With the help of Marilyn Strother from the School of Indigenous Studies, the students then did some field work with biologist Kirsty Alexander from the Waters and Rivers Commission. They took mud samples from Oyster Harbour and analysed them. The children were amazed at the different marine animals they found living in the mud.

They also inspected fish traps and talked with Sam Williams, a local Noongar elder, and his daughter Sam Merritt about them.

The older children did some work in the areas of archaeology and philosophy.

“But it was more of an educational day than work experience. We wanted the students to have fun learning something new and to understand that this is what university can be like,” Mr Jasper said.

“At the end of the day, we gave them all lollies but, before they could have them, they had to promise that they’d come back here and enrol at University when they left school!” he said.

Campus secrets

This enticing little path disappears into the shrubbery on the south side of the administration building.

Follow it and it takes you down to some equally enticing looking stone steps to a basement door. It actually leads to a tea room and the staff from nearby Financial Services call it the dungeon.

It’s been there for as long as anybody can remember but only recently some of the bushes around it were cleared away and the secret path was revealed to others.

If you have a secret spot on campus, a favourite feature or a little-known fact to share, please send it to us: lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au or phone extension 2436, fax 1192.
It is nearly 50 years since music was formally established as a discipline at UWA. This period has been characterised by growth, entrepreneurship, building foundations in music scholarship and performance and strong community outreach. It has also been marked by periods of intense competition both within and external to the University.

The initial 1907 proposal to establish a university in Western Australia included music as one of the disciplines and the campus design competition required the inclusion of a conservatorium building. However, some decades later, the plan to establish a lectureship in music within the Faculty of Arts was opposed by the faculty, which had competing priorities to support other developing disciplines. So competition was an issue for music from the outset. Finally, in the face of ongoing opposition from the Arts Faculty, it was agreed to appoint a Reader in Music in the Faculty of Education.

The first classes were in music history and music education but the original vision of establishing a conservatorium within the University remained.

The proposal was never realised at UWA and, despite the fact that degree courses in performance were developed, the inability to offer a wider range of performance studies (such as certificates and diplomas) ultimately led to the establishment of the WA Conservatorium of Music, which, as part of the WA Academy of Performing Arts at Edith Cowan University, has been competing with UWA in the provision of music degrees for the past 15 years or so.

Despite years of attempting to resolve the competitive tensions resulting from two tertiary music schools in a city the size of Perth, it seems competition is to be a given in music education in WA. This competition has resulted in consequences both good and bad. High quality, comprehensive music education at tertiary level relies on critical mass; for large group activities such as orchestras and choirs, for bringing students together to learn from, inspire and compete with each other, for maximizing resources and for achieving economies of scale. There is little doubt that a higher standard of education could be achieved through a single tertiary music school in WA in place of the current competitive model.

However, on the positive side, competition has meant that the School of Music has had to work hard to remain competitive, ensuring a high level of student satisfaction, constantly reviewing its offerings to ensure they are up to date, professionally relevant and appealing to potential students. The School has monitored developments nationally and internationally and new initiatives have been embraced, including historical performance scholarship linked with performance on original instruments and more recently world music, jazz improvisation and music technology. An increase in the number of public concerts and their professionalism and high profile has benefited not only music students, but the University and wider community as well.

After seeing the 2001 documentary film on the Music Department of Sydney University, Facing the Music, I am not so sure the absence of competitive drive is always a good thing. Here was a music department that seemed trapped in a time warp, one that had not been required to compete with the other music schools in Sydney (and there are at least four others) or seemingly within its own University for resources, student places or strategic support. The Sydney Conservatorium, also part of the University of Sydney, had just received a new $150 million building but the Department of Music could not afford a few thousand dollars to pay someone to take the choir.

Facing the Music is an extreme example of the tensions and problems many disciplines are experiencing in Australia. The simple approach to funding shortfalls is to cut offerings, increase teaching loads and hope for better times. This strategy did not work for the Sydney department where it created a downwards spiral which ultimately threatens its ongoing viability. In a competitive climate, the cutting of certain aspects of a course to save money might result in giving away competitive advantage to another institution. This could then lead to a decline in enrolments and snowballing financial problems.

So as we celebrate the vibrant UWA music culture built during the past 50 years, the next 50 begins with the challenge of how we continue to pay for it. I read recently of three major US music schools which were established in the 1920s; the Eastman School (University of Rochester), the Curtis Institute (Philadelphia) and the Juilliard School (New York) each with a private endowment of around US $12 million. That’s one way to reduce competition!

Source: Touches of Sweet Harmony; John Meyer (Nedlands: Callaway International Resource Centre for Music Education, UWA, 1999)
What is surely one of the most unusual combinations of career and research interest should provide two stimulating public lectures this week.

Jesuit priest Father Tom Michal is a world expert on Islam and has studied and taught Christian-Muslim dialogue throughout the world.

The American Catholic priest with a PhD in Islamic theology is the Secretary of Inter-religious Dialogue for the Society of Jesus in Rome. He presents two lectures, one on Tuesday November 5 and another on Wednesday November 6, both in the Social Science Lecture Theatre, both beginning at 7.30pm.

UWA’s Catholic chaplain, Father Gerald Brennan, also a Jesuit, said Dr Michal was received enthusiastically when he last visited UWA about five years ago.

“He not only has a profound knowledge of Islam but he genuinely values it as a faith.”

Fr Brennan said that after studying in Indonesia, Dr Michal had originally wanted to study medicine and return to Indonesia to help them with their health system.

“But the Muslims in Indonesia told him that he could help them much more by spreading the word about Islam. And so he began lecturing and teaching.”

He has lectured and taught at universities in the US, Indonesia, the Philippines, Turkey, Iran, Malaysia and the UK, including the Shahid Beheshti University in Teheran and Columbia University in New York.

His lectures this week are Christians and Muslims: Toward Dialogue of Liberation (Tuesday) and Islamic Revival in Asia: Implications for Christian-Muslim Dialogue (Wednesday). Entry to each lecture is $10.

Dr Michal’s visit to UWA is sponsored by the Western Australian Council of Religious Studies. For more information, call Sister Philomena on 9325 6927 or 9370 6462.
Tuesday 5 November
CHRISTIAN–MUSLIM DIALOGUE, PUBLIC LECTURES

Wednesday 6 November
CHRISTIAN–MUSLIM DIALOGUE, PUBLIC LECTURES

Thursday 7 November
CENTRE FOR WATER RESEARCH AND ANIMAL BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘A multiscale approach to studying the interactions between phytoplankton and zooplankton in eutrophic systems’, Dr Anas Ghadouani, Department of Biology, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. 4pm, Jenny Arnold Lecture Theatre, Zoology Building.

Friday 8 November
ASIAN STUDIES SEMINAR

Monday 11 November
ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH INSTITUTE SEMINAR
‘Bioinformatics’, Dr Chris De Silva, Electrical and Electronic Engineering. 12.30-1.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, Fourth Floor, G Block, SCGH.

MEDICAL SEMINAR
‘The interface between clinical and laboratory genetics’, introduced by Prof Peter Klinken with various speakers. 2-5pm, WAIMR Seminar Room, B Block, QEII MC.

Tuesday 12 November
CHEMISTRY SEMINAR

Friday 15 November
CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Understanding G, E interactions in lupins in Western Australia’, Dr Bob French. 4pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

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.

- HOW THE UNIVERSITY WORKS: HUMAN RESOURCES ISSUES
- APPLYING FOR DISCOVERY PROJECTS
- APPLYING FOR NHMRC GRANTS

GRANTS FROM THE GENERAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT FUND
Members of general staff may apply for individual grants from the Staff Development Fund to attend courses and conferences. In the last rounds of applications, the following staff were awarded grants:

- Susan Hisheh, Anatomy and Human Biology
- Anna Kim, Centre for English Language Teaching
- Margaret Anderson, International Centre
- Louise Case, Legal Services Office
- Tricia Gardiner, Prospective Students Office
- Rachel Schmitt, Prospective Students Office
- Christine Casey, Research Grants Office
- Trudi McGlade, Research Services
- Simone Ross, Research Services
- Blake Dearsley, Student Services
- Mark Edwards, Student Services
- Barbara Levit, Student Services
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LIVE-IN PART-TIME CHILDCARE, own self-contained accommodation (Fremantle then Subiaco from April) plus car. Morning duties and some household work for relaxed friendly family. Suit mature, reliable, flexible person, such as postgraduate student/researcher. Negotiable terms. Phone 9336 3237 after 7pm or email dburgner@psad.uwa.edu.au.

Bids should be accepted by Monday 18 November with departments to have first option

Departments are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the UWANews. 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.