A premier development for UWA

by Lindy Brophy

An outstanding new building on Fairway — Stage One of UWA’s Innovation Precinct — provides a perspective of an important future direction of the University.

With its spectacular soaring wings, its gleaming stainless steel and green glass, the building houses the Motorola Software Centre and points the way to a bright future in information and communications technology (ICT).

But the use of traditional materials — limestone and copper — echo the original buildings on campus, and cement the link between Motorola, one of the world’s leading ICT companies, and the time-honoured teaching and learning traditions of one of Australia’s leading universities.

The $50 million joint UWA-Motorola-State Government project, opened by the Premier last week, is expected to engage about 200 people within five years in the engineering of new computer software. This will increase employment opportunities for UWA graduates and make viable the expansion of the University’s offerings in the ICT field.

Already, collaboration between Motorola and UWA has resulted in the development of two new double-degree programs which started last year. These

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In the past weeks we have welcomed new staff to UWA and inducted the student class of 2003. The Festival is drawing to a close. The major committees have begun work. Senate has had its strategic agenda session. The senior managers’ forum has re-assembled. The Executive has set agendas for the year … and I have chaired the first AVCC Board of Directors’ meeting of 2003.

The new academic year is truly here and it is likely to be a truly significant year.

Forward-looking signs abound for UWA, as we work to achieve international excellence — the driving concept of our Operational Priorities Plan. Quite apart from the fact of the opening of the magnificent Innovation Precinct (to accommodate Motorola’s international software laboratories in collaboration with our science and engineering faculties) and the beginnings of the construction of our new learning complex (incorporating a magnificent new University Club to replace University House) together with initiation of our refurbished Senate chamber to serve the reformed governing body … we shall see our new Schools and Faculties in full operation.

There will also be very considerable challenges. Preparations for the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) audit and under way and will require considerable presentation and intense interaction by many of us. Yet deeper matters also exist. How we handle these fundamental issues will be crucial to our future as a university of excellence.

Perhaps most immediately significant of all will be the outcomes of the Crossroads Review of higher education initiated by Minister Nelson and in which AVCC (and our University) played a major role. Cabinet has met (February 18, 2003) and the framework for the future has gone to the Expenditure Review Committee of Government, out of which will come recommendations for resourcing the sector as part of the national Federal budget on May 13.

Just what emerges from the ‘package’ — both in financial and policy terms — and how we take up its opportunities and challenges, will be as vital as the Dawkins’ era of some decade ago. At all levels of the University, we shall need to engage in that process of implementation — with major consequences for our budgets, research profiles and educational programs.

A second great challenge will relate to budgeting and income. Meeting our goals requires substantial growth of our total operating budget, with greater and greater income diversification to meet the gap in Federal funding for research and educational programs in requiring high quality in all our outcomes and services, as well as providing the kind of ‘untied’ funds which support new initiatives.

Depending on how the Crossroads review delivers new funds — or not! — we will be addressing absolutely fundamental funding issues, with new strategies to cope in a tough external environment. That, too, will involve all of us on campus.

Finally, an increasingly unstable and conflicted global environment could present us with some acute planning issues — especially relating to our international student markets, both the students incoming and in the success of our transnational programs overseas. As I write these words the temperature of global conflict rises. The terrorist threat in general; the regional crises — and not least in Palestine/Israel, and the Koreas; plus of course the apparently inexorable march to war in Iraq.

Who can forecast what all that will mean, other than enormous challenges as we attempt to match international instability with appropriate UWA policy initiatives to sustain our involvement in the global educational ‘revolution’. 2003 is the 90th year since UWA first admitted students to its classes and the University began its remarkable journey to international excellence. I believe that this academic year will come to be seen in our history as one of those critical times.

Indeed, jogging on the campus in the stillness of dawn the other morning left me with the sense of the ‘quiet before a storm’. But also a confidence in our future, for I know I can rely on all members of the UWA community — staff and students alike — to engage in the great challenge of 2003 with the sort of dedication and spirit that will ensure our future in these exceptional and difficult days.
The new solar power station on top of the engineering building generates enough power to run an average domestic home.

Its designer, UWA’s radiation safety officer (and unofficial alternative energy expert) Jonathon Thwaites can say this confidently because his own family home in Cottesloe runs on solar power.

Mr Thwaites, a physicist, designed and installed his home’s energy system in 2000 immediately after the Federal Government introduced a rebate scheme for renewable energy installations.

“I’ve been talking to people about solar energy here for four years, since starting at UWA” Mr Thwaites said.

The station, comprising 24 solar panels on a roof above the first floor of the engineering building, is providing about 15 kiloWatt hours of energy a day. It is used to top up the power needs of the building.

The site was chosen because it has a flat roof, railing already installed, for safety, and unobstructed sunshine.

The system was funded by the Office of Facilities Management and the University is anticipating a $10,000 rebate from the Australian Greenhouse Office.

“At a guess, I’d say this station could make about $1,000 worth of energy and six Renewable Energy Certificate (RECs) each year,” Mr Thwaites said. The power station will be registered with the Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator in Canberra.

In the two months since its installation, it has powered half a megaWatt hour of electricity, so it is expected to produce about six megaWatt hours in a year.

Mr Thwaites has three projects associated with the station already prepared for honours students. He has a weather station ready to be installed on the roof and hopes, with the help of a student, to implement data logging for both the solar power station and the weather station.

“We could also build a Web kiosk, and install it in the foyer of the engineering building, where anybody can see the logged data. At the moment, you have to pay for weather data — but we could provide it for the University at no cost,” he said.

UWA already has a good reputation for its energy use, thanks mostly to OFM staff who have redesigned and retro-fitted University systems, to give us the equal highest efficiency rating of all Australian universities.

At the commissioning of the power station in January, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said it was further evidence of UWA’s commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency.

Professor Robson acknowledged the support of the State Government, through the Sustainable Energy Development Office, especially for their assistance with the greenhouse rebate application.
programs are in computer science/mathematics combined with engineering and have been developed to provide the ICT industry with graduates that have a strong grounding in computer science, software engineering, mathematics, electronic engineering and communications engineering.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, said the co-location of Motorola with the University would provide considerable benefits for UWA. “These benefits include Motorola involvement in teaching, supervision of research students, work placements of undergraduate students, and close linkages between staff of both Motorola and UWA,” he said.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Professor Robyn Owens, said Motorola staff were already involved in the School as guest lecturers for undergraduate units in the software engineering degree, and as mentors for third-year students.

According to former head of Electrical and Electronic and Computer Engineering, Professor Laurie Faraone, several students have been already working on projects over the summer with Motorola staff as their joint honours supervisors.

“Motorola staff are on our School’s industry advisory panel and the company has already set up four prizes, to be awarded for the first time this year, to the top four female students in the School,” Professor Faraone said.

He said Motorola was in favour of affirmative action to encourage women into the ICT industry. The current enrolment included about 22 per cent women, which was a far higher percentage than in similar courses in other Australian universities.

“But still this is not a true representation of the extent of our potential relationship with Motorola. While they are still based in the city, it is difficult for students and Motorola staff to move easily between the Software Centre and our School.

“When operations have completely moved to Fairway, things will really start to happen,” he said.

The Head of the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, Dr Nick Spadaccini, said Motorola and several Schools at UWA were working together to develop smart sensors, a system able to provide environmental information monitoring, using wireless embedded sensor networks.

“The relationship is symbiotic: Motorola will provide the industrial viewpoint on the technologies being adopted, and UWA personnel will assist in developing the next generation of communication technologies,” Dr Spadaccini said.

There are plans for the University to provide a Masters of Engineering degree for a large proportion of Motorola employees. Without such demand, the course was unlikely to be financially viable.

While the prime focus of Motorola’s Software Centre will be on telecommunications systems, the Centre will also work on other software and design projects for the four major Motorola operating divisions of telecommunications, automotive electronics, semiconductors and ‘Smart Card’ electronics.

All will offer research and educational opportunities for UWA staff and students.

The University has identified information, telecommunications and computer science as one of its strategic opportunities for development. The opening of the Motorola Software Centre in Stage One of the Innovation Precinct is a huge step in that direction.
Jeremy Kerr is a computer software whiz but he will never make money like Bill Gates.

Jeremy, who has just completed his Honours degree in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering and won an international prize for his work, prefers to put his programs on the Internet and let others share them for no cost.

He is part of the Open Source system, which makes software freely available to everybody.

“It’s a great system because it reduces everybody’s costs and it promotes understanding and knowledge,” Jeremy said. “Some users will pay for open source programs so that they have support to install and use them. In that case, the supplier must also provide the original code for the program, so the user is able to go back to the source and make changes.

“It’s something you can’t do with commercial software.”

Jeremy is one of 20 world-wide winners of the IBM Linux Scholar Challenge. He is the only Australian among the winners, who received an IBM laptop computer and a chance to work at IBM’s Linux Technology Centre in the US, on a short internship.

The Scholar Challenge required students to submit an essay about work that each of them had contributed to the Linux (open source) operating system. Jeremy’s contribution (his Honours project) was a project which involved optimizing load balancing software, to make Linux-based web sites more reliable.

“My system enables people who use multiple network servers to get high performance, because the load is balanced between the machines,” Jeremy said.

“I devised a scheme to measure how busy each server was, and then allocate tasks accordingly.”

Entries were judged on creativity, thoroughness and results.

While he waits for confirmation of his internship, Jeremy is working with his Honours supervisor, Dr David Glance, on a research project funded by the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT).

“We are compiling a report on the use of open source software for universities. It could save universities a lot of money, but we have to look at the potential problems as well,” he said.

The School of Computer Science and Software Engineering already uses open source software and this semester, for the first time, first year students will be learning on Open Office, instead of Microsoft Office.

If you would like more information about open source programs, go to www.opensource.uwa.edu.au

The University is getting its teeth into the health of remote and rural communities.

Last year, the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry sent off its first cohort of final-year medical students to work in the bush. And this year, final-year dentistry students will be doing the same, working in new clinics set up by the Centre for Rural and Remote Oral Health (CRROH).

The first of several clinics to open this year is at Wiluna. It is a joint initiative of the Ngangawilli Aboriginal Health Service and CRROH, with support and funding from the State Department of Health.

As with other remote clinics, it will be staffed by visiting dentists from Perth (as well as students on rural placement) for one week in four, 10 months of the year.

The Wiluna clinic was enthusiastically received by the community, with more than 30 patients receiving long-awaited dental care during its first week of operation.

Dr Norm Turpin, from the Ngangawilli Health Service, said the dental service would be a major contribution to the effective management of nutritional and other diseases, including diabetes, which was so prevalent in Aboriginal communities.
With nearly 100 years of service to the University between them, three administrative assistants in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, reckoned it was time to take a tea break.

Margrit Walmsley, Lee Carter and Danielle Morris left their offices in Classics and Ancient History, European Languages and Studies, History and Philosophy to get together for a quick reminisce about their working lives.

All three were employed (Margrit in 1969, Lee and Danielle in 1972) as secretaries but, with the advent of computers, their work became much more administrative.

There have been times when they felt overworked and under-appreciated but they say that, “If they didn’t really like it, they wouldn’t have stayed so long. They say each other’s support, friendship and assistance is an invaluable part of their time at UWA.

Lee and Danielle were two of 124 UWA staff who were honoured recently for completing 25 years of service. Margrit’s contribution had been recognised at an earlier celebration. She is one of a further 94 staff who have been at the University even longer.

That makes a total of 218 staff members who have been here 25 years or more.

John Beesley, senior administrative officer in the School of Animal Biology, has been at UWA for 30 years. He plans to retire later this year.

“I’ve always said that older people shouldn’t hang around too long because, otherwise, there are not enough chances for young people,” he said.

And what does Mr Beesley plan to do in retirement? “I’ll probably come back here on a voluntary basis, and help the students with their lab skills,” he said.

An analytical chemist who fell into administration because he was so good at it, Mr Beesley once spent an exhausting weekend saving sheep during a big bushfire at the University’s field station, Allandale Farm, in 1997, for which he was awarded a Chancellor’s Medal.

Those honoured for their 25 years of service were presented with a pin and a certificate by the Vice Chancellor, Professor Deryck Schreuder, who commended them all for their loyalty.

Professor Lyn Beazley … excited by the potential of neuroscience
An entomologist will spend part of her time in South Africa identifying natural enemies of the diamond-back moth, which is causing havoc in Australia's canola crop. A general practitioner will start to develop a community-based year for UWA medical undergraduates, while studying models in the UK. And an historian will fast-track an emerging academic career with research in Canada for a book on 20th century South Africa.

All three have won 2003 Fay Gale Fellowships, designed to meet the needs of UWA staff at early stages of their careers, and whose professional development merits special assistance with family matters.

The three fellowships are worth a total of $34,900. The Fay Gale Fellowship committee would like more applications from general staff.

Dr Spafford-Jacob (pictured below), an applied entomologist, has a six-year-old son and a husband (also an academic) who is often away overnight. This has precluded her from travelling to conferences or workshops. But with the fellowship, she is able to take her son with her on her field trips to South Africa.

"I value highly the collaborations that are established here in WA. However, I feel it is time to foster significant research relationships further afield," she said.

She chose South Africa for two field trips later this year because it has many of the same weeds and pests as Western Australia. Dr Spafford-Jacob's interest is in biological control and she says you can always find a natural enemy if you look hard enough.

The diamond-back moth’s natural enemies in Australia include about six parasitoids (insects which lay their eggs on or in other insects). There are about 20 of them in South Africa and, after a recent large outbreak in WA's canola crop, Dr Spafford-Jacob wants to find more natural enemies to control the pest.

Dr Amanda Barnard (pictured left) is senior lecturer in general practice in the School of Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care.

She sees a need for undergraduate medical students to become involved in community-based health and medical care and is going to the UK on her fellowship to study models already working successfully in two medical schools.

“They are based in outer metropolitan areas and that’s where I would like to see our students working. It would enhance the students’ learning and advantage the people who live in these areas, taking health and medical services to them,” Dr Barnard said.

“The students would learn so much being out and about in the community rather than sitting in the tertiary hospitals, waiting for people to come to them.

“Community-based health care is the direction being taken all over the world,” she said.

Dr Barnard will also learn about a similar project which failed in Sheffield, getting an understanding of the problems and issues involved before coming back to UWA to explore which undergraduate year would be best for the community experience.

She has taken two short conference trips overseas in the past six years, both times “tucking a small child under my arm” at her own expense.

This time, the Fay Gale fellowship will assist with the cost of taking one or perhaps two of her children to the UK.

History lecturer Dr Jeremy Martens (pictured right) is delighted to be returning to Queen’s University, Ontario, where he completed his PhD in 2001. He plans to begin work on a new book-length project, provisionally titled Race, Sex and Violence in Twentieth Century South Africa.

“Queen’s has some of the world’s best scholars on South African at its Southern African Research Centre. They have material unavailable at UWA, and scholars whose expertise and advice will be extremely valuable,” he said.

Head of the School of Humanities, Associate Professor Alan Dench, said Dr Marten’s study period in Canada would be of great value to his developing career as well as the University’s internationalisation objectives. UWA recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Queen’s.

Originally from South African, Dr Martens started a family while studying in Canada. His four-year-old daughter now lives with her mother in Toronto and he is able to see her for only a few weeks, twice a year.

“It is difficult to articulate just how valuable it would be to have the opportunity to live close to my daughter again … and share custody of her for four months,” he said.
Albany opening highlights regional win

The University's centres in Albany and Geraldton have already won enthusiastic approval from rural-based students.

Now the centres, and UWA's methods of flexible delivery have won an Australian University Teaching Award.

Staff from Albany and Geraldton joined colleagues on campus last month to celebrate the award which recognised the University's innovative and practical approach to the provision of educational services to local and regional communities.

Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, said the award recognised UWA's flexible methods of teaching and learning in the 21st century.

In Albany and, more recently, Geraldton, the University provides a combination of teaching and learning strategies with the latest electronic technology combined with face-to-face contact with students.

Teaching in the centres uses the best principles of flexible delivery and depends largely on the support of UWA's Arts Multimedia Centre, which facilitates the audio and or video recording of lectures delivered at the Crawley campus.

These lectures are made available on the Internet, along with lecture notes and class materials. The iLecture system was developed by the Arts Multimedia Centre and its success is vindicated by the national education award.

Both Albany and Geraldton centres also provide tutors, who are resident in the region, so students can have human contact in tutorials and laboratory sessions.

The University's service to regional communities was highlighted shortly after the announcement of the award, at the opening of the newly renovated Albany Public Library.

Just as UWA was establishing its centre, the City of Albany was deciding to upgrade its library facilities. So the University decided against building a separate library for students and joined forces with the City of Albany, contributing substantially to the $1.32 million revamp, which brings wide benefits to the whole community.

There are now more than 1,000 UWA books in the Albany Public Library and Albany residents have access to them, just as UWA regional students have access to the library's new facilities.

At the opening, Professor Robson said it was this type of partnership which had helped UWA to achieve the Australian University Teaching Award and the opening of the joint facilities was a further reflection of the strong partnership and collaboration between the University and the City, in areas that benefit the wider community.

He also acknowledged the support of the Great Southern Development Commission in securing State Government infrastructure funds of $70,000 for academic library books and development of the library system.

The Chancellor, Dr Ken Michael, said at the opening that the support of the City of Albany and its people of the UWA presence in the city remained overwhelming. "It has been the hallmark of our University’s presence here since day one," he said.

About 250 people, including many from the Crawley campus, attended the opening. Professor Dennis Haskell, who was instrumental in establishing the Albany Centre, took part in poetry and prose reading as did two Albany tutors, Warren Flynn and Barbara Temperton.
The music lives on ...

It was nearly 20 years ago that Emeritus Professor Sir Frank Callaway retired as foundation Professor of Music, but his presence was still strongly felt in Perth’s music community.

Now following his death late last month, just a couple of months short of his 84th birthday, his influence is not likely to diminish.

His distinguished 31 years at the Head of UWA’s School of Music was matched by his achievements in music outside the University. He was a professional violinist, bassoonist and conductor before leaving his native New Zealand and settling in Australia in his early 30s.

He devoted his life to music, always preferring making music with others to performing as a solo artist. He held high office in international music education, was widely respected throughout the world and honoured by the Queen three times.

In 1997, Sir Frank was awarded the International Music Council/UNESCO Music Prize ‘in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the cause of music in the world.’

On his retirement in 1984, the University established the Frank Callaway Foundation for Music, which encompasses the unique Callaway International Resource Centre for Music Education.

On the occasion of his 80th birthday, in 1999, which was celebrated in style with a tribute concert in the Perth Concert Hall, the great violinist Yehudi Menuhin said of him: “It (our planet) needs not only the light of the sun but also the light of our arts and the light of people like Sir Frank.”

All systems go

The new Student Information Management System (SIMS) is a work in progress.

The agreement between the University and Callista Software Services has been signed and John Murray heads a team of eight staff who have started the huge task of adopting and implementing the new system.

It will take about two years to set everything in place and train staff in its use, so the system will be in full swing at the end of 2004.

John Murray says it is a flexible system, able to cope with the more complex lives and needs of students.

It was developed by Deakin University, after consultation with 10 universities. Deakin then created a company to develop the system, and Callista Software Services was set up.

“It is designed to record the life of a student, from application and enrolment through assessment to graduation, with data being available to Convocation, once a student has left the system.

“We have to tailor what we do to fit the system. With 15,000 students, all with different courses, circumstances and needs, it’s a very big job,” he said.

The SIMS implementation team is conducting a competition to come up with a more catchy name than SIMS.

See www.sims.uwa.edu.au for details.

Back in the picture

Photographers Jackie and Ian Phillips are back where they started from.

When they met at UWA as students, Jackie was studying anthropology and Ian was studying anatomy and human biology.

Now, after careers as teachers, they have combined their love of photography and the University, and set up shop in the Guild Village, between anthropology and anatomy.

After winning a three-year contract from the University for graduation photography, they decided to open a shop on campus. Phillips & Father, the photography and framing business was set up by Ian and his Dad in 1979.

The Phillips have been providing photographic, framing and souvenir services to UWA for nearly 20 years. They are now offering a free stage presentation photograph for each graduand.

Phillips & Father was the first donor to the Hackett Foundation, giving $10,000 worth of framing.
Young neuroscientist Carla Mellough sat down to write an essay for an international competition the same day her grandmother died.

“I knew Gran was going to die that day and I was feeling very emotional as I wrote,” said the PhD student.

But emotion was obviously what was required because Carla became one of 14 international winners of the 2002 Women in Neuroscience (WIN) — Eli Lilly and Pfizer Travel Awards.

Neuroscience students worldwide were asked to present their research for possible inclusion in the annual Society for Neuroscience Meeting, held last year in Orlando, Florida, in November.

They also had to submit an essay on potential barriers to women in neuroscience, and how to overcome them. Carla’s essay recommended women stay keen and confident while asserting their rights to bear and nurture children, without it affecting their careers. She said organisations such as WIN were invaluable, instilling confidence and providing a strong supportive network for women pursuing careers in the neurosciences.

She and 13 others were chosen to receive their awards at the meeting in Florida and present their work. Carla’s doctoral research, under the supervision of Professor Alan Harvey, looks at ways of replacing cells that ‘go missing’ because of disease, such as Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s disease.

“I’ve been working on the visual system, transplanting cells into different lesion models in both juvenile and adult rats and mice to see how cells behave in a damaged environment, to see if these cells survive, if there is reconstitution of function — if the rats or mice can be cured of blindness,” said Carla.

“If we can successfully replace damaged or degenerating neurons in the eye, the same techniques can be used in other areas of the central nervous system, for example in patients with Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s disease, or following stroke.

“Although our successes could not be considered clinically relevant at this stage, the research has given us lots of information and progresses towards the final aim of eventually being able to repair the adult nervous system,” she said.

Carla, who is completing the final six months of her PhD, said that, although the field of neuroscience is traditionally male-dominated and very competitive, she had been very lucky to have a supportive research environment from both male and female mentors in her experience.

As well as the WIN awards, which covered her conference expenses in Florida, Carla also won a $2,500 UWA Graduates Association Award, from a field of 48 candidates. She used this to buy a round-the-world-ticket, so she could spend time in collaborating laboratories at the Harvard Children’s Hospital in Boston as well as exploring the possibility of postdoctoral work in Harvard and at the University of Durham in North North England.

“At Harvard, I worked with two different researchers. Dr Jeffrey Macklis has developed a technique which provides animal models of neural degeneration that closely mimic various neurodegenerative diseases seen in humans, so we can work on cell transplant techniques in an environment very similar to that in the human where the cells have ‘gone missing’. I also worked with Dr Larry Benowitz on research into retinal ganglion cells, which take visual information from the eye to the brain through the optic nerve, which ties in with my work nicely,” Carla said.

“The experience I gained from being able to travel overseas to present my work at an international conference and liaise with some of the leaders in the field of neural transplantation has not only extended my research work, but has aided in the completion of my thesis, as well as greatly improving my job prospects for postgraduate research. I feel like I can make much more sound decisions regarding my postdoctoral options”
The University has taken great pride in four staff whose contribution to education, science and the community was recognised nationally in the Australia Day Honours list.

Professor Fiona Stanley, who was made a Companion of the Order of Australia in 1996, was named Australian of the Year for her devotion to child health research.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Community and Development) Professor Margaret Seares was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her inspiring work in arts administration, education and development of Australia cultural identity.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson was rewarded for his outstanding contribution to agricultural science and agricultural research with a Member of the Order of Australia (AM).

The honour was also bestowed on the Head of St Catherine’s College, Yvonne Rate, for her life-long contribution to sport, as netball player, coach and administrator.

To have worked and studied on three continents is of some interest …

… but to have performed — singing, playing guitar, mandolin bouzouki or keyboards — across the world, somehow seems more impressive.

Associate Professor Alan Harvey, from the School of Anatomy and Human Biology, has done both.

He describes his music as eclectic. The website for his current band, Dot Combo, describes it as “folk acoustic Celtic country blues and other good stuff”. Alan mostly plays keyboards for Dot Combo, something that takes him back to the beginning of his musical career.

“At the age of eight, I had piano lessons for six months. And then my music teacher suddenly died and I wouldn’t have lessons from anyone else. So I basically taught myself from then on,” he said.

“As a teenager I listened mostly to classical music, but I was introduced to folk music (and many other things) at Cambridge University. That’s when I bought a guitar and a mandolin and taught myself to play.”

Alan has been making music since then. He made a record with a folk-rock band in Cambridge and was asked to join another band (at least one of the members of which went on to become famous) but he had already committed to doing his PhD in Australia.

So he took his neurophysiology books and his guitar to another continent. He has sung and played solo and in small groups and sung in choirs around Australia and in the USA. He writes songs but says he has rarely played his work to his musically famous cousin Eric Bogle, although he did support Eric in a concert in Adelaide some years ago.

Once a part-time member of Perth’s Stringy Bach, Alan has, either on his own or with different bands, provided the support act for lots of big folk names visiting WA, including The Furies, Martin Carthy and Dave Swarbrick, Maddy Prior of Steeleye Span fame and Jeremy Taylor.

If he can find the time, he hopes to make a CD of his own songs some time this year and, on his next sabbatical, he plans to write a book about the secret of music, why it works, why and how human brains respond to it. “I hope the book will be a combination of neuroscience, human biology and art, finally bringing all the strands of my professional and other lives together,” he said.

If you or your colleagues have another ‘life’ away from campus, climbing mountains, cooking exotic feasts, sculpting or kite-surfing, please let us know and we can share it with everybody. Email lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au

This is the first in a series looking at the Personal Passions of people on campus …
A fundamental measure of the performance of our University is the quality of our students and graduates, the excellence of our staff and the high achievements in our teaching and research.

In recent years one of the major features of the University’s planning and policies has been to be judged by international standards.

In 2003 the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) will be auditing UWA to assess whether the University has performed to the standards set in our plans. AUQA describes this as a ‘fitness for purpose’ model which is based on the assumption that the auditee (UWA in this case) has explicit objectives which it genuinely wishes to achieve, that it acts in ways intended to achieve these objectives, and that it monitors and reviews its performance against these objectives as a means of self improvement.

The origins of AUQA are the Kemp White Paper (1999) which set the context for the Government’s desire for renewed focus on quality assurance in the higher education sector.

It was proposed that the responsibility of governments would be to provide a robust quality assurance framework while placing the responsibility for the quality of provision on individual universities. This is important to signal to the community and the rest of the world that the quality of the Australian Higher Education system is assured through a rigorous external audit of the university quality assurance processes.

And so UWA now finds itself in amongst the second round of AUQA audits. The University’s approach to the audit is to emphasise that quality assurance and improvement are fully embodied in our planning and decision-making processes, and that outcomes are the main indicators of quality.

From AUQA’s perspective outcomes will provide information on the effectiveness of the University’s processes in achieving our own stated objectives. And by processes AUQA means more than documentation, but institutional practice and knowledge which is sufficiently formalised that it does not reside solely in the minds of individuals (AUQA’s words).

UWA’s challenge therefore is to demonstrate that there is a high level of shared commitment to the University’s mission and goals and a high level of participation in the means of achieving them. As part of the AUQA audit the University is required to undertake a critical self-review and the results of this self-review are to be reported in a submission to AUQA of a written portfolio (the Performance Portfolio) that briefly outlines UWA’s quality system and an appreciation of its effectiveness, with evidence. UWA’s approach to the self-review has been to undertake this at the faculty level because the University’s devolved model of governance has meant that management and budget responsibility lies at this level.

In December last year a comprehensive questionnaire was sent to faculties to initiate the self-review and the responses have been particularly useful in assessing the extent of uptake and effectiveness of the University’s central policies and guidelines, and in identifying additional outcomes data and areas for improvement. The UWA Performance Portfolio is now at a stage where the University is seeking feedback on the first draft from the university community as part of an open process of consultation and engagement. The draft Portfolio is available for downloading from a dedicated web site at www.qualityassurance.uwa.edu.au/

Over the next few months the UWA Performance Portfolio will be ‘walked and talked’ around campus before being finalised for submission to AUQA in the second week of May 2003.

The process from there is that AUQA will consider the UWA submission over three months before arranging a site visit to UWA in August. AUQA will then produce a public report on its findings which will describe UWA’s quality arrangements and their effectiveness … in essence to determine whether we are ‘fit for our purpose’.

Of course the University is confident that its history of responsible management and its strong culture of planning will stand it in good stead for the upcoming audit. But the real value of the AUQA process will be in the extent to which the University is able to learn more about the effectiveness of its performance management and quality assurance processes, and how to use this as a genuine lever for self improvement. Satisfying AUQA at the same time will be a useful additional benefit.

Are we fit for our purpose?

By Dr Campbell Thomson
Director, Research Services
Executive Officer, UWA Quality Assurance Working Party
The Professor-at-Large Scheme offers an opportunity for eminent scholars to make strong connections with the University over an extended period through multiple visits and a broad range of activities during each stay. They will be housed at the Institute of Advanced Studies and encouraged to foster inter-departmental activities. Each Professor-at-Large will be invited to accept a two- or three-year appointment during which the appointee will expected:

- to make at least two visits to UWA;
- spend at least two weeks at UWA on each visit; and
- spend a total period of residence at UWA of at least one month for a two-year appointment and six weeks for a three-year appointment.

Preference may be given to nominees who have previous involvement with UWA and/or who plan to spend longer periods in residence at UWA. Professors-at-Large do not have to be academics—they may also be writers, public intellectuals, and artists. It is envisaged that two appointments may be made depending on funding.

**IAS Chair in Public Understanding of Science Communication**

This scheme proposes a fixed-term appointment, normally for one visit of up to six weeks, to be awarded to a senior person who has previously made a significant contribution in a field of science or its communication. This proposal productively borrows from a scheme at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the University of Bristol: the Collier Chairs in the Public Understanding of Science & Technology.

**We intend to provide opportunities for recipients to:**

(a) develop clear linkages to science and technology across the University as well as the other universities in Perth, and through the Premier’s Science Council and other appropriate science-focused departments of the Western Australian government, particularly in education, commerce and trade;

(b) utilise research undertaken by researchers across UWA;

(c) exploit links specific to the area of science and technology, with a particular focus on dissemination into the broadest interested public including secondary school and undergraduate students, and by involving institutions such as the WA Museum and Scitech.

**Selection Process for both schemes**

Preliminary letters should reach the Institute of Advanced Studies by 1 April 2003. The committee will review and respond by mid-April. The deadline for second stage proposals will be 31 May, with final decisions announced in the third week of June. Nominees will be expected to make their first visit to Perth by early 2004.

**Please contact Terri-ann White, Institute of Advanced Studies, to obtain any further information on 9380 2114 or tawhite@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.**
WEEKDAY MASS
5.15pm, Mon to Fri, St Thomas More College chapel. Catholic chaplain (ext. 2405).

Monday 10 March
PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Oxidative stress and mitochondria in plants’, Prof David Day. 4pm, Agricultural Lecture Theatre.

Wednesday 12 March
FRIENDS OF THE UWA LIBRARY TALK AND AGM
Philippa Nikulinsky will talk about her new book *The Soul of the Desert*. Philippa has had a lifetime connection with drawing and painting wildflowers, with a particular fondness for plants in hostile environments. She has mounted ten solo exhibitions, within Australia and internationally, and numerous exhibitions with other artists. 7.30pm. Staff Room, Ground Floor, Reid Library. Contact Liz Tait on ext. 2356 or email ltait@library.uwa.edu.au.

Friday 14 March
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND MARKETING SEMINAR
‘Automated web assessment and media monitoring’, Dr Arno Scharl, 11am, Social Sciences Room 2233, south entrance. Contact Min Qiu on ext. 3729.

Monday 17 March
PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘The joy of mixtures: can we really make saltland pastures work?’ Dr Ed Barrett-Lennard. 4pm, Agricultural Lecture Theatre.

Tuesday 18 March
OIL AND GAS ENGINEERING LECTURE
‘An x-ray odyssey, 2003: application of computed tomography.’ The objectives of this lecture are to introduce the resolution X-ray computed tomography (CT) facility at Penn State Center for Quantitative Imaging and to demonstrate its applications. The lecture is free, however, registration is necessary for catering purposes. Please register your attendance with Catherine Lee at cale@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or call ext. 1971. 2pm, Room 105, Civil and Mechanical Engineering Building. For more information, contact Jishan Liu, ext. 7205 or at jishan@cyllene.uwa.edu.au.

Our caravan will be at UWA, just off the Rugby Oval on the following days:

Monday 24 March—9am to 4pm
Tuesday 27 March—9am to 4pm
Monday 2 April—9am to 4pm
Tuesday 3 April—9am to 4pm

For an appointment please ring 9421 2343

Proudly sponsored by UWA

2003 SHANN MEMORIAL LECTURE
‘Cellular 3G, Broadband and WiFi’, Professor Jerry A. Hausman, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge. 6pm, Social Science Lecture Theatre.

Friday 21 March
FIRST ORDINARY MEETING OF CONVOCATION
Mr Patrick Cornish, Obituaries Editor of The West Australian will speak about ‘History not Hysteria’. 6.30pm, University House. Contact the UWA Graduates Association on ext. 3006 or email uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au.

MICROBIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Recombinant cytomegaloviruses: rodents, plagues, vaccines and sterility’, Dr Malcolm Lawson, Microbiology. 1pm, Microbiology Seminar Room 1.1, First Floor, L Block, QEII-MC.

CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Grain legume improvement program at DAWA: future directions’, Robert Delane, Dept of Agriculture, WA. 4.30pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

Monday 24 March
PLANT BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Pythium diseases of carrots in Australia’, Dr Elaine Davison. 4pm, Agricultural Lecture Theatre.

Tuesday 25 March
ANATOMY AND HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR
‘Centimetres to nanometres: flexibility in microscopy’, Dr Peta L. Clode, Lecturer in Biological Microscopy, Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis. 1pm, Room 1.81 Anatomy and Human Biology Building.

ADVANCE NOTICE
Wednesday 26 March
PUBLIC LECTURE
You are invited to attend a public lecture by Professor Gillian Beer, King Edward VII Professor of English Literature at Cambridge University and President of Clare Hall, the graduate college. In the lecture ‘Experimental Islands’, Gillian will combine discussion of the problems of founding a population on islands in both actuality and fiction, and how the concept of the island has influenced political thinking and evolutionary theory. 6pm, WA Museum Foyer, James Street, Perth. Proudly presented by the Institute of Advanced Studies and MuseumLink. No cost but bookings essential. Call the Institute of Advanced Studies on 9380 2020.

Australian Red Cross
BLOOD SERVICE

Sharing life’s best gift

Give blood at the Mobile Caravan

Our caravan will be at UWA, just off the Rugby Oval on the following days:

Monday 24 March—9am to 4pm
Tuesday 27 March—9am to 4pm
Monday 2 April—9am to 4pm
Tuesday 3 April—9am to 4pm

For an appointment please ring 9421 2343

Proudly sponsored by UWA
The Graduate Careers Council of Australia (GCCA), in co-operation with the AVCC and DEST, announces an important event concerning quality outcomes in the Higher Education sector. The 2003 GCCA Surveys Symposium, entitled “Graduates: Outcomes, Quality and the Future”, has been designed to promote greater awareness of the official graduate outcomes surveys conducted by the GCCA, and to ensure that we continue to meet our stakeholders’ requirements for timely, robust data. Our current surveys include the Graduate Destination Survey (GDS, incorporating Graduate Starting Salaries and the Postgraduate Destination Survey), the Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) and the Postgraduate Research Experience Questionnaire (PREQ).

You are invited to attend and participate in the Symposium, which will address a wide range of issues associated with the surveys; topics covered will include the graduate labour market and its skill requirements and the higher education “quality agenda”. Over the two days the event will feature panel and plenary sessions, as well as key addresses from prominent government and university figures. Fuller details of the program, including accommodation options in Canberra, can be found on the gradlink website – www.gradlink.edu.au; please follow the Symposium link from the home page. Please note also that accommodation is in high demand in Canberra – a limited number of rooms have been block-booked at the Crowne Plaza adjacent to the National Convention Centre.

The cost of attendance is $396.00 which includes the symposium dinner on Monday night. If you wish to attend, please download the registration form from the website, and mail it to:

GCCA Surveys Symposium, PO Box 28, Parkville VIC 3052

Or fax to: (03) 9347 7298

Any inquiries concerning the symposium should be directed to Dr Richard Trembath at the GCCA; please telephone (03) 8344 9280 or email r.trembath@gradlink.edu.au.

We look forward to your presence in Canberra in March
The Teaching and Learning Committee is pleased to announce the successful applicants under the Teaching Internship Scheme for 2003. Eighteen applications were received and the following 11 postgraduate students (listed in alphabetical order) have been offered a Teaching Internship in 2003:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>FACULTY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jonelle Anne Black</td>
<td>Natural and Agricultural Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Vanessa Anne Bussau</td>
<td>Life and Physical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Daniel Franklin</td>
<td>Life and Physical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Nicholas Richard Mercer</td>
<td>Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Jessica Mary Needle</td>
<td>Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Michael Louis Ondaatje</td>
<td>Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Rosalia Katharine Partridge</td>
<td>Life and Physical Sciences/Medicine and Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms Anne Julia Smith</td>
<td>Economics and Commerce (UWA Business School)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Huang Minh To</td>
<td>Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Karina Maria Welna</td>
<td>Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Thomas Murray Wilson</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Teaching and Learning Committee congratulates these successful students.

The Teaching Internship Scheme has been very successful since its introduction in 2000 and will continue to be funded on an annual basis by the Teaching and Learning Committee. Any queries with regard to this scheme should be directed to the Executive Officer of the Teaching and Learning Committee, Sue Smurthwaite, on extension 2459 or email: ssmurthwaite@admin.uwa.edu.au

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**Research Grants & Contracts**

Any queries about the research grants published in this issue should be directed to the Research Grants Office, ext. 3702.

**ARC LINKAGE PROJECT VIA UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE**

Prof R. P. C. Howe (external), Dr Trevor Mori, Medicine and Pharmacology, and Dr B. Myer, A/Prof L. C. Tapsell (external); ‘Development and evaluation of novel foods enriched with very long chain omega 3 fatty acids’—$130,000 (2002-03).

**ARC VIA GRIFFITH**

Prof A. R. Nesdale (external) and Prof Kevin Durkin, Psychology; ‘Ethnic prejudice in children: development and treatment’—$20,000 (2002).

**AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL DISCOVERY PROJECTS**

A/Prof Philippa Madder, Dr Susan Broomhall and Dr Pamela Sharp; Humanities: ‘Beyond The family: fragmented relationships and household strategies in England 1400-1830’—$340,467 (2003-07).

A/Prof Peter Morgan, Humanities; ‘The whole map of the Balkans: ethnicity, national identity and empire in the work of Ismail Kadare’—$84,666 (2003-05).

**AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE**

Dr Jennifer Gregory, Humanities; ‘Historical encyclopedia of Western Australia’—$140,000 (2002-05).

**UWA RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME**

Dr Susan Broomhall, Humanities; ‘Writing a history of convent life in sixteenth-century France’—$12,106 (2002).


Prof David Kennedy, Humanities; ‘Survey and settlement in the Jerash Basin, Jordan’—$7250 (2003).

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**Classifieds**

**FOR RENT**

GLYDE ST. MOSMAN PARK. 2-3 bedroom furnished house available from April 1 2003 to July 1 2003. Close to river, ocean, shops. Rent negotiable. Contact Ian Walton on 9380 3105, ialton@ee.uwa.edu.au, or Gareth Lee at gel@csse.uwa.edu.au.

DOUBLEVIEW, house suitable for visiting academic. Short and long term. Available from early April, 2003. Two bedroom self-contained apartment in Fairway, next to UWA. Fully furnished and fitted out (including linen). Air-conditioning, heating, TV, telephone; undercover parking. Short walk to shopping centre, transport, restaurants, tavern, cinema, Swan River and Kings Park (bushland and recreational facilities). Email: clawley-apartment@inet.net.au, web address: www.goodstay.com/perthapartment, telephone: 9386 3367; mobile: 0418 914 204. $375 per week. Car and chooks (hens) negotiable! Available for 12 months starting 1 July 2002. Phone ext. 3411 or email fmynn@law.uwa.edu.au.

CRAWLEY, furnished accommodation, ideal for visiting academics. Short and long term. Available from early April, 2003. Two bedroom self-contained apartment in Fairway, next to UWA. Fully furnished and fitted out (including linen). Air-conditioning, heating, TV, telephone; undercover parking. Short walk to shopping centre, transport, restaurants, tavern, cinema, Swan River and Kings Park (bushland and recreational facilities). Email: clawley-apartment@inet.net.au, web address: www.goodstay.com/perthapartment, telephone: 9386 3367; mobile: 0418 914 204. $375 per week; lower rates for long duration (6 months or more); telephone charges extra.

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**WANTED TO RENT**

WANTED URGENTLY, lady seeks to housesit for 1-6 months whilst new home is built. Prefer western suburbs. Retired, fit, honest, conscientious, police clearance, refs. Willing to pay bond. Please phone Jenny 9381 2804 (OR mob. 0422 500 374 if present phone has been disconnected).

GOING ON LEAVE THIS SEMESTER? Need someone to care for your house, gardens and pets! Experienced house carer available, friendly, tidy, healthy-living young female staff member and PhD candidate at UWA. Tenant and personal references available. Email jananth@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or phone 9380 2853 (b/h).

WANTED, accommodation for overseas PhD student and partner arriving mid-April. Must be close to UWA. Please call Jenny on ext. 3324.

**FOR SALE**

STYLEWRITER 1500 colour printer. Best offer. Contact John Tonkin on ext. 8099 or email jtonkin@arts.uwa.edu.au

COMPUTER TROLLEY, stainless steel frame, on castors. Platforms for computer, keyboard and printer. Excellent condition. Best offer. Contact John Tonkin on ext. 8099 or email jtonkin@arts.uwa.edu.au

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**Redundant Equipment for Sale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>COND.</th>
<th>DEPT.</th>
<th>CONTACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 x Apple 15” monitors</td>
<td>$50 each</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>DUIT</td>
<td>Wendy, 3917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macintosh 8600/200</td>
<td>Offers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>DUIT</td>
<td>Wendy, 3917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC-ACER, PC Pentium II 233, 3 GB HD/164 MB RAM, CD ROM, 17” monitor</td>
<td>$200 ono</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>K Quek, 2813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 x celeron 300MHz, 128 MB RAM, CR ROM, keyboard, mouse and monitor</td>
<td>$250</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>WACRRM</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jshiley@cyllene.uwa.edu.au">jshiley@cyllene.uwa.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Umax Astra 6105 scanner</td>
<td>$70 ono</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Dianne, 3704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mac iomega jazz disk drive with 6x1 gb disks IBM and Mac formatted</td>
<td>$150</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Dianne, 3704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 x Computers Pentium 233MHz, 96 MB RAM, 40 GB HD, 17” Hitachi Monitor</td>
<td>$200 ono</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>EEC Eng</td>
<td>Stuart, ext. 3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 x computer, Silicon Graphics</td>
<td>$200 ono</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>EEC Eng</td>
<td>Stuart, ext. 3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indy 133MHz 64 MB RAM 1GBD</td>
<td>$200 ono</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>EEC Eng</td>
<td>Stuart, ext. 3899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 x 17” monitors, Sun Sparc X-Terminal</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>EEC Eng</td>
<td>Stuart, ext. 3899</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Bids should be accepted by Monday 24 March with schools to have first option.

Schools 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.