Botanical research makes a bold artistic statement

The tree canopy of Bold Park has been a focus of Judy Fisher’s research for ten years. It has now also been translated into a big work of public art at the entrance to the new Ecology Centre in the park.

“I have yet to finish writing up my PhD, but already Kings Park, which now looks after Bold Park (450 hectares of bush between Perry Lakes and the ocean), has created several research positions based on the results of the PhD,” Judy said.

“And of course, this wonderful work of art, created by Pam Gaunt, has been based on this research.”

A teacher by profession, Judy did a Kings Park guide’s course when her first child, Anna, was one year old. “Then I wanted to know more about identifying plants, so I did some work to convert my education degree to a science degree, as a Master of Science prelim.

“I just wanted to learn how to identify plants, but I ended up working on a PhD in Plant Biology!”

Judy started her research in 1994, and utilised Geography’s GIS system and the Government Department of Land Administration’s aerial photographs to look at changes in the tree canopy in Bold Park over the past 40 years.

“It has declined significantly since 1965. GIS investigations to determine fire disturbances, their frequency and their impact on the canopy, have found a major link to areas highly invaded by weed species and the frequency of fires. Some parts of Bold Park are badly infested with veldt grass and pelargonium, and their impact on the soil may be one factor affecting the growth of the Tuart and Banksia trees,” she said.

Donaldson and Warne, the architects for the new Ecology Centre at Bold Park (also the architects for the new University Club and the Motorola building), commissioned Pam Gaunt to design a work of art for the entrance and she looked at Judy’s research and chose to create a depiction of the canopy in blue/gray engraved with bright orange text floating over an orange map of Bold Park.

“The floating pieces, representing the existing canopy in 2000, are made from recycled and recyclable plastic,” Pam said. “The use of materials was an important consideration for this building, which is not using old-growth forest timber or other non-sustainable materials.”

The blue canopy ‘islands’ have the botanical names of the 15 native species in the park that are under the most threat, relying as they do on the tree canopy. Set into some of them are individually hand coloured glass gum leaves.

Pam has also designed the artwork for the floor inside the centre, which is still being built.

As well as the artwork and the research positions emanating from her PhD, Judy is also now the Chair of the WA Weeds Committee, which has been set up to implement the state’s weed plan.

UWA’s Manager of Graduate Research and Scholarships, Dr Sato Juniper, said Judy had made and was still making an outstanding contribution to the management of Bold Park and other urban parklands.
The East Perth Neuropsychological Clinic, formally opened this month, brings together the UWA Schools of Medicine and Pharmacology, and Psychology, and Murdoch University’s School of Psychology, with the Drug and Alcohol Office’s Next Step clinic.

Under the supervision of Dr Kyle Dyer, senior lecturer in pharmacology and senior research fellow at the drug and alcohol clinic, Dr Allison Fox, senior lecturer in psychology, concentrating on neuropsychology, and Dr Marjorie Collins, senior lecturer in psychology at Murdoch, postgraduate students from both universities are working with clients to assess the neurological harms resulting from methamphetamine or alcohol abuse.

Dr Dyer explained that methamphetamines were the second most used illicit drug, after cannabis, in WA. “In recent years we have seen a five-fold increase in the number of methamphetamine users seeking treatment, with many heroin users turning to methamphetamines, which are manufactured locally.”

He said that chronic use of methamphetamine was associated with impaired performance on tests of verbal and working memory, attention, and the ability to manipulate information. The cognitive tasks most susceptible to the long-term effects of alcohol included visuo-spatial processing and memory tasks.

“So, counselling for these people, even if they want to break their habits, may not work, if they can’t process verbal communication and make sense of what a counsellor is saying. And if they don’t turn up for their appointments, it may not mean they don’t want to come, but that they have forgotten,” Dr Dyer said.

“Methamphetamine is neurotoxic. It kills some of the cells in the brain. And we have to think outside the box to work out how to treat these people. Our work in the new clinic, and the work of the students under our supervision, it to provide specific diagnostic services to develop better treatment for the clients.”

He said it was not yet known how quickly the drug started to impair cognitive function. Research in the US had shown that two years abstinence helped to repair the brain cells. “But they can tend to grow back in an unusual way,” he said.

Early intervention can help to minimize impact on the brain cells.

Dr Dyer said the social implications of methamphetamine use were psychosis, aggression and ‘freaking out’, while heroin users tended to be more introspective.

Dr Dyer’s research assistant, Kim Newcombe, said methamphetamine users’ social problems seemed to mount very quickly, with aggressive behaviour resulting in problems like job loss and even criminal behaviour. Comparatively, it could take years for abuse of heroin or alcohol to impact on the users’ lives.

Five Masters and PhD students, working in the areas of neuropsychology and clinical psychology, started work placement at the clinic in April. Another five students will start in second semester.

“The assessment program provides a unique opportunity for the students to get clinical experience,” Dr Fox said. Dr Collins said it gave the students a chance to see the benefits of their theoretical research being applied in real world settings.

“Neuropsychological assessment and interpretation requires the skills of trained psychologists, and this is not usually possible within the budget and workload constraints of most drug treatment services,” said Dr Dyer. “This clinic offers the next best thing: while the postgraduate students gain unique practical experience, the patients gain better treatment, all in the context of the effective use of current resources.”

The clinic is the first of its kind in Australia. It has funding for the first year from the State Health Department and support from both universities. After that, the team hopes the clinic will be self-funded through research grants.

“It puts us at the forefront of assessing and treating the cognitive harms arising from drug dependence,” Dr Dyer said.
Until recently, students with disabilities applied to their Associate Dean for special considerations, and a decision was made. The only avenue of appeal was to the Vice-Chancellor. The University has now decided, in the interests of equity and consistency, to centralise these decisions, with the establishment of the Disabilities Appeals Committee. Students will still apply initially to their faculty for consideration, then, if they are dissatisfied with the decision, or, for some reason, a decision cannot be reached quickly, students can now go to the new committee.

Chair of the Academic Board, and Chair of this new committee, Professor Dennis Haskell, said decisions often needed to be made quickly for students with disabilities and the committee would try to ensure this.

"Because of the need for sensitive judgment, sometimes, even as to what constitutes a disability, the area is potentially fraught with difficulty," Professor Haskell said.

A world-class university is recognisable by its research-intensive culture, its ability to engage actively in the international processes of learning and discovery and its partnerships with the wider community that assists the economic, social and cultural development of the nation through the uptake of its research outcomes.”

“A fair go for all students

A new centralised system has been set up at UWA to help students with disabilities.

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"Because of the need for sensitive judgment, sometimes, even as to what constitutes a disability, the area is potentially fraught with difficulty," Professor Haskell said.

"But there are few cases that require our assistance. The University has about 650 students known to have disabilities; last year problems arose with judging appropriate accommodations for just five of them," he said.

"It can be a quite difficult area, making educational judgments, based on medical judgments. But we want to make sure all students are dealt with fairly."

"We hope that, with the establishment of this committee, the process of accommodating students with disabilities will be clear and equitable, and that students will not need to appeal to the Vice-Chancellor," Professor Haskell said.

The policies relating to students with disabilities and the resources available for them are on the Web: http://www.studentservices.uwa.edu.au/ss/students/disability/resources/reasonable/.
Bringing together the ocean and the fish: not as simple as it sounds

It may seem an obvious collaboration to the outsider: biological oceanography and fisheries.

But a big collaborative study, headed by chief scientist, Dr Anya Waite, an oceanographer at the Centre for Water Research, is one of the first major research projects these two ocean-based disciplines have worked on this closely together in WA, actually sharing space (and ideas) on research vessels.

The other three principal investigators are Dr Peter Thompson, CSIRO Hobart, and Dr Daniel Gaughan, Fisheries WA, and Dr Luke Twomey, a post-doc based at UWA.

The team also includes academics, researchers and students from Perth-based CSIRO and Murdoch University, with a student from Georgia Tech and a postdoc from Canada, in a $2 million study of the Leeuwin Current, over three years.

The group has funding from the Strategic Research Fund for Marine Environment, the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, UWA (which matched the faculty with $25,000) in cash and grants worth $1.2 million. The National Steering Committee has donated ship time worth $700,000.

“This is a unique opportunity to marry biological oceanography and fisheries research to get some answers to big questions about the sustainability of fisheries in the Leeuwin Current,” Dr Waite said.

“We are looking at the dynamics of the Leeuwin Current and trying to understand how they affect fish production.

Carbon and nitrogen budgets form our common language and we are using nitrogen isotopes (the stuff of biological oceanographers) to trace the nitrogen in the food chain of the fish.”

Dr Waite said that an honours student, Tim Malseed, had conducted a cross-disciplinary experiment that not only traced the nutrition available in the plankton into the gut of a pilchard, but went further, and tested the tissue of the fish, to see how much of that nutrient was actually taken up by the fish.

“Our research is really linking together brilliantly. We’re not just paying lip service to each other’s disciplines,” she said. “This is the first step towards real, fruitful collaboration, even though we essentially speak different languages.”

On the group’s first ship voyage, in October last year, the group made detailed investigations of nutrient concentrations and productivity inside and outside eddies that form in the Leeuwin Current each year, to determine whether these phenomena are death traps or nurseries for fish.

They towed an EZNet to sample nutrients and deployed a unique piece of equipment called a SeaSoar to map the shape and movement of the eddies. The SeaSoar also has a fluorometer sensor to map the productive perimeter of the eddies, and to identify them for later biological experiments.

Preliminary evidence from the voyage has provided some unexpected results which the group is currently processing. They hope to go on another major voyage in 2006, but are also conducting onshore-offshore research in smaller coastal patrol vessels, off Albany and off the coast between the Abrolhos and Cape Leeuwin.

They will link up with other researchers to explore and compare their work on the eddies, at a special Eddies Session at the Australian Marine Science Meeting in Hobart in July.

“We need to understand the mechanics of these eddies and their link to marine productivity and fish production, if we are to be able to predict what will happen to the fisheries in our region,” Dr Waite said.
Architects are used to creating designs that are never built. Public competitions are often created to attract the best designs for a project, which, by their nature, mean a lot of work is never translated into concrete form.

But competitions provide great experience for students, and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Richard Weller, has had a lot of success in competitions with his design group, Room 4.1.3, which includes his students.

Much of their work has been built around the world, but when a brief arrived for a new city in Singapore, it didn’t seem as though this would be one of them.

It was for a utopian concept, so tended towards futuristic clichés like ideas incubator and entrepreneurial ecosystem. The group could be forgiven for assuming this was another project that would remain on paper and computer screen.

But Room 4.1.3, along with a Sydney group Oculus (both of which employ UWA graduates), has been selected to design the landscape architecture for a fragment of the city, part of which is already functioning.

“This is a project that is definitely going ahead,” A/Professor Weller said. “We are designing about 20 different green environments that grow up through the towers of Fusion-polis, taking landscape up vertically, as if it were another strand of infrastructure.

“Of those 20 designs, probably four of the spaces will end up being genuinely unconventional. But the idea is certainly innovative as a sustainable environment.”

Fusion-polis is part of Media-polis, one of three hubs that make up One North, a futuristic city named after Singapore’s latitude of one degree north, which is being built on 200 hectares of land near Singapore’s National University. The other hubs are Bio-polis and Techno-polis.

The project was conceived to attract the best of international research and corporate culture. Bio-polis is already under way, and some of the collaborating scientists include UWA biochemists Professor Peter Hartmann and Dr Mark Cregan.

“It’s a research institute that’s rather like our WA Institute of Medical Research, in that, long before the purpose-built accommodation was ready, we were already working together in different places,” Dr Cregan said. “Bio-polis Park brings us all together in one place.”

He said he could not talk about the research he and Professor Hartmann were involved in because it was linked to a commercial development and was of a very sensitive nature.

Dean of Life and Physical Sciences, Professor George Stewart, attended the official opening of Bio-polis last November. The rest of One North is expected to be completed by 2015, at a cost of $15 billion.

The concept masterplan for the city was designed by architect Zaha Hadid, who won architecture’s highest accolade,
A group of staff and students is about to start designing and building an environmentally sustainable car – which they plan to drive around Australia.

The UWA Renewable Energy Vehicle (REV) Project was initiated by engineering students, but a meeting last month inspired 70 students from various faculties to join the project.

Spokesman Greg Dick, a third year mechanical engineering student, said the project already had some sponsorship and the support of the University, and the work of students involved in the project could become accredited units.

He said earlier sustainable cars had not been designed to appeal to everyday motorists.

“People can be confused by new technology, and as such, our vehicle must not have a radically different appearance to traditional cars, and cannot make large concessions in terms of convenience, comfort, safety and reliability,” Greg said.

“And while some regular cars have been retrofitted to use alternative energy sources, the ‘reverse-engineering’ process does not solve many of the inherent problems with current vehicle design, such as poor aerodynamics and unnecessary weight.

“Our project aims to demonstrate the use of renewable energy for personal transport by researching, designing and constructing a lightweight vehicle from the ground up. It will be powered principally by hydrogen fuel cells, with additional energy to power electrical systems provided by solar cells mounted on the body of the vehicle.

“The vehicle will be a single or possibly two-seater with some luggage space, and as a result of its renewable energy drivetrain, will produce nothing but harmless vapour from its exhaust,” he said.

Hydrogen power has been selected as the main energy source as it can be stored in a similar manner as fossil fuel products and can be obtained easily from many sources. Solar panels have also been included in the design as this first vehicle will be a long-distance tourer which will cover vast distances in full sunlight, providing a useful additional supply of electricity to be stored in batteries to power electrical systems. Many other technologies, such as “memory” motors, regenerative braking, lightweight composite materials and LED lighting will be used to maximize energy efficiency. Such vehicles have sometimes been referred to as a tribrid (as opposed to a hybrid) in that it has three sources of power; hydrogen, electricity (collected by regenerative braking) and solar.

“The renewable ideal will continue with our proposed hydrogen separation unit. Renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, will be used to provide electricity to power an electrolysis unit to separate water into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen will then be compressed into cylinders ready for use in the vehicle. This unit may be situated in the home of a future hydrogen car owner.

“To put our vehicle to the test we propose a journey around Australia visiting major capital cities during February 2006. The total journey distance will be roughly 14,500km, which is significant as it is roughly equivalent to the average distance travelled by motoring Australians every year. The tour will promote UWA and our sponsors. We also plan to raise money as we go, to support rural charities, to reflect the vast distances across rural Australia which we will cover.”

The project is open to students from across the university including law, human movement, geography, architecture and physics students, as well as the obviously large number of engineering students required.

Major research and design work starts next month.

The UWA REV Project is seeking sponsorship. If you can help or know somebody who could, contact the team at rev@ee.uwa.edu.au. You can also visit the website: www.ecm.uwa.edu.au/rev/

Continued from previous page

because in Singapore, things are well built and ideas are valued. Singapore is taking imaginative steps toward the future, and that’s a great environment for – in their words – incubating new design,” he said.

A/Professor Weller said the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts was well placed to play an academic and professional role in emerging Asian urbanism.
For many, it is a positive change, while, for others, it can mean extra stresses as expectations are raised, jobs change and some jobs are lost.

For about three in every hundred people, these social and economic transformations mean they have become victims of workplace bullying.

Paul McCarthy, a lecturer at Griffith University’s School of Management, has been studying the phenomenon for more than ten years.

“It has become a workplace issue with globalisation and restructuring, as people are left feeling disoriented or displaced by these changes,” said Mr McCarthy, who visited UWA earlier this month. His lunchtime seminar for staff resulted in standing room only.

“Workplace bullying has developed out of school yard bullying, domestic violence and other situations where inappropriate and unacceptable behaviours are practised. They are just outside criminal behaviour, but certainly unethical,” he said.

Mr McCarthy applies philosophical and cultural analysis to his study of behaviour in the workplace. He says that “the concept of bullying is resonating through the workplace because we now have the language and the understanding to recognise it and label it, even though it can be displayed through more than a hundred different modes of behaviour.

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Paul McCarthy chats with Professor Belinda Probert before his seminar

All over the western world, the effects of globalisation, deregulation and restructuring are being felt in the workplace.

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“It is often women who recognise it first and they are the majority of victims, while men are the main perpetrators, simply because there are more men working above women in management hierarchy in the western world.

“But just because women are leading the bullying debate doesn’t mean they are incapable themselves of bullying,” he said.

Mr McCarthy has just completed the first research conducted into bullying in an (unnamed) Australian tertiary institution.” It is extremely difficult to get into private workplaces to study bullying because employers are afraid we will find it.

“But this university invited us in and joined with my team in treating bullying as a quality issue. And it is a quality issue because bullying erodes quality of work, of relationships, even profits.

“As a hard-nosed business management person, I estimate that each case of bullying in an Australian workplace can cost, on average, $20,000. And that doesn’t include any legal costs, if the case comes to court. That’s simply absenteeism, the cost of replacing people, lost productivity, paying for mediation, staff on extended sick leave, others sent home from work. It’s also a risk factor for corruption. But these figures don’t show on records because probably only one in ten gets reported.”

He said the best indicator of the proportion of people in the workplace who are bullied was worked out by a Swedish study, which defined bullying as being subjected to unreasonable and unacceptable behaviour from another person at least once a week for at least six months.

“Their estimate was 3.5 per cent, or more than three in every hundred. Other studies put the figure at up to 10 per cent.”

He said a legal definition of bullying had now emerged in Queensland: Repeated unreasonable and unacceptable behaviour that offends, degrades or threatens an individual, and is a threat to health and safety and productivity. It can also include the setting of unreasonable work loads, unrealistic expectations and impossible deadlines.

Universities, including UWA, have codes of conduct to guard against bullying, but Mr McCarthy says there need to be more specific codes.

“With bullying we are dealing with perceptual issues: what one person sees as bullying, another does not. It is very complex.”

Mr McCarthy’s visit to UWA (sponsored by the Business School) was seen as an affirmation of the University’s policy against bullying, Guidelines for Conduct in the Workplace.
Echoes of *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, are resonating at UWA’s Geraldton centre.

Marisa Gilles, a senior lecturer in rural and remote health education at the Combined Universities Centre, extends not only her academic skills, but her after-hours passion to the bush.

Marisa is a belly-dancer and is one of a group taking their dancing to remote and rural Western Australia. The *Libbyah Queen of the Desert Belly Dancing Tour* was inspired by the Australian film *Priscilla*, which featured a busload of drag queens in the outback.

“I took up belly dancing ten years ago, and for the past six, I have been working in the country, in Carnarvon and now in Geraldton, and I have taught belly dancing and set up dancing troupes in both towns,” Marisa said.

“Belly dancing is a powerful way of connecting women of all ages, cultures, shapes and sizes. But it has many benefits besides the obvious social and exercise aspects. It also increases confidence, self esteem, balance and coordination. It’s a very healthy pastime,” she said.

“The troupe of five dancers is introducing these advantages to women in 16 towns in the Mid West, Gascoyne and Pilbara over the next month. They are also running children’s classes, including one at Burringurrah, a remote Aboriginal community, and performances in Kalbarri and Coral Bay.

Their tour concludes with a free community performance at the Geraldton Regional Art Gallery on July 17. *Libbyah Queen of the Desert* is sponsored by Healthway’s Enjoy Healthy Eating program, and supported by the Cancer Council, Country Arts and several local government organisations along the way.

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**Child care on wheels**

Children need a warm, safe, comfortable environment in which to wind down after school.

Now they can do it on wheels! University Child Care Services has just bought a new bus for transporting local primary school children to their after school and vacation care facility in Parkway.

The bus, which has lap restraints for 32 children, and is air-conditioned, provides a pleasant transition from school to care.

Child care Manager Joanne Powell said lap restraints were not a safety requirement for children’s buses, but she and the staff considered it their duty of care to provide the safest environment for the children.

They have a loan over five years from the University to pay for the bus, supplied by Skipper Mitsubishi, which waived the extras, of air conditioning, licensing and all the other costs associated with a new vehicle.

The bus, which seats 25 adults, is available for hire by other University groups outside the centre’s hours of use. It is needed between 2pm and 4pm on school days and often for day-long excursions during school holidays. Ben Murphy, the bus driver, is also available to take staff out in the bus.

For enquiries about hiring the bus, contact childcare@acs.uwa.edu.au
A PARTNERSHIP OF EQUALS

By Peter Curtis
Executive Director, Academic Services, and Registrar

The recent review of the Research Services division of the Registrar’s Office prompted some interesting discussion of the relationship between the academic and administrative functions and structures of the University.

Specifically, the review posed the question: ‘Why is Research Services a division of the Registrar’s Office rather than a unit reporting directly to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation)?’

The superficial answer to this apparently simple reporting line question is that Research Services is answerable both to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), for its policy direction, and to the Registrar, for line management purposes.

However, to understand the management philosophy behind this dual system of responsibility, it is necessary to look first at the composition and functioning of the University Executive. The six-member Executive group comprises: the Vice-Chancellor who as Chief Executive Officer, is the overall leader of the organisation and who in addition holds the Planning and Budget portfolio; the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, as general deputy to the Vice-Chancellor, with the External Relations portfolio and line responsibility for the Deans of Faculties; two Pro Vice-Chancellors with specific policy portfolios; and two Executive Directors – the Registrar and the Executive Director (Finance and Resources) who head up the Central Administration and are effectively the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) and the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) respectively. The distribution of policy responsibility and line management authority within the Executive is therefore critical to our entire system of management.

The division of responsibility between the two Pro Vice-Chancellors and the two Executive Directors in particular, is a good illustration of the system, which is essentially based on a partnership between the academic and professional/general staff of the University.

It has a number of important features.

First, it requires a cohesive Executive team. Taking the case of research, it means there are at least two members of the Executive with a direct interest in the research support function, an academic leader and a senior administrator, who need to communicate and work together on matters of priority.

Second, it is predicated on a plan-driven system. Research Services has an Operational Priorities Plan (OPP), which is a subset of the Registrar’s Office OPP, which in turn closely reflects the University OPP. At each level, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Registrar and the Director of Research Services have played a full role in aligning policy directions and resource priorities. Once the academic directions have been set, it is the administrator’s job to deliver and manage the support services. But it is iterative; the administrator must also advise on policy settings.

And so, third, our system recognises the professional integrity and independent advisory role of the career administrators who work with academics. It is important that independent professional advice is available on policy matters affecting academic activity, whether it be advice on state or federal government policy and bureaucratic requirements, or on internal administrative matters. I hold the view that administrators should have a service, but not servile, role in relation to their academic colleagues.

Fourth, it is a matter of fitness for purpose. Generally, Registrars/Executive Directors have spent their careers in professional management and administration. And generally, Pro Vice-Chancellors have spent most of their careers as academics and academic leaders. It should not be considered remarkable, therefore, to assign academic leadership roles to Pro Vice-Chancellors and management roles to Registrars/Executive Directors.

Fifth, the Registrar’s Office provides an environment of professional peer support for career administrators. Increasingly, the boundaries between administrative areas are becoming blurred and resources need to be mobilised across administrative boundaries. The Registrar’s Office has the structure, scale and flexibility to do that.

Finally, it is very important that professional/general staff see a career path that can lead to a seat on the Executive. The existence of two career administrators as members of the Executive plays a significant role in establishing parity of esteem for general staff and provides the foundation for a meaningful partnership model. This has both real and symbolic value, which will, I hope, contribute to closing the academic-general staff divide.

As with all structural arrangements, there is a degree of arbitrariness around the divisions and boundaries an institution chooses. But it is important that the underlying design principles promote a culture that encourages mutual respect, collegiality and partnership across the entire University community. The dual responsibility Research Services has to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) for policy direction, and to the Registrar for management purposes, reflects that partnership and is an important element of the institution’s management culture.
**Remembering the first DVC**

The University’s first Deputy Vice-Chancellor steered UWA through a vital decade of development from 1962 to 1972.

Professor Charles John Birkett Clews will be remembered by many staff at UWA, who were unable to say goodbye to him, as he died in Oxford, in October 2002.

A memorial service for John Clews and his wife Maud, who died in 1992, will be held in St George’s Cathedral in Perth on Thursday August 5, the anniversary of Maud Clews’ death.

Their daughter Dianna Clews, with whom Professor Clews lived in Oxford for the final three years of his life, is coming to Perth to give the family’s local friends an opportunity to farewell her parents.

Until Professor Clew’s appointment in 1962, the University’s executive structure had not included a Deputy-Vice-Chancellor. Professor Clews had studied physics in the UK and Europe, working as a scientific advisor with direct links to the War Cabinet Office, before coming to UWA in 1952.

He rose to Head of the Department of Physics, then Dean of the Faculty of Science before becoming Deputy-Vice-Chancellor.

The memorial service will be at 11am on August 5, after which refreshments will be served in the adjacent Burt Hall. Diana would like all who are attending to email her, so she can keep a list of well wishers and finalise the catering.

If you would like to go to the service, please contact her at dianaclews@hotmail.com or emilybirkett@yahoo.co.uk or call Marnie Bligh, Professor Clews’ former secretary, on 9755 7589.

**Birthday blessings**

Social work and surgery are highlighted in Queen’s Birthday Honours bestowed on two UWA staff members.

Dr Maria Harries, a senior lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy, and Adjunct Professor Richard Vaughan, from the School of Anatomy and Human Biology, were both made Members of the Order of Australia.

Professor Vaughan was inspirational in the development of CTEC, the University’s clinical training and education centre. His work brought the centre to a world class level, and it now sets an international benchmark for medical and surgical skills training.

He is a practising neurosurgeon and has been a champion of medical education and teamwork between surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses.

Dr Maria Harries is a Senior Lecturer in the Discipline of Social Work and Social policy in the School of Social and Cultural Studies. Among the many boards on which she serves, Dr Harries is inaugural Chair of MercyCare Ltd – which oversees the work of Mercy Hospital, Mercy Aged Care and Mercy Community Family and Youth Services; founding and current Chairperson of the Christian Brothers’ Ex-Resident and Student Services for former Child Migrants; a Director with Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and immediate past President; of the Mental Illness Fellowship of WA.

She has a long-term interest in working with people with a mental illness and their families, and with vulnerable children and families. In 2002, she co-authored the report on Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse.

**Buy some books and save a child**

For the first time in many years, the annual Save the Children Book Sale will be held during the school holidays, that is, a week earlier than usual.

It is the 40th anniversary of the sale, which raises money to help disadvantaged children throughout Western Australia and in Save the Children programs in Iraq, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

The huge book sale is held in the Undercroft and opens on Friday July 16 at 6pm. It continues throughout the weekend, from 9.30am to 5.30pm on Saturday and Sunday, then on Monday and Tuesday from 9.30am to 7.30pm and the last day, for the biggest bargains, is Wednesday July 21, from 9.30am to 2pm.

There is still time to donate books for sale. You can leave them at the former caretaker’s house at UWA’s Shenton Park Field Station, at the corner of Brockway Road and Underwood Avenue, Floreat. It is diagonally opposite Perry Lakes stadium.

Or you can arrange for your books to be picked up, by calling 9440 6311, 9312 3119 or 9381 3423.
The Research PhD program is one of the most important inventions of the modern university.

In its initial version the PhD was a major right of passage in the career of aspiring researchers. A successful thesis defense was proof of the ability of the researcher to make an original contribution to knowledge which was something more than a routine engagement with a field of study. The thesis had to show originality; it had to deliver something that was ‘new’ and challenging; it had to move disciplinary knowledge forward in a way that was acknowledged to be significant. The test of originality, of innovation, was such that it meant that undertaking a PhD was a minority enterprise.

In recent years the system has moved towards more of a mass PhD program than ever before. This expansion of the PhD program has its critics. Significant academic figures have argued that there has been a substantial decline in the quality of research being done as part of the PhD. They assert that many theses being examined now make little contribution to knowledge and are of little interest to anyone other than the students writing them.

Needless to say these are not views I endorse. I am impressed by the quality of the research produced through the present PhD program. The test of an original, innovative contribution to knowledge is still being met in a substantial number of cases. Sufficient of the work which is being produced matches the need to operate at the international cutting edge of research to undermine the claims of the mean spirited critics.

The other reason why the PhD will not fail is that the knowledge economy and an increasingly sophisticated understanding of the requirements of innovation demands an increasing number of ‘workers’ with the skills and cultural attributes which come from completing a well designed PhD program.

Parts of the PhD process should be reformed. For example, we need to return to the examination process and consider what we have been trying to achieve in the Australian system. I would propose to put the defence of the thesis back at the centre of the examination process – as it is in the United States, Britain and in Europe.

Modern communication technologies make obsolete the claim that the distances and costs are too much to have a face-to-face defence of a thesis in Australia. There are no insurmountable problems in the way of such a face-to-face defence of the thesis and the gains are substantial.

When the thesis is ready for examination, the examination time can be agreed between all parties on the basis of planned availability and the access grid room time booked. The examination itself can then focus on the serious issue, of establishing the degree of new knowledge and innovation in the submitted thesis, with an appropriate dialogue between examiners and candidate, without the bureaucratic intermediaries of the present process.

What this proposal does is to put the power back in the hands of the examining panel where it should lie, and not in some exterior committee based interpretation of comments and recommendations which are never tested by the examiners themselves.

The Dean of the Graduate Research School, Professor Robyn Owens, is developing a proposal to allow for such a face-to-face defence of the PhD thesis. I welcome and support this initiative and commend it to the University community.
The following staff members were promoted at the May and June meetings of the Promotions and Tenure Committee. Their accomplishments are indicated below:

**May**

**SENIOR LECTURER TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR**

“Outstanding scholarly achievement” in research and teaching and normally recognised internationally

Douglas Hodgson (Faculty of Law)
- He is a committed lecturer who inspires and enthuses his students while adopting an approach which encourages a critical perspective on issues;
- He has made a substantial and authoritative contribution in several areas of public law, but most particularly in those connected with the rights of children.

**SENIOR LECTURER TO PROFESSORIAL FELLOW (TEACHING AND LEARNING)**

“Exceptionally distinguished scholarly achievements” in teaching and learning and “normally recognised as an eminent international authority”

Dr Stuart Bunt (School of Anatomy and Human Biology)
- He has made an extraordinarily broad and diverse contribution particularly with respect to SymbioticA which is recognised internationally as an exciting development at the interface between art and science aimed at dissolving the sometimes arbitrary barriers between disciplines;
- He has introduced a range of innovations to teaching anatomy and neuroscience exploiting the latest technology. He has an exceptional record of successful grants in education and the development of teaching applications that prove valuable in the classroom.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSORIAL FELLOW (TEACHING AND LEARNING)**

“Exceptionally distinguished scholarly achievements” in teaching and learning and “normally recognised as an eminent international authority”

Dr Christopher Wortham (School of Social and Cultural Studies)
- He is an exceptional teacher who is universally respected for his expertise, infectious enthusiasm and lucidity, who has won or been commended for an excellence in teaching award on five occasions;
- He has made a major contribution of international standing to the study of poetry and drama of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TO PROFESSOR**

Dr Gary Hulse (School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences)

Dr Gary Hulse was promoted to Professor following a recommendation of the Promotions and Tenure Committee and an interview by the Senate Selection Committee in May 2004. Among his accomplishments are the following:
- He has conducted extensive research of an international reputation in addiction studies particularly with respect to his important and innovative work with naltrexone, which in a controversial area has been widely respected;
- He has maintained a consistent and excellent record in securing competitive funding for his research;
- He has played a national and international role in the area of alcohol and drug education in medical schools.

Dr David Pannell (School of Agricultural and Resource Economics)

Dr David Pannell was promoted following a recommendation of the Promotions and Tenure Committee and an interview by the Senate Selection Committee in May 2004. Among his accomplishments are the following:
- He has developed and sustained a well-funded and highly productive research programme having at its core the economics of agricultural production and natural resource management, in particular dry land salinity, and made a substantial contribution to the literature;
- He is one of the leading agricultural economists in Australia with a substantial international profile, who has been able to translate his academic research findings into the public policy forum.

**PSON Careers Week**

10am to 4pm
June 30–July 2 2004

Location: Social Sciences Lecture Theatres 1 and 2 (Facing the Oak Lawn)

Seminars include:

- How to put together a CV and answer selection criteria
- Life as an academic
- How to apply for research grants
- Things you need to know about working overseas
- Tips on how to network
- Working for the State and Federal Governments
- Advice for overseas students wishing to obtain migration visas
- Working for the CSIRO
- Working in the Oil and Gas Industry

Seminars are scheduled to last 50 minutes. A lunch break will be held between 1pm and 2pm each day. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided twice daily. Programmes will be available from June 24 online at www.psa.guild.uwa.edu.au/nuke, at the Guild Student Services Centre, at the Graduate Research School. Copies of the programme will also be mailed out to research students.
Tuesday 29 June
INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES PUBLIC LECTURE
‘Bush, Babylon and beyond’, Tariq Ali, writer, broadcaster, filmaker, and a major figure in intellectual and political movements in Europe over the last four decades. 7.30pm, Octagon Theatre. Tickets: no cost but are limited. We advise you secure a ticket early. Tickets available at Octagon Theatre.

Friday 2 July
MARKETING SEMINAR SERIES
‘Customer-managed interactions’, Professor Richard Thomas Watson. 11am, Resource Room SS2233, Second Floor, Social Sciences South Building.

AGRICULTURE AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS SEMINAR
‘New paradigms in natural resource management: Implications for Commu-nity’, Kathleen Broderick, Agriculture and Resource Economics. 4pm, Social Sciences Lecture Room 1, Social Sciences Building.

Friday 9 July
CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Lupin pre-breeding smorgasboard: seedcoats, podwalls, protein, fibre and alkaloids’, Dr Jon Clements; ‘Fast tracking of anthracnose resistant albus lupins’, Dr Kedar Adhikari. 4pm, DAWA Theatrette, South Perth.

Monday 12 July
ASThma and allergy research institute medical research seminar
‘Apoptotic mechanisms in mesothelioma’, Dr Simon Fox, Pharmacology, Curtin University. 12.30pm, Joske Seminar Room, Medicine, Fourth Floor, G Block, SCGH.

UNI SPORTS FOR KIDS
‘Wild Winter Fun!’ Uni Sports For Kids (USFK) is a fun and exciting school holiday programme for kids aged 5–12. 8am – 5pm, Monday 12 July – Friday 23 July, UWA Sport and Recreation Association, Car Park # 1.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES ANNUAL CASSAMARCA LECTURE
‘Other Latins and other cultures’, Emeritus Professor Ann Moss, FBA, former Professor of French at the University of Durham (UK). 6pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES SYMPOSIUM 12–14 JULY
‘Latinity and alterity in the Early Modern Period’, Convenor Associate Professor Yasmin Haskell, Cassamarca Associate Professor of Latin Humanism, Classics and Ancient History. Confirmed participants: Professor Ann Moss (University of Durham), Dr Andrew Laird (University of Warwick), Professor Antonio Lurilli (Palermo University), Dr Letizia Panizza (Royal Holloway, London), Professor Daniel Stolzenberg (Max Planck Institute, Berlin), Professor Dr Marc Laureys (Bonn University), Dr Christopher Allen (National Art School, Sydney), Dr Juanita Ruys (University of Sydney), Dr Farzad Sharifian (University of WA), Alexandra Mariano (University of Algarve), Professor Dr Martha Patricia Irigoyen Troconis (Mexico).

Registration form at http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/activities_and_programs/other_activities_and_events. 6pm, Geography Lecture Theatre 1.

Tuesday 13 July
ANATOMY & HUMAN BIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES
‘Reconsidering Difference - Contemporary art practices in a science school’, Oron Catts, Artistic Director, SymbioticA, School of Anatomy & Human Biology. 1 pm.; Room I.81, School of Anatomy and Human Biology.

Friday 16 July
ATEM WA 2004 CONFERENCE - EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR
‘Creating an Environment to Promote Excellence’, invited panel of acknowledged leaders in the tertiary sector. 8.30 am, St Catherine’s College.

Friday 23 July
CLIMA SEMINAR
‘Preparing the Australian Grains Industry for the next energy crisis’, Aaron Edmunds; ‘Preparing the Australian Grains Industry for the next energy crisis’, Professor Alistar Robertson. 4 pm, CLIMA Seminar Room.

Fulbright Senior Scholar Award
For university academics to undertake a research or study programme in the United States in 2005/2006.

Valued up to A$30,000

For academics and professionals of academically-based professions to visit the United States for four to six months.

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission will provide up to two awards in this category in 2005 for the support of:

• scholars of established reputation working in an academic institution who intend to teach or undertake research in the United States;
• practising professionals in the Arts who have established reputations in their fields;
• senior members of academically-based professions who are currently engaged in the private practice of their profession; and
• those of recognised academic or professional distinction who have been invited to the United States by a tertiary institution, learned society or professional organisation for a significant short-term purpose (such as invited speakers at a national or international conference, major research programme, provider of master classes or contributor to a major exhibition.

Closing date for applications is 31 August
Further applications and information see www.fullbright.com.au
phone: (02) 6260 4460

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The Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award for Schools was first introduced by the Teaching and Learning Committee in 1998 as a biennial award to reward teaching excellence.

The deadline for submissions for the next round of awards is 31 December 2004.

All members of staff are encouraged to consider this opportunity and liaise with their Head of School regarding submission of a teaching portfolio.

The Award process has been streamlined to fit with the established University practice of cyclical school reviews. Submission of a school teaching portfolio is now an integral part of the review process. Therefore, teaching portfolios for schools reviewed in 2003 and 2004 will be considered for the Award. The Award however is not restricted to those schools that have undergone a review and all schools are encouraged to submit a portfolio in accordance with the Guidelines.

The Award will be presented to the Head of School at an appropriate graduation ceremony. A component of the Award is funding to support the appointment of 0.5 FTE at Lecturer Level B for a period of one year ($35,000). The position is intended to support the School in its priorities in teaching and learning.

The Guidelines for the Distinguished Teaching and Learning Award for Schools are available on the web at http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/page/19512. Teaching portfolios in accordance with these Guidelines should be forwarded to Sue Smurthwaite at ssmurthwaite@admin.uwa.edu.au no later than 31 December 2004.
Dr Harvey Millar (School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences)

- He is an outstanding plant biologist and a leader and major contributor in the field of plant mitochondria, in which his work is acknowledged as original, innovative and groundbreaking;
- He is a prolific researcher whose work is typically published in the highest impact plant science journals and has developed an impressive array of international collaborations.

LECTURER TO ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

"Outstanding scholarly achievement" in research and teaching and normally recognised internationally

Dr Nicholas Milne (School of Anatomy and Human Biology)

- He has a sustained and increasing list of publications in functional morphology characterised by application of new and emerging technologies, careful integration into the available literature, and the development of themes of research addressing both fundamental research and with potential clinical relevance;
- He has comprehensive skills and experience in teaching which he has employed in his substantial duties, and has been highly evaluated by his students.

ASSOCIATE LECTURER TO LECTURER

"Scholarly achievements" in research and teaching

Fang Liu (Information, Management and Marketing, School of Economics and Commerce)

- She is a good teacher and has displayed versatility and a great commitment to her teaching;
- She is a potentially important researcher, with a high level of productivity particularly in the area of cross-cultural studies and online commerce.

LECTURER TO SENIOR LECTURER

"Substantial scholarly achievements" in research and teaching

Dr David Sutton (School of Biomedical and Chemical Sciences)

- He is a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher, with a high standard of teaching preparation, delivery, innovation, student communication, administration and pastoral care;
- He has published in the fields of marine microbial ecology and environmental microbiology.

Dr Matthew Tonts (School of Earth and Geographical Sciences)

- He has carried an extensive teaching load and undertaken these duties at a very high standard. He is both a formally trained and naturally gifted teacher;
- He has a very substantial record of publications and grant awards, particularly in the areas of rural communities and regional development, and has developed an active group of research students.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE TO RESEARCH FELLOW

"Satisfactory research achievements"

Dr Qin Yu (Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative, Plant Biology)

- She has assumed a major role in developing the biochemical and molecular capacity of the Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative’s new work on herbicide resistance, has contributed to understanding the mechanisms of stress tolerance and herbicide resistance and has a good publication record.

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW TO PRINCIPAL RESEARCH FELLOW

“Outstanding research achievements and normally recognised internationally” and “sustained, substantial and exceptional research”

Obesity Measurement Study

We are seeking people between the ages of 30 and 65 to participate in a study evaluating the accuracy of various forms of body composition measurement.

If you volunteer, you will be asked to attend a single Friday afternoon or weekend testing session lasting approximately one hour. We will be using DEXA (dual energy x-ray absorptiometry), BIA (bioelectrical impedance analysis) and anthropomorphic measurements to create full-body composition profiles including indicators of per cent body fat, per cent muscle mass and bone density. You will receive a complete copy and explanation of your results.

All procedures are non-invasive, will not cause any discomfort and possess no adverse side effects. DEXA measurement does involve a small radiation exposure, which is approximately the equivalent of spending 10 minutes on an airplane. The dose has been passed as safe by the UWA Radiation Office.

This study is being conducted through the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry as part of the Options 490 Research Project of the MB BS degree.

If you are interested, please contact: James Larkin, jlarkin@iprimus.com.au, 0403 304 979; Briony McCarthy, briony_mccarthy@hotmail.com, 0418 506 817; Michael Verheggen, verhem01@tartarus.uwa.edu.au; phone 9386 7183.

Classifieds

FOR SALE

2002 DAIHATSU TEROS DX 4WD, dark green, 5-door wgn, low km 40,000, 3-year new car warranty, (2004–2008), air cond., CD, power steering, dual airbags etc, excellent condition. $15,000 ono. For more information please call 0404 041 298.

HONDA ACCORD 93/94 VTi 2.2L Auto – a/c, tint, spoiler, alarm, s/roof, new suspension and tyres, good cond., economical, well kept and maintained. $11,500 ono. Ph hm: 9329 9010, w/c: 9346 4066, mbl: 0409 087 515.

TROMBONE, Conn 78H, Blat/flat trigger, medium bore. Beautiful instrument in top condition, only 2 years old, $2500 ono. Email lorna.robertson@uwa.edu.au or phone Lorna, Nick or Sam at home on 9332 8675.

FOR RENT

NEDLANDS, large house, ideal for visiting academic’s family. 3 bedrooms, 2 studies, 2 baths, small yard, less than 5 minutes bike ride/10 minutes walk from the northern edge of UWA campus. Short walk to Hampden St shops and bus stops, and 2 minutes to King’s Park (bushland and recreation). Fully furnished with kitchen fittings and utensils, linen, heating, etc. Owner will be away in Singapore from early July 2004 to early July 2005, so looking for a one-year tenant if possible. Asking $400 per week; bills for electricity, gas, water, telephone will be tenant’s responsibility. Email: acciaiol@cyllene. uwa.edu.au; phone 9386 7183.

Redundant Equipment for sale

**ITEM**

- Epson 1204U Colour Image scanner

**PRICE**

- $70

**AGE/YRS**

- 2.5

**COND.**

- 2

**CONTACT**

- Roger, Unipark

**PHONE**

- ext. 3554

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

Bids should be accepted by Monday 14 July with schools to have first option.

Schools are reminded that all University equipment available for sale must be advertised in the **UWA News**. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2546 for details.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA • 28 JUNE 2004