It’s not all tricks and gags being an identical twin.

Early in their undergraduate days, twins John and Evan Stamatiou were accused of plagiarism. “Our language is so similar, our sentence constructions and the way in which we use words are almost identical,” Evan said. “And we had, independently, done almost exactly the same research,” John said. “So we were asked to front up and explain.”

The University soon understood how close Evan and John were and what good students they were and went on to allow each of them to do a triple major in Science. They graduated last week each with a Bachelor of Science, both majoring in geography and land and water management.

The only time their study paths diverged was in their choice of a third major, a language. John studied Japanese and Evan did French.

“On the day we came to enrol at UWA, early in 2000, we went off separately, chose our units, then met up, to find that we had enrolled in exactly the same subjects, except for the language,” Evan said. That choice stemmed from a conscious decision in their first year of high school to study different languages, and they continued those languages through university.

They say that sometimes, one of them is confronted by a teacher or student of the other twin’s language. “Somebody will start talking to me in French and I used to protest that I was John, not Evan. But they didn’t seem to believe me, so I just learnt a few words of French to get by,” John said.

Both brothers, saving to travel overseas later in the year, applied for part-time work at the new convention centre. “But they threw away my application,” John said. “Our CVs are so similar that they thought it was just one person, trying to have two cracks at getting a job there.” They both now work at the centre and as guides at the Bell Tower.

They are planning to travel, John to Japan and Evan to France, meeting up in their parents’ homeland of Greece, before coming home to look for work in an environmental area.

“We’d like to keep up our languages,” Evan said. The brothers also speak Greek and work voluntarily for an ethnic radio station, 6 EBA FM.

Evan and John Stamatiou are two of 1,031 graduates who had their degrees conferred during the spring graduation ceremonies.

Another family celebrating the graduation season was that of Associate Professor John Kinder, whose eldest daughter Chiara followed her father’s interests by studying the two things he’s passionate about: Italian and linguistics. Chiara graduated last week with a Bachelor of Arts.

A/Professor Kinder and his Italian wife Silvia have six children. Their eldest son Matthew also studied arts. “But he stayed as far as possible from the Italian department,” A/Professor Kinder laughed.

Continued on page 2
Although the family speaks English at home, Chiara said she grew to love the Italian language during frequent visits to her mother’s homeland for Christmas celebrations, family weddings and her father’s year-long sabbatical, when she spent a year at school in Italy, at the age of 10.

Last year Chiara enjoyed a faculty exchange and spent first semester in Bologna, immersing herself in the language. She then travelled Europe for six months before returning to complete her final semester this year at UWA.

Chiara said it was never a problem having her father as a teacher. “He’s such a good teacher and he’s so well-loved by all the students – it was fine,” she said.

Although her studies have taken her on a similar path to her father’s, Chiara has plans to take a different direction now. “I’m thinking about a post-graduate degree in speech therapy, but that’s just one option. I’ve done some work with children with speech problems and I would like to become involved in the therapeutic side of linguistics,” she said.

Along with Chiara, a total of 106 students graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. While it’s fashionable for students in other faculties to sneer at the job prospects for arts graduates, the return to UWA of a distinguished arts graduate should have proved them wrong.

Richard Campbell Smith AO was made an honorary Doctor of Letters at last week’s graduation ceremonies, in recognition of the great credit he has brought to his university.

Mr Smith was one of five consecutive Australian ambassadors to China who started their diplomatic careers with a Bachelor of Arts from UWA.

Mr Smith’s career took him to New Delhi, Tel Aviv, Manila and Honolulu before serving as Ambassador to The People’s Republic of China, then the Republic of Indonesia.

Despite an international career of more than 30 years, he still considers himself a West Australian first and foremost, and a proud graduate of UWA.

An honorary degree of Doctor of Science was bestowed on Professor Michael Arbib, a professor of five different disciplines at the University of Southern California and the Director of that university’s Brain Project.

Professor Arbib has close links with UWA and has been a member of the Board of the Institute of Advanced Studies since its inception. He has been heavily involved in research on vision and language in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering.

Another honorary degree of Doctor of Science went to Professor David Clarkson, an eminent scientist with an acclaimed international reputation in the field of plant mineral nutrition.

He holds senior positions at three UK universities and describes himself as a life-long experimentalist. His work has led to the development of new crop cultivars to help feed the growing world population.

UWA also prides itself on its reputation in plant mineral nutrition and has been honoured to have Professor Clarkson’s support over many years.
Feverfew, a herb used for centuries by natural healers, has been identified as the basis for a potential treatment for osteoarthritis.

Kirk Yip, a PhD student working in Orthopaedic Surgery with Dr Jiake Xu (both pictured above), has found that one of the active ingredients of feverfew, Parthenolide, has successfully inhibited the key pathways to osteoclast formation in mice.

Osteoclasts are bone-resorbing cells that are responsible for the development of osteoporosis and cancer-induced bone destruction.

Kirk’s work in the Molecular Orthopaedic Laboratory has won him the Roger Mellick Award for the best young investigator of 2004, from the Australia and New Zealand Bone and Mineral Research Society.

He presented his research in competition with students from other Go8 universities and the University Auckland. It is the second time in four years that the award has gone to Orthopaedic Surgery at UWA. Kirk’s co-supervisor, Professor Ming Hao Zheng, said Kirk had been offered several post-doctoral positions in the US and around Australia as a result of his presentations at the Society’s conference.

Kirk explained that he had used laboratory mice to test Parthenolide on bacteria-induced bone disease.

“Effective treatment for bacteria-induced bone disease is not yet available. In this study, we showed that PAR, an inhibitor found in medicinal herbs, can block osteolysis. PAR does this by inhibiting osteoclastogenesis and promoting apoptosis (programmed cell death) of osteoclasts,” he said.

“We can’t say yet how we could use the results in humans, but I would like to stay in this lab for a while and keep working on it, after I’ve finished my PhD.”

His work has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Bone and Mineral Research.

Old remedy could be new cure

Kirk completed his first degree, in biochemistry, at the University of British Columbia in Canada. “Jiake (his supervisor, Dr Jiake Xu) is my uncle’s old high school mate. I had last seen him when I was about four or five years old. But I knew that he was doing good molecular biology — the field that I was interested in — so I came to UWA to do a Masters, which turned into a PhD,” he said.

Kirk said he had wanted to find a method for treating osteoporosis and other bone diseases and he and Dr Xu had decided to look at herbal extracts to see if they could help to modulate the function of the cells and the cellular pathway.

Feverfew (pictured in bloom below) has had a reputation for decades for being effective as a treatment for migraine. Now it has shown potential for treating osteoarthritis.
**Vice-Chancellor’s column**

**Graduations reflect our academic strength**

Our spring graduation ceremonies in Winthrop Hall provide a sense of well-being about our University — a significant reminder of the academic strength of our University.

Yet we must never take for granted our levels of performance; nor the way in which our students, their families and the wider community value the University.

Our graduates have been the driving-force behind the social and economic prosperity of Western Australia over almost a century. They have helped build the innovation base, the communications networks and the community fabric for our modern nation; and are responding to challenges and opportunities in a variety of local, regional, national and international environments.

In times of great change, our graduates provide the bedrock on which university relationships are built, providing strength, reliability and certainty. And, rightfully, our graduates play an integral role in the life and work of our university — particularly because of the insight they give us into our changing society; new working environments and new industries; and the importance of innovation.

They inform our response to change with the understanding of the importance of producing outcomes that benefit our graduates and the wider community — and always at international standards of excellence.

The importance of the international focus of our activities cannot be overstated. Increasingly our graduates have to be able to engage in global dialogues and cross-cultural exchanges at all levels, across all fields of endeavour.

The benefit of such an international education goes beyond direct economic considerations. It encourages the establishment of personal friendships and cross-cultural experiences which support international linkages and alliances for the benefit of society.

Without perhaps realising it, our graduates give powerful encouragement to their University in remaining true to its fundamental mission of generating and disseminating knowledge, pursuing truth and seeking wisdom.

The ultimate test of how well we do that will be our graduates - for in their lives, they will shape and lead the communities in which they work and live.

**Alan Robson**  
Vice- Chancellor

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**New club manager**

The newly appointed General Manager of The University Club of Western Australia, Ken O’Driscoll, will bring a swag of international experience to the job.

Ken — who will be responsible for the existing operations of University House in the transition to The University Club which is under construction — has 15 years of management and hospitality experience, including management positions in world-class facilities in China and Hong Kong, Singapore, and Indonesia.

He’s also no stranger to a university environment, holding a Bachelor of Arts (Recreation) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA). He is also a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.

Ken’s impressive resume is backed by a basic common-sense approach. “A smile costs nothing,” says Ken, “and if service to members comes from the heart then it will always be appreciated. Getting the basics right is essential. Gimmicks and new services are all very well, but you can only shine when all the fundamental aspects are working well.”

The University’s Executive Director, Finance and Resources, Gaye McMath, said Ken would bring to the position a mixture of fresh ideas and proven practices.

Ms McMath also expressed the University’s appreciation for the work of out-going manager Jeremy Murray who has overseen University House operations for the past two-and-half years.
Every efficient piece of machinery needs a lubricant to keep the cogs turning smoothly.

At UWA, the Faculty Administrative Officers (FAOs) are the oil in the huge machine that ensures the efficient running of student administration and day-to-day business within the faculties.

They are the vital link in the faculties, between academics and administration, between students and academics, and between students and administration.

The 16 FAOs (some faculties have more than one) have recently launched their own website to raise their profile within the University and to facilitate their involvement at the strategic level when changes are being considered.

The FAOs used to be part of the Registrar’s office and reported to the University Secretariat. At the time of devolution, the FAOs became independent within their faculties, reporting to their individual deans.

Jenny Gamble, an FAO at the time of devolution, said the group was concerned that consistency of best practice would be lost if they all went their own ways. “So we formed the FAO group, and that group still meets regularly with the University Secretariat,” she said.

The FAOs perform a myriad of tasks. Their responsibilities include writing and revision of Faculty rules for undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including the development of new and combined degrees both onshore and offshore; policy and planning including strategic and operational initiatives at the Faculty and University level; committee-related duties; all aspects of student administration including the provision of specialist advice to prospective undergraduate and postgraduate students on courses appropriate to their qualifications, and to enrolled students on course planning/enrolment queries and problems; marketing and supervision.

The complexity of the work in a faculty office means that the teamwork is essential with the Sub-Dean/Academic Student Adviser and FAO working very closely together. The heavy workloads and complexity of the business processes also make it difficult to find leave relief.

The implementation of the new Callista student administration system, should eventually streamline some of the FAO’s work and give them some space to concentrate more on policy developments and strategic planning.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, hosted a morning tea for the group when he launched their new website. The Chair of the FAO group, Maz Schneider, thanked Professor Robson, Professor Margaret Seares and the University Secretariat, for their support of the group.

“The FAOs play an integral role in the academic process of this University,” Mrs Schneider said. “We hope that our website will raise our profile and that others in the University community will find it a useful tool to develop a keen sense of just what our role means.”

Director of the University Secretariat, Jackie Massey, congratulated the group on the launch of their website. “The Secretariat really values having a strong and positive relationship with the FAOs, as this enables all of us to do our jobs better as we work together as a team,” she said.

The FAO’s website is at www.fao.uwa.edu.au
Dylan Edwards submitted his thesis after two-and-a-half years of mostly part-time study, while holding a full-time academic position at another university.

But a huge workload is the norm for this young research scientist, working in the Brain Research Laboratory in the Centre for Neurological and Neuromuscular Disorders (CNND).

A few years before he began work on his PhD, he was working on his Honours project at the CNND, teaching in the school of biomedical science at Edith Cowan University, writing a new unit in motor control for ECU, studying physiotherapy, and working as a physiotherapy assistant at QEII.

He is now using his Fellowship to submit six research papers for publication. His research investigates how we use sensory information to control movement, and may be useful for people following stroke, where movement skills are re-learned.

He attributes his very early thesis submission to the supportive and professional research team in the Brain Research lab, including his principal supervisors, Associate Professor Gary Thickbroom and Professor Frank Mastaglia and the post-graduate co-ordinator Dr Michelle Burns.

“The secret is also to choose an appropriate and realistic topic, and be self-motivated and set yourself deadlines,” Dylan said.

“I love working in this lab and I hope I can continue here. The people are fantastic and their work in foundation mapping for the brain is recognised and highly-regarded around the world,” he said.

Cara Weisbrod was the first Fulbright Fellow from the US to choose UWA. She was an undergraduate student at the Mayo Clinic five years ago when she met Human Movement and Exercise Science’s Dr Danny Green. Cara came to UWA to do a Masters with Dr Green — choosing this path over studying medicine in the US.

Her Masters degree quickly became a PhD and she stretched out her 18 months Fulbright funding over three years. Cara has completed three major studies in the reflex control of the
vasculature in healthy humans, Type 2 diabetic subjects, and cardiac transplant recipients (or how blood vessels react to different environments).

Since submitting her thesis in June, she has, with the help of the Whitfeld, presented her work at the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand in Brisbane, and is presenting her heart transplant study to the American Heart Association meeting in New Orleans in November.

Cara has had her study on diabetes published in Diabetes, the highest impact factor publication in endocrinology in the world.

Some of her findings include impaired vascular and ventilatory responses in people with Type 2 diabetes in a hypoxic (low oxygen) environment, such as high altitude.

She also looked at pressure-sensitive receptors in the human heart that contribute to the control of blood pressure. At Royal Perth Hospital, where Dr Green and his team are based, two different heart transplant techniques are practised: one removes the pressure controlling receptors, the other doesn’t.

Although Dr Green was Cara’s supervisor, Professor Leonard Arnolda, from Medicine and Pharmacology, supported her research into heart transplant patients.

While Dylan and Cara are both keen to stay working in the areas which have supported their studies, another Whitfeld Fellow, Ian Duckham, says he wants to reinvent himself.

Ian originally trained as an engineer and has spent most of his working life with WaterCorp. But he began to be interested in history in his 30s.

“I was in the United States for a while and studied for a Master of Divinity, which included some historical work. Later, back home, I joined the Arts honours course at UWA and, in the process of completing a Graduate Diploma of Arts, I somehow started a PhD,” Ian said.

“As a kid, I’d always wanted to be a detective and the historical research I’ve been doing is very similar.” Ian’s thesis was on Western Desert missions in WA. He is completing some papers from his research and, once his thesis is marked, he hopes to reinvent the engineer as a historian and is thinking about writing a book about religious missions in WA.

“Having a background in project management helped me to organise myself to get my PhD done inside the six years for a part-time student. I bought a software package that helped me to plan ahead, to divide tasks into hours and days and keep track of where I was.

“I also started writing early, instead of leaving it to the end, like most people. It means a lot of reviewing and rearranging parts, but it was worth it,” he said.

He was still working part-time with WaterCorp while doing his research and had to take a year off from his studies to return to work full-time. He finally took a voluntary redundancy in 2002 which helped him to complete his PhD.

“There were some dark days along the way, but my supervisor, Professor John Tonkin, was very supportive,” he said.

Wayne McGowan is another part-time candidate who completed his PhD in less than six years. He has been in education all his life, as a teacher, administrator, project consultant and director of operations.

His thesis, Thinking About the Responsible Parent: Freedom and Educating the Child in Western Australia was a natural extension for him of a review of the Education Act on which he worked for three years until 2000.

The other three Whitfeld Fellows are Trudy Hoad, who completed a PhD in the schools of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Social and Cultural Studies; James Doherty, who is still working with the Centre for Offshore Foundations, in Civil and Resource Engineering; and Giovanni Concu, who also did his research in Agricultural and Resource Economics and is in the process of applying for post-doctoral positions.

The Office of Graduate Studies intends to continue offering Whitfeld Fellowships to early finishing PhD candidates.
The Academic Board meeting of August 11 and the Senate meeting of August 23 considered the introduction of full fee undergraduate domestic student places at UWA.

The discussion was brought about by the Federal Government’s allocation of a mere 355 new HECS places to UWA, in response to the University’s bid for 750 places. The University already has an over-enrolment greater than 355 and the Government’s allocation means a continuing increase in UWA’s already high entry scores for HECS students.

The University’s longstanding policy of requiring international students to meet the same entry score as domestic students means a restriction on international enrolments as well. The entry scores are not a measure of the intellectual skill required to undertake a course but a function of (Government-controlled) supply and demand. Under the changes introduced by the Federal Government at the end of 2003, full fee undergraduate domestic students are eligible for a loan up to a maximum figure (currently $50,000) and repayable, like HECS loans, only when an income threshold is reached, with payments increasing as income increases.

In the past the University has been against full fee places for domestic undergraduates because they work against the principle of equity of access. However, the creation of a loans scheme repayable like HECS means that this objection is largely removed for students studying courses whose cost falls within the maximum loan. These students would have to pay back more than HECS students, by an amount that varies according to the course studied.

The possibilities for the University were: to maintain its current policy, not admitting full fee paying domestic undergraduate students; to admit such students into courses whose cost is within the loan limit; or to admit such students into any course.

The arguments are complex and because of limited space the context outlined above does not include all the relevant details. Minutes of the extensive debates which took place can be read at http://committees.uwa.edu.au/acadboard/board/minutes for Academic Board and http://committees.uwa.edu.au/senate/senate/minutes for Senate.

At Academic Board a motion recommending to Senate rejection of full fee undergraduate domestic places was passed by 40 votes to 38, with five abstentions. (Some Board members had to leave the meeting before the vote was taken.)

At Senate three motions were passed, to the following effects, with the voting numbers shown:

- The University will admit students to fee-paying places in all courses with a total cost below the maximum FEE-HELP loan; fees will be set at an amount equal to the sum of the Commonwealth Government contribution and student contribution; and the minimum TER score for admission to the University will be 80. (13-7)
- The University will offer an additional 100 SWANS scholarships, and will explore the financial and other implications of offering four times as many HECS places as are currently offered under the UWA Excellence Awards scheme to students at every secondary school in WA to undertake a course of their choice at UWA, provided that the minimum TER for entry to the University has been achieved. (Unanimous)
- In principle, students admitted on a fee-paying basis will be permitted to apply for later admission to a HECS place with the decision on such transfers being made on the basis of academic performance. Students must have completed at least 48 points of their course between each such application. (12-3, with 3 abstentions)

It is interesting that both those in favour of introducing full fee undergraduate places for courses within the maximum loan and those against argue from the need to maintain access and equity of access, and out of consideration for low socio-economic status prospective students. Everyone agrees that ability to succeed should be the criterion for entry to UWA. Difference in voting came from the weight given to different arguments, including the weight given to uncertainties about the future (most notably the possible election of a Labor Government pledged to eliminate fee paying domestic undergraduate places). The decision is a landmark in the University’s history, and enhances UWA’s capacity to manage entry scores for some courses, to meet the University’s growth targets, and to maintain an internationally recognised, comprehensive university.

David Griffiths  Acting Chancellor

Dennis Haskell  Chair of Academic Board
A new document, known as the Academic Portfolio, should make some things easier for academic staff at UWA. In 2002 the University discussed ways to simplify the preparation of material required from academic staff wishing to apply for promotion. It was agreed that, as far as possible, the same documentation should be required for promotion purposes and when applying for tenure, or study leave, and any future performance management process.

It was agreed that the University should introduce the Academic Portfolio as the key document that could be used in all these circumstances. Guidelines were prepared, and consultation undertaken with the National Tertiary Education Union, the Promotion and Tenure Committee, and the Senior Management Group.

The Academic Portfolio is a summary of each academic’s major activities and accomplishments. Key elements include a Summary Statement, a Curriculum Vitae, a Teaching and Learning Folio, a Research, Scholarship and Original Achievement Folio and a Service Folio.

As of 2005, academic staff applying for promotion or tenure will be required to prepare an Academic Portfolio. UWA’s policy on promotion and tenure has not changed, nor are academic staff being asked to provide different content in their applications. Rather, they are being asked to provide it in a particular form — one which we hope will make the job less onerous. The current promotion and tenure process will remain viable for 2004.

The Academic Portfolio will not be required for applications for study leave, and for performance review processes until 2006, although staff are encouraged to develop one and to use it on all these occasions as soon as it suits them.

The documentation that will be provided to assist academic staff in preparing their Portfolio consists of:

- Guide for Academic Staff on use of an Academic Portfolio
- Policy and Procedures Framework — Academic Tenure
- Policy and Procedures Framework — Academic Promotion
- Forms relevant to promotion and tenure are part of the respective documents.

Staff forums will be held early in October to provide interested staff with information about the process, and the documentation will be available to staff on the Human Resources website.

Professor Belinda Probert
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

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Chess master finally defeated

Simon Fitzpatrick, a senior lecturer in the School of Mathematics and Statistics, lost his long struggle with cancer and died last month, aged 51.

This distinguished mathematician was also a champion chess player. As a pre-schooler in Dalwallinu, his mother taught him chess and his father taught him bridge. He was particularly attracted to chess and was the state junior champion each year from the age of 12 to the age of 17.

Simon won a scholarship to Hale School, then came to UWA where he completed a Bachelor of Science with first class honours with almost straight As. He did postgraduate study at the University of Washington in Seattle, where he completed his PhD and met his future wife Deborah Dace.

He was appointed a lecturer at the University of Auckland in 1982 and he and Deborah lived in New Zealand for ten years. An offer of a senior lectureship at UWA lured them back to Perth in 1991. Simon remained a senior lecturer in the School until his death.

He was active in both teaching and research, at various times the convenor of the Pure Mathematics Seminar and the Departmental Mathematics Colloquium.

The international reviewing journal Mathematical Reviews, lists 48 research publications by Simon. He has been described as a keen and incisive researcher and a careful writer with a fine eye for mathematical elegance. He was an especially valuable research associate, with 16 different mathematicians and statisticians working with him as co-authors, in about 85 percent of his published work.

Simon taught undergraduate mathematics at all year levels and was the fourth year Honours convenor as recently as the first half of this year.

His enthusiasm for chess never left him, although as he got older and his health declined, he became more interested in correspondence chess. This slow form of the game was particularly suited to Simon’s temperament and analytical skills and he soon reached international level as a correspondence player.

Simon approached his progressing cancer as he would a chess match. His own words last December: “You give up if, and only if, you know you are lost for sure.”

His favourite film was Ingmar Bergman’s The Seventh Seal, in which a Swedish knight is confronted by Death. He persuades Death to play a game of chess. If the knight loses, he’ll go with Death; if he wins, then Death will leave without him.

A chess player has no chance when Death cheats.

(Excerpts from an obituary written by his colleagues)
Recent developments have led to the timely creation of a Teaching and Learning Policy Unit (TLPU) at UWA.

The AUQA report commended UWA for many areas of excellent performance in relation to teaching and learning. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson said that the new Teaching and Learning Policy Unit would further consolidate UWA’s profile in this area.

Launching the new unit recently, he said: “It will focus on the future development of sound policy, planning and implementation, underpinned by consultation with faculties and guided by the UWA Teaching and Learning Committee.”

The Unit is not based on the creation of extra positions, but on the strategic realignment of existing positions within the University. It is led by Professor Belinda Probert who, as Pro Vice-Chancellor (Academic), has Executive responsibility for teaching and learning and staffing.

The Unit includes the recently-appointed Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Associate Professor Jane Long. The Dean’s position has been reconfigured to emphasise a significant teaching and learning policy and planning role. The Executive Officer for Teaching and Learning Policy, Sue Smurthwaite, is also a member. Her expertise in relevant policy areas within the University has included many years as Executive Officer to the central Teaching and Learning Committee, as well as playing an important part in formulating UWA responses to external bodies such as AUQA and DEST.

Professor Probert said members of the new Unit viewed the devolved structure, as well as its central Teaching and Learning Committee, as sources of continuing strength for UWA.

As long-time classroom teachers themselves, both Professor Probert and A/Professor Long are keen to ensure that the Unit is strongly connected to the ideas, enthusiasms and real needs of UWA teachers and students. Already some initiatives have been taken to enhance such links. From this year, for example, Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning) from each faculty meet the PVC(A) and Dean of Undergraduate Studies, between monthly meetings of the Teaching and Learning Committee, to exchange ideas and opinions about key issues in teaching and learning in a less formal setting than a central committee may provide.

All unit members recently participated in national DEST consultations about the federal government’s planned Learning and Teaching Performance Fund, which will allocate about $200 million to Australian universities in the next few years, based on their ‘excellence in learning and teaching’.

In an environment of increasing external reporting demands, another aim of the Unit is to ensure that the gathering and analysis of required information proceeds as efficiently and effectively as possible. “We need to develop strong responses in ways that minimise the burdens on hard-working academic and administrative staff in the faculties,” said Mrs Smurthwaite.

Members of the Unit have already had fruitful discussions with senior staff in the teaching and learning policy area from other WA universities, which have formed a coalition for exchange of ideas and information, WA Teaching and Learning. “While we are aware of the different approaches of WA universities, there are some matters where it is obviously very useful to be involved in state-based discussion,” said A/Professor Long.

The Unit aims to be internally proactive. It wishes to encourage research about the viability of new directions in teaching and learning, on a University-wide basis and in discipline-specific contexts.

“Ultimately the very good reputation of UWA in the area of teaching and learning will be sustained by drawing upon its good practices, and the implementation of good ideas. But there’s no doubt that the higher education sector is shifting rapidly in many directions, be it in relation to transnational teaching, eLearning, generic skills, or outcomes-based education, Professor Probert said. “The challenge is to ensure that the paths set by UWA are not driven by automatic adoption, but shaped to the specific context, goals and priorities of the UWA environment.”

The Unit is on the first floor of the Central Administration Building. If you have ideas to discuss concerning teaching and learning policy at UWA, the Unit is interested to hear them. Contact Sue Smurthwaite at ssmurthwaite@admin.uwa.edu.au
Post Olympics — the University Games

More than 5,000 sporting students from around Australia will front up for the University Games at UWA later this month.

Most of the 24 sports will be played off campus at UWA Sport and Recreation’s Sports Park at McGillivray, and the adjoining Challenge Stadium.

Sport and Recreation’s new marketing and communications manager, David Phua, said UWA would field its biggest team ever. “We have 305 students registered to participate but we expect this number will rise over the next week or so,” he said.

They will compete in individual and team sports including Australian Rules football, netball, soccer, squash, swimming, athletics, water polo, volleyball, hockey, diving, cycling, badminton, Tae Kwon Do, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, touch rugby and more.

Every university in Australia, including the private ones, are sending competitors.

Sport and Recreation’s Ian Fitzpatrick has been seconded to look after the logistics of the games, which will be a dress rehearsal for UWA’s hosting of the Indian Rim Asian University Games in December 2005.

While the focus is on the national Games, the staff will continue to run the facilities on campus in the week from September 26 to October 1. A new addition to the facilities is a ramp for disabled access on the southern side of the building.

“People with wheelchairs had always been able to come in via the door opening on to the car park,” said David. “But we wanted to provide an alternative entry for people coming from a different direction on campus. We have also enlarged one of the change rooms in our sports shop, so a customer can comfortably take a wheelchair in and try something on.”

“The extension for the ramp has opened up our whole reception and coffee shop area, and soon we hope to have interactive screens for people to book courts and other facilities.”

David said they were also encouraging more people to become involved with Sport and Recreation facilities by offering lunch at the Boat Shed. Every Thursday the Boat Shed on Matilda Bay is open for lunch, then right through the afternoon, for drinks after work. Proceeds from the bar go to the Boat Club.

The Boat Shed is open to all Sport and Recreation members, staff members and graduates.

Bricks and sherry

Questions about the age of Spanish sherry and whether a block will slide before it topples kept mathematics students across Perth busy recently.

The Competition, established with a bequest from the family of the late Professor Larry Blakers is open to all undergraduate students in their first three years of study at all Western Australian Universities. Previously, the competition was open only to mathematics students at UWA.

Professor Blakers was a Professor of Mathematics at UWA for 30 years and Head of Department for 29 of them.

Associate Professor Phill Schultz organises the competition each year. Prizes were awarded to the best solutions from first, second and third year students, with special prizes for particularly elegant solutions.

Spanish sherry is matured as follows. After fermenting in stainless steel vats for two years, it enters the solera system. The solera has barrels in three layers on top of each other. At the end of each year, one third of the wine in the bottom layer is drawn off and bottled, and one third of the wine in each of the top two layers is added to the layer below. The top layer is refilled from the stainless steel vat.

What is the average age of the bottled product?

UWA Engineering student Evgeni Sergeev won the prize for first years; David Schafer, a geology student from Curtin was the second year prize winner; and the third year prize was shared by two UWA mathematics students, Shreya Bhattaraya and Michael Pauley.

And the answer to the problem of the age of the sherry? Eleven years.

“Intuitively, you can note that the sherry spends two years in the stainless steel vat, and then an average of three years in each of the three layers of barrels,” explained A/Professor Schultz.

For the details, and also to see whether a brick placed squarely on a horizontal plank will slide or topple when one end of the plank is gradually raised, check out the Blakers Competition web site, https://www.maths.uwa.edu.au/~schultz/Blakers/
Passion, pleasure and politics

Many people enjoy telling me that they imagine mine is the one of the best jobs going in the higher education sector and I usually agree with them. Through all adult years to date, my working life has happily been organised around two of my favourite words and concepts: passion and pleasure.

There is so much extraordinarily good work being done at UWA in any given day, week, decade. Some of it is slow-moving research driven by curiosity; or research with a strong time-based imperative. It may be a concert on campus involving student musicians or composers that excites an audience member new to antique or contemporary music. Or a public lecture by a great orator or a brilliant polemicist, or a creative artist who knows how to explore ideas of their craft in words in front of us in a lecture theatre.

It may be the launch of a book that has taken the time it takes to write such a work, and is being celebrated by those who supported the author into producing a final version. It may be the relaunching at our Gallery of an Inge King modernist sculpture ‘drowned’ in Matilda Bay in 1962 presumably by enemies of modern art with a belly-full of beer and a disdain for such university expenditure.

Every one of my working weeks in the last five years has involved at least one of these activities. The opportunities I am offered as a fiction writer for learning about communication are dazzling—how ideas are expressed no matter what the subject has become an abiding interest of mine, a great passion. Listening for the threads of particular theoretical arguments woven through lectures from across all of the disciplines has become a thrilling basis for my satisfying continuing education.

I joined UWA as a staff member in 1996. Before this I was happy to mock the obsession the university had with identifying itself as The University. I still find this quirk faintly amusing and a little anachronistic, but am prone now to proudly refer to ‘our’ Gallery, Press, Festival. My loyalty has grown by involvement in ‘our’ intellectual community and the deep respect I hold for the passions of many of its members.

In the last year at the IAS we have hosted numerous presentations: on the memoirs of Evariste Galois (the influential twenty year old mathematician who died in 1832) by a distinguished Oxford mathematician; papers on migration, transnationalism and racisms; on intersections between forensic science, human rights and the protection of innocence; and how diversity makes an impact on the policies and workings of organisations.

We have hosted numerous events to discuss the ongoing crisis in Australia of our current refugee policy and its implementation; human rights, including disability rights; and genetic modification of crops—both for and against. These are issues of passionate importance to people from the community who attend because they desire the succour of such discussions in a crowded forum, the old-fashioned town-hall approach. This is a vital activity for the contemporary university to be involved with, in my opinion.

This is a month of intense politicking in—at least—Australia and the USA in the service of elections. I am not so arrogant or foolish as to make this column in any way partisan, but it is evident in all of our lives—personal, professional, intellectual—shifts to what are often called the fabric of our society continue to disadvantage some people and set us apart from each other in many arenas. Increasing public intolerance of difference has shifted Australia into a dangerous place for many and a dispiriting place for those of us carrying our vast privilege and the freedom to voice our ideas. We are benignly categorised and insulted as elites or the chattering classes.

Life is changing at universities, but we are by no means the only section of our community swamped by additional pressures.

In the midst of this current cynical barnstorming let’s not forget the passion that drives us to conduct research and thinking that serves to improve the experience of being human; this passion can always be usefully applied in thinking through the complexion of projected futures by the two adversarial forces in this election.

And even if it is ignored or rejected it can retain its potential longer than a term of government.
International Symposium on Human Rights in Public Health Research, Ethics and Practice

Website: http://www.rhhr.net/conferences.html

3 – 5 NOVEMBER, 2004: MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Through a combination of debates, panel discussions and case studies, the symposium will provide a forum for critical discussion of the growing use (and misuse) of a rights based approach in public health discourse, research and practice. Implications of a rights based approach in public health will be explored with sessions for the presentation of case studies or policies and programs from Australia and the region. Invited panelists and discussants will include international and national leaders in health and human rights from the region, US, UK, South Africa and Europe.

Hosted by The University of Melbourne, Monash University and VicHealth.

For further information, email: rhhrsymposium-info@unimelb.edu.au

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE/COCKBURN CEMENT LTD/ DEPT OF INDUSTRY AND RESOURCES WA

Dr Gary Kendrick, Plant Biology: ‘Linking seagrass restoration and replanting to the biology of seagrass survival and growth’—$330,000 (2004–06)

AUSTRALIAN ROTARY HEALTH RESEARCH FUND

A/Prof Sergio Starkeinstein, A/Prof Gary Hulse, Mr Robert Tait, Dr Nicola Lautenschlager, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences: ‘A Randomized, Placebo-controlled Clinical Trial of Depression in Patients with Traumatic Brain Injury’—$20,000 (2004)

CRC FOR AUSTRALIAN WEED MANAGEMENT

A/Prof Julie Plummer, Plant Biology: ‘Weed Management in the Non-crop Phase of Southern Australian Cropping Systems’—$400,000 (2004)

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES WA


DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE: ACIAR

Dr Rick Llewellyn, Agricultural and Resource Economics: ‘Herbicide use and Weed Management Options in Filipino and Australian Cropping’—$388,330 (2004–07)


For any queries about the research grants published in this issue contact the Research Grants Office, ext. 3702.
**Monday 20 September**

**SCHOOL OF PSYCHOLOGY—ROBIN WINKLER CLINIC**

*Smoking Cessation Treatment Group:* We are currently seeking people who are keen to quit smoking, to take part in a smoking cessation treatment program starting on the 20 September 2004. The group will run for 10 weekly sessions, each of a 2-hour duration, with a follow-up session two months after completion. The cost is a reduced rate of $10 per session (discounts available for paying in bulk instalments). To reserve a place in the smoking cessation group, or for more information, call 6488 2644. Bev Walton, Secretary, Robin Winkler Clinic, School of Psychology, phone (08) 6488 2644, fax (08) 6488 2655, 6pm weekly for 10 weeks, Robin Winkler Clinic.

**Tuesday 21 September**

**THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES—PUBLIC LECTURE**

‘Nutritional Genomics: Manipulating Plant Micronutrients to Improve Human Health’, Professor Mary-Lou Guerinot, Dartmouth College, USA. Current President of the American Society of Plant Biologists and visitor to the ComBio2004 meeting at UWA. Nutritional Genomics: Manipulating Plant Micronutrients to Improve Human Health. All welcome. No reservation required. For information phone 6488 1340 or email ias@admin.uwa.edu.au. 6pm, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre.

**Wednesday 22 September**

**THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES**

Literary reading by John Kinsella. John Kinsella is the author of more than thirty books and recipient of many prizes and awards. He was appointed the Richard L Thomas Professor of Creative Writing at Kenyon College in the United States for 2001, where he is now Professor of English. For information phone 6488 1340 or email ias@admin.uwa.edu.au. 6pm, Geography Lecture Theatre.

**Friday 1 October**

**EMERGENCY MEDICINE SYMPOSIUM**

Keynote speaker: Professor Philip Weinstein, Professor of Population Health, UWA. Free half-day symposium. Light refreshments provided. 1pm-5pm, F J Clarke Lecture Theatre, QEII Medical Centre.

**Sunday 26th September—Friday 1st October**

**UWA SPORTS**

‘The 2004 Australian University Games’. Over the 6 days, 22 sports will be played by 6,000 students representing 47 national universities. For more information about getting involved, visit the UWA Sports website, http://www.sport.uwa.edu.au/ or the University Games website, http://www.unigames.com.au/. 8am Sunday to 7pm Friday. Various venues.

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**FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY SPECIAL EVENT**

‘Building a Blockbuster’, Alan Dodge, Director of the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Come and hear what goes on behind the scenes when a blockbuster international art exhibition arrives in Perth, like Monet and Japan or The Pre-Raphaelites. Alan Dodge has had 33 years experience in the visual arts, having worked as everything from a teacher of art history to a curator of European and American art. Places are limited, so book early. Cost $30 for Members and $35 for Visitors. Light refreshments will be served on arrival. Phone 6488 2356 or email ULPA@library.uwa.edu.au. 6pm, University House.

**FACULTY OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES**

‘Information Evening’, Professor Steve Hopper will speak on two new courses being offered at UWA from 2005, Conservation Biology and Conservation Biology and Management. Light refreshments will be served. Please register your attendance by emailing Shelley McAlpine at schools@fnas.uwa.edu.au or calling 6488 1141. 6pm, Alexander Lecture Theatre (located within the Faculty of Arts).

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Please enter your Campus Diary events online at http://events.uwa.edu.au/ by 22 September for 4 October issue

Important Notice — Campus Diary Submissions
Due to a mismatch of entries in the online News and Events and the hard copy Campus Diary, we have been instructed to compile the Campus Diary only from the events appearing in the online News and Events section of the UWA web site. Therefore after the 20 September issue, the Publications Unit will no longer accept submissions for Campus Diary sent via email or hard copy (by fax, mail, etc.).

Any events up to the 20 September issue (i.e. covering the period to 3 October) that have already been submitted directly to Publications will be included in Campus Diary. However, after that date, all seminars/lectures/events that you wish to advertise through Campus Diary must be submitted online at http://events.uwa.edu.au/. Please ensure your events are entered in the online Events calendar well in advance so they can be included in the Campus Diary.

Any questions about using the online News and Events calendar should be directed to Mark Tearle on ext. 7950 or mark.tearle@uwa.edu.au.

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NEUROMUSCULAR FOUNDATION WA
Prof Byron Kakulas, Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders: ‘Stroke—Stuttering Research’—$22,000 (2004)

NEUROSCIENCE INSTITUTE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA AND ALLIED DISORDERS

NEUROTRAUMA RESEARCH PROGRAM (NRP)
Dr Peter Arthur, Dr Darryl Knight, Dr M Kedda, Dr Steven Mutsaers, Dr Darryl Knight, Dr Marie Bogoyevitch, Dr Samantha Busfield, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences, Medicine and Dentistry, Surgery and Pathology, Animal Biology, UWA Centre for Medical Research: ‘The Signal Transduction Pathway Involving c-Jun N-terminal Kinase (JNK) is Central to Programmed Cell Death Following Trauma’—$38,665 (2004-06)

NHMRC
Dr Steven Mutsaers, Dr Darryl Knight, Dr M Kedda, Surgery and Pathology, Medicine and Pharmacology; ‘Aberrant Signalling through N-terminal Kinase (JNK) is Central to Programmed Cell Death Following Trauma’—$449,750 (2004-2006)

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