



## Hope for millions of women

*Potential therapy for osteoporosis*



*In the lab where the quest began: Dr Tony Phan, Dr Jiake Xu and OII's Simon Handford*

by **Lindy Brophy**

The University has licensed technology that could result in treatment for osteoporosis, a bone disease that affects a high proportion of women all over the world.

One in seven Caucasian women between the ages of 50 and 59 suffer from osteoporosis, and up to 70 per cent of those over the age of 80.

The Office of Industry and Innovation (OII) has secured funding from a specialist biotechnology investor, Start-Up Australia Ventures P/L, through Caldeon P/L, a drug development company specifically created to commercialise the work being done in Orthopaedic Surgery, part of the School of Surgery and Pathology.

Simon Handford, Project Manager Commercialisation for biotechnology projects in the office, is delighted with the partnership.

"It's an excellent result", says Simon. "OII is in the business of allowing technology developed within UWA to be given a chance in the commercial world. To do so, we need to secure funds and, in return, we accept that if someone is prepared to invest in early stage projects that carry some risk, then we are prepared to give them a share of the technology."

This latest project from OII started nearly two years ago when PhD student Tony Phan and his supervisor Dr Jiake Xu started getting excited about a protein that was showing interesting activity in the presence of osteoblasts, the cells responsible for the formation of bone.

Working in Prof Ming-Hao Zheng's laboratories in Orthopaedic Surgery, Tony had been searching for molecules that regulated the balance between bone formation, through osteoblasts, and bone resorption by osteoclasts. Maintaining this balance is crucial for the body as too much bone formation can lead to osteopetrosis and too much bone resorption can result in osteoporosis.

The protein that Tony (now Dr Phan) had identified was shown to stimulate the growth of osteoblasts *in vitro* and to also bring about the deposition of calcium, an indication that the protein might be involved in the formation of bone. Interestingly the protein was shown to be produced by osteoclasts, as well as some other tissues, and it was nicknamed ODOF (for osteoclast-derived osteoblast factor) and taken on as a commercialisation project in OII.

The researchers applied to OII for PATHFINDER funding to carry out further 'proof-of-concept' experiments and were awarded \$10,000 to purchase crucial reagents and assay kits. Meanwhile OII started to contact venture capital companies, as well as biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies known

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## Hope for millions of women

to be interested in treatments for bone diseases, to judge their interest in ODOF as a potential therapy.

"We had a lot of interest," Mr Handford said. Most existing treatments for bone loss disorders have been directed towards reducing bone loss rather than encouraging more bone formation. Any factors that stimulate bone formation are obviously of interest as potential therapies.

There is a long way to go before ODOF might be such a therapy, and much time and money is required to validate the preliminary findings.

If ODOF is proven to be a good candidate for drug development, Caldeon will fund further pre-clinical activities and UWA and the inventors will benefit financially from any subsequent deals that Caldeon negotiate.

"It's very pleasing to think that we have been able to take a project from a PhD student, work closely with the research team in promoting the opportunity, and finally seeing those efforts rewarded in the form of a licence agreement and a research contract," Mr Handford said.



Women, prone to osteoporosis, could benefit from the UWA discovery



The school of Human Movement and Exercise Science runs a program for people who are suffering from osteoporosis or at risk of contracting the condition. One of the first participants (back in 1996) was Margot Bentley, supervised here by exercise physiologist Susan Poole

## Winning research a breath of fresh air

Important UWA research which will ultimately improve the lives of people with respiratory illness was acknowledged at a recent conference of medical scientists in that field.

Associate Professor Philip Thompson was honoured for his achievements in respiratory medicine research at the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand national (TSANZ) conference held in Perth last month with one of the Society's highest awards, The Wunderly Oration.

A/Professor Thompson is a respiratory medicine consultant at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, staff member of the School of Medicine and Pharmacology and also the Director of the Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (AARI).

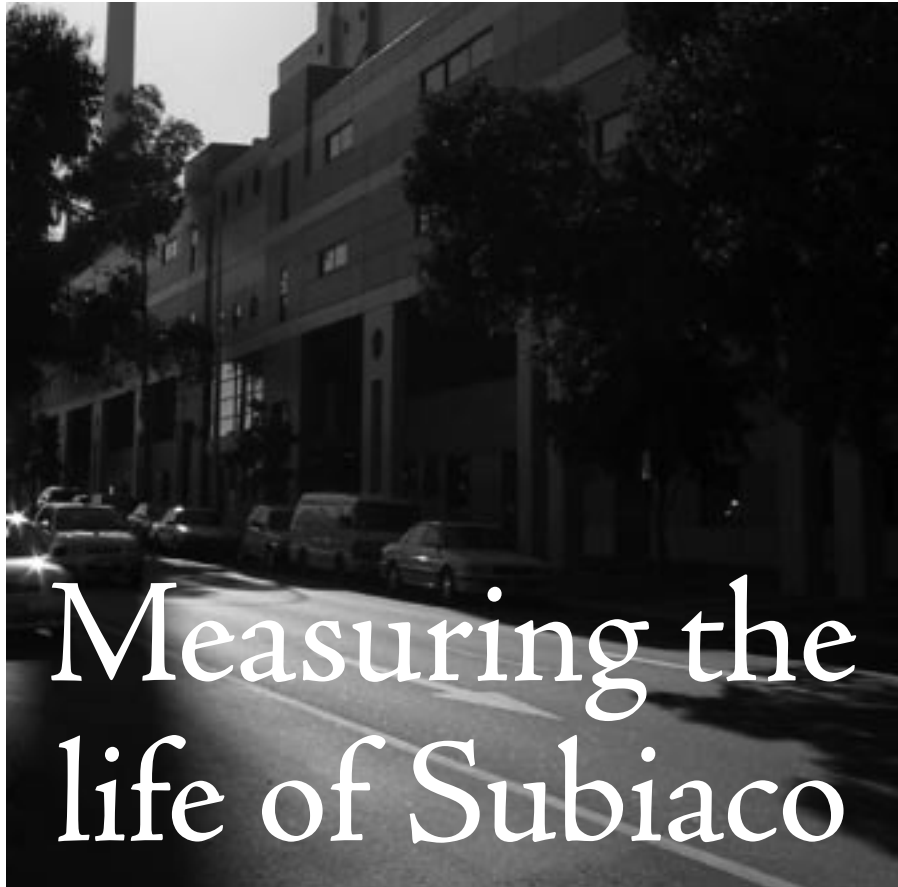
The Wunderly Oration is an honour given to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the field and allows the winner to present an address on a theme of his/her choice. A/ Professor Thompson choose to speak on Leadership in Australia and in Respiratory Medicine.

Two UWA medical research students also received commendation for their



Associate Professor Phil Thompson with his award from the conference

work. Rob O'Donoghue who is in the first year of his PhD at AARI was a finalist in the Young Investigator Award, and KIRRILY O'HARA, also completing her PhD at AARI, received a prize for the best presentation in Molecular Genetics. A former UWA and AARI PhD student, Dr YUBEN MOODLEY, was invited to be plenary speaker on stem cells and respiratory medicine.



# Measuring the life of Subiaco

## Just how sustainable is your home, your lifestyle, your suburb, your state?

It's a difficult question to answer, but one that 30 final year environmental engineering students (Design Class from the Centre for Water Research) are tackling this year.

Their final year project is to produce an Index of Sustainable Functionality (ISF) for the City of Subiaco. Subiaco and the Centre for Water Research (CWR) have entered a partnership that will result in determining the ecological footprint for the City on the broader landscape of WA, and globally.

The design class's final year projects over the past several years have all focussed on sustainability: Perth Zoo, the town of Denmark, Rottneest, and, last year, the whole of WA.

Chief Executive Officer for the project, student Rianda Mills, said last year's class had developed the idea of the ISF and applied it to the State.

"It was probably easier to gather the information needed on a state-wide basis, with the help of the Bureau of Statistics, than collecting it from the City of Subiaco," she said. "It's a very challenging project but one that I think is worthwhile for us, for the people of

Subiaco and for other areas, which can compare their sustainable functionality with our final results."

The proposal for the partnership pointed out that "a great divide exists between aspirations and action. A general level of awareness about (sustainability) issues exists in the community, however this awareness does not translate into sustainable actions."

The class intends their project to foster greater understanding among the Subiaco community of the concept of sustainability and how it applies to the city in general, and to their own households. They hope to improve the understanding of people's values systems and their behaviour, and educate the community about how they can modify their behaviours to be more sustainable.

They have started work on assessing what they see as five different systems operating in Subiaco:

- the natural system (parks, gardens and how these impact on other systems);
- the social system (community wellbeing and security through services such as the library, cultural programs and social and affordable housing);
- the individual system (health, skills, knowledge and experiences of the individuals. The City of Subiaco has

*Sustainability is the delicate balancing act of satisfying the needs of the here and now while still leaving the Earth in a fit state for the future*

a high rate of professionals such as doctors, lawyers and financiers. This system will be examined to see what impact the high level of education has on consumption patterns and what contribution the educational institutions and individuals make to the City);

- the economic system (provision of essential services, impact of industry and business on renewable resources and the net value of organisations such as the University, which is in the City of Subiaco); and
- the built system (networks of transport, efficient energy designs, efficient water use, orientation and recycling).

Caroline Wood, Manager Special Projects for the CWR, is the group's cultural mentor, ensuring that they include all aspects of cultural differences in their study.

Ms Wood is organising some public lectures on sustainability for Subiaco residents. The students are also planning a Subiaco Sustainability day.

As well as reports going to CWR's Professor Jorg Imberger and the City of Subiaco, the students' findings will be available on a user-friendly website, which is already set up and continually updated. The website is at [http://www.cwr.uwa.edu.au/sust\\_subi](http://www.cwr.uwa.edu.au/sust_subi)

The students welcome comments and feedback on their project, especially from staff who live in Subiaco. Please contact Rianda Mills: email: [rianda.mills@cwr.uwa.edu.au](mailto:rianda.mills@cwr.uwa.edu.au), mobile: 0438 064902, work: 6488 1885.





## Vice-Chancellor's column

# Encouraging new levels of community engagement



To visit the University Club of Western Australia – for a conference, for a function, for a meal or just for a coffee – is to understand the importance of such facilities to the life of the university.

Every time I have visited the University Club I have been struck by the range and number of people using its facilities. This to me is a sign that we are achieving some very important objectives – we are providing the sort of high quality facilities expected by those working in a modern university; we are re-connecting with many former staff and students; and we are making new connections into the community. The University Club has opened its doors with around 4,000 members – and the number is continuing to grow.

For our staff, the University Club enriches our social, academic and professional lives by encouraging friendship and promoting inclusivity. For alumni, it is a reflection of our commitment to develop long-term relationships. And for both the University and wider community, we have state-of-the-art facilities for conferences, seminars, workshops and functions which we have been unable to provide in the past.

In all respects, the University Club can be seen to be strongly supporting our mission of providing an intellectual and creative resource for the communities we serve. Indeed, the University Club reflects our desire to achieve excellence in all we do; and it gives us an opportunity to reaffirm our place in the community by offering facilities which will be valued by business, government and a variety of interests in the wider community.

The official opening by the Governor, Lieutenant General Dr John Sanderson AC, in late April followed another busy week of social and academic activities at the University Club, including a major international Indigenous symposium hosted by our School of Indigenous Studies and the Institute of Advanced Studies.

The traditional welcomes and presentations from some of the world's oldest cultures – Indigenous peoples from Australia, Indonesia and the United States – against the backdrop of contemporary architecture was a reminder, too, that the new facilities will contribute significantly to the University's primary goal of achieving international excellence.

**Alan Robson**  
*Vice-Chancellor*

## Grads swap UWA for USA

With the help of prestigious Fulbright Postgraduate Awards, two graduates will soon be heading to the United States to advance their studies in very different areas.

Sarah Knuckey, who is currently teaching at the Australian National University in Canberra, will undertake Masters of Law studies at Harvard Law School, focussing on jurisprudence, international and human rights law.

Martin Soh will undertake research at the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Minnesota investigating integrating optical and mechanical coatings into next-generation sensors and filters using micro-systems-technology. Martin is currently a doctoral student in UWA's School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering.

Both graduates received First Class Honours and were awarded several prizes during their UWA studies.

Sarah, who will leave for the US in August, said: "I intend to focus on the contemporary critical theories of law such as Critical Race Theory and Feminist Jurisprudence along with examining ways in which law privileges particular groups and marginalises other interests". She has worked as a judge's associate with High Court Justice Michael Kirby and has spent time with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Cambodia.

Martin believes that the US and Australia share a burgeoning industry base that will benefit from the application of infrared technologies in areas such as homeland security, asset protection, agriculture, biomedical instrumentation, geophysical exploration and environmental monitoring. "However, before portable and rugged devices can be commercially deployed the science of thin films and sensor systems needs to be improved," he said.

The Vice-Chancellor congratulated Sarah and Martin on joining the ranks of 19 talented Australians to become Fulbright Scholars in 2005.



The beach is an Australian icon, but unlike Uluru and the Sydney Harbour Bridge, it is changing.

Those changes, which include building and development, roadworks and parking areas, are the natural progression of changing use by Australian people.

Geographers in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences have made a study of Perth beaches and the way they are used, for more than 20 years.

Dr Ian Eliot and Dr Matthew Tonts, senior lecturers in geography, have recently co-ordinated a survey for the Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), which will help form the basis of the Perth Coastal Planning Strategy.

About 75 undergraduate and Honours students spent part of the Labor Day weekend at 14 Perth beaches, talking to beachgoers about their use, their expectations and their ideas for the future.

“The students did a short training session with DPI staff, who then became their mentors for the project,” Dr Tonts said. “It was great to see that a lot of the DPI staff were our graduates.”

He said he was pleased to be able to offer some practical experience for students by involving them in the research.

“The way people use the beach today is very different from the 1970s and 1980s when Ian Eliot did his early research,” Dr Tonts said. “Then, people who went to the beach spent most of their time down at the water’s edge.

“Nowadays, they are at beachside cafes, on the balcony of a



pub overlooking the beach, in a playground, on grassed areas, cycling, jogging, walking or skateboarding on specially-constructed paths – all different ways of using and enjoying the beach.

“Perhaps these changed and different uses of Perth beaches is one of the reasons behind the conflicts over beach developments,” he said.

Dr Tonts said the survey was timely, as developments at Scarborough and Cottesloe were the cause of current controversy.

“The students interviewed more than 2,500 people on 14 beaches between Yanchep and Secret Harbour, on a hot Sunday from 6am to 6pm, and then again on the following Wednesday.

“The attracted a lot of public interest. When people heard what the students were doing, many of them wandered up for a chat, eager to have their thoughts recorded.”

He said that the growing population of Perth was putting more pressure on suburban beaches, which meant more care would be needed in planning parking, transport and other beach facilities.

Dr Tonts’ and Dr Eliot’s report for the DPI will be ready in a couple of months, and the Coastal Planning Strategy will be complete by the end of the year.



# Islam and the West

## not mutually exclusive

What are the prospects of conflict and cooperation between the Muslim world and the West? What is the future of Muslim communities in Australia?

These questions are examined in a new book, *Islam and the West: Reflections from Australia*, co-edited by senior lecturer in Political Science, Dr Samina Yasmeen.

The September 11, 2001 attacks had, and are still having, far-reaching consequences for both the West and the Muslim world. The subsequent war on terror and its extension to Iraq, assaults on Muslims in many Western countries and the bombings in Bali, Jakarta and Madrid have brought to the fore many issues deserving attention and analysis.

These issues and related questions come under scrutiny in *Islam and the West* by scholars and practitioners, from an Australian perspective.

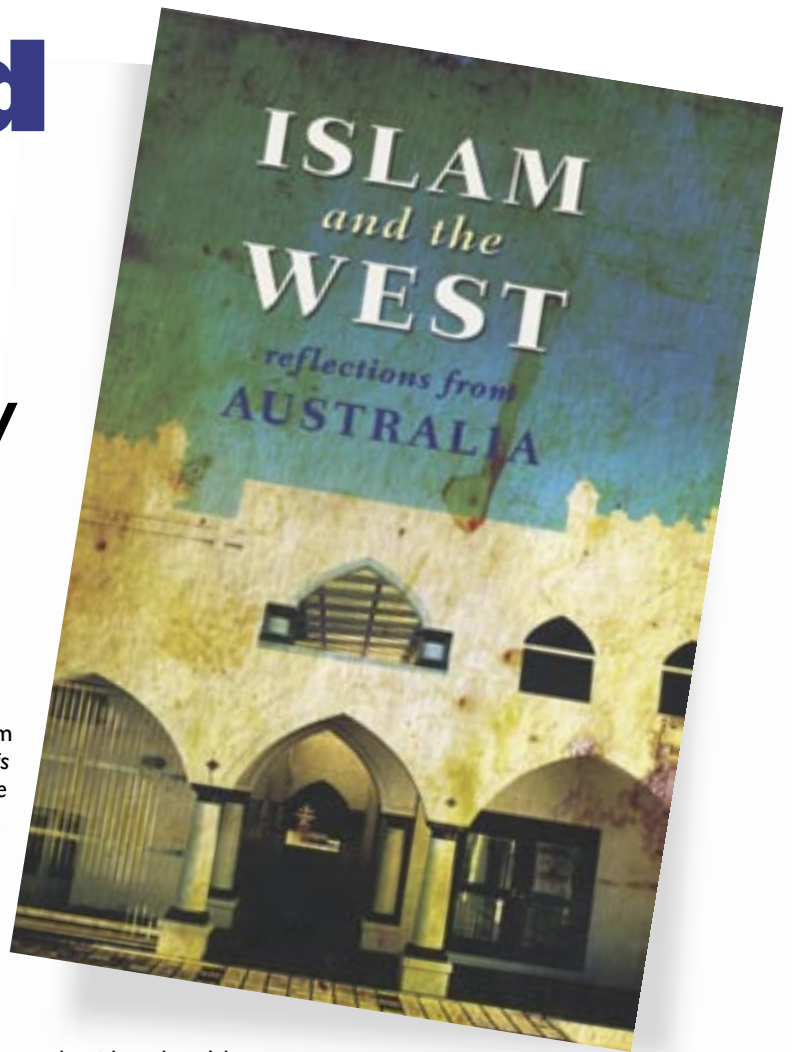
They look at the broad international context, with reference to the repercussions of the war in Iraq and the discourse among radical Islamic groups about prospects of conflict between the Muslim world and the West.

The implications of growing Islamic agitation and the heightened sense of insecurity for Muslim states in south and south east Asia are also examined.

The challenges faced by Muslim communities in Australia are explored, with special attention to the debate around asylum-seekers.

In one of her chapters in the book, Dr

*The cover of Islam and the West is the new mosque in William Street, Perth, which celebrates its first anniversary this year*



Yasmeen challenges the idea that Islam and the West are two separate identities. “The distinction is essentially limiting and contrary to the reality of a globalised world: it ignores the fact that Islam is not merely a religion of the developing world – some from the Anglo-Celtic tradition have also opted for it.

“Their conversion to Islam does not automatically deny them the right to claim their Western heritage. The false dichotomy also fails to take into account the process of migration, which has resulted in many Muslims living in what is identified as the West.”

She points out that, with occasional exceptions, governments in Australia have chosen to engage with those Australian Muslims who adopt the traditional Islamic dress code.

“This choice fails to acknowledge that a large majority of Australia’s Muslim population subscribes to moderate/liberal ideas. It also ignores that choosing those who ‘look’ Muslim not only reinforces stereotypes but also empowers orthodox groups in the country.

“Inadvertently, liberal democracies thus appear to be promoting Islamic orthodoxies.”

The same is true in the United States. Dr Yasmeen writes: “US policy is strengthening the radical Muslim at the expense of the moderates. The United States needs to develop a better grasp of the situation in Muslim societies and the body of ideas circulating at local and global levels. Discounting them can open up further opportunities for American mistakes and the empowerment of Islamic militancy.”

She concludes: “Confidence cannot simply be built by the efforts of those categorised as the West. Muslim moderates need to accept the responsibility of playing an active role at local and global levels. By remaining silent about the excesses of militants and condoning the unfair policies of the extremists on either side, they run the risk of empowering the minority at the expense of the majority.”

*Islam and the West: Reflections from Australia* is co-edited by Dr Shahram Akbarzadeh and published by UNSW Press. It is available at the Co-Op Bookshop for \$34.95.

# Cyclists bug Government for path

Staff and students who cycle to University are campaigning for a new cycle path on Thomas Street.

The UWA Bicycle User Group (BUG) is lobbying Kings Park and the Cities of Subiaco and Perth, and enlisting the support of the Subiaco and Perth City BUGs to make a case to the State Department of Planning and Infrastructure.

BUG member Nic George, a graduate student who has been cycling to UWA for several years, said the cycle path that runs through Kings Park, alongside Thomas Street, is not suitable for commuter cycling.

"The 10kph speed limit is too slow for commuters, but we are not advocating an increase in the speed limit, because the path is already a dangerous one to ride. It's very windy, is overgrown in many parts, and there is often sand on the path. At least one member of BUG has had an accident on that cycle path, resulting from sand on the path and poor lighting at night," Nic said.

"The only alternative is to ride on Thomas Street, which is so busy at peak hour that it can be dangerous for cyclists, especially inexperienced riders."

Thomas Street is a major route for commuting cyclists



BUG members, including Nic George, took part in the Freeway Bike Hike last month. Along with 6,700 other cyclists, they raised more than \$180,000 for the WA Asthma Foundation

travelling to and from UWA. BUG members are passionate and vocal about the problem route, as they are charged with increasing the numbers of students and staff commuting by bicycle.

BUG's preference is for a standard two-lane cycle path to be constructed along the Kings Park side of Thomas Street, from its intersection with Wellington Street to its intersection (as Winthrop Avenue) with Stirling Highway.

"We think there is enough room along the verge to allow for this," Nic said. The path will provide additional benefits to the Perth Bike Network, as it would link up with the Perth-Subiaco path.

The BUG has about 60 members, but Nic says many more staff and students cycle to the University. Up to 300 cyclists attended the annual Bike Breakfast this year, an indication of the growing number of bicycle commuters.

# Supercomputers direct a super career



Professor Ian Constable has seen a lot of changes during his 30 years at the top.

Since he took up the reins as Foundation Chair of Ophthalmology at UWA in April 1975, he has witnessed laser technology, remote computing and nanotechnology all have a profound effect on medicine and science.

"Nanotechnology had barely been coined as a term the year before I came to UWA," Professor Constable (*pictured*) said. "But now it could be one of the greatest influences on industry and communications in the future and provide tremendous benefits for society."

Nanotechnology (the branch of engineering that deals with very small things) was the subject of this year's Ian Constable Lecture, last month, presented by Professor Julian Gale, the inaugural Premier's Research Fellow and Professor in Computational Chemistry at Curtin University of Technology.

"It could be described as the science of small things with the potential for a large impact," Professor Constable said. "Working in such small dimensions has called for incredible innovations in experimental techniques – and Julian was the perfect presenter to show us how we might further our understanding in this vital field."

"Rapid advances in the power of supercomputers make it possible to observe, through computer models, the behaviour of atoms as they explore the nanoscale world. In return, nanotechnology may represent the future of computing as the challenge of miniaturisation increases. Whatever happens, the power of computer simulation to provide insights where it is impossible to see directly will only grow," he said.

The annual Ian Constable lecture this year celebrated his 30 years in ophthalmology at UWA.





## Students get going

Studying abroad is becoming more popular with UWA students, who made their interest obvious at a Student Exchange Fair at the Guild Village recently.

Study Exchange Adviser Alison Hall said this year's Fair was part of a national circuit for overseas universities, which meant more of our partner universities were represented than at last year's inaugural Fair.

"It was a great success," Alison said. "We had eight of our partners, as well as the educational attaché from the French Embassy and a representative from the British Council.

"As more students choose to do a semester or a year overseas, their experiences inspire their friends, and even more apply for student exchange," she said.

Currently, UWA has 52 students studying at our partner universities overseas: 44 of them started this semester, and the rest began their study abroad last year.

Next semester, 77 students have been approved for exchange (from 94 applications) and 22 of them have chosen to go away for a year.

"Most students choose to spend just one semester away, usually because of the costs involved, but more of them are now going for a full year," Alison said.

She said the University could usually fund student exchange, with a scholarship or bursary, as long as the student was doing well.

"The University see the benefits of student exchange and is happy to support it, but, as numbers increase, we may not be able to take financial support for granted."

"We have so many students making genuine inquiries about studying abroad that we

ran out of materials in some areas. The most popular destinations seemed to be France, the UK and the US, with our partners, the University of California and Purdue, Indiana, very busy."

For information on student exchange, contact the Study Abroad and Student Exchange office (part of the International Office) on 6488 2298 or at [studyabroad@admin.uwa.edu.au](mailto:studyabroad@admin.uwa.edu.au)



Back to  
college  
30 years on

## new Head for Trinity



Wayne Browne is leaving the University this month after 25 years with Facilities Management. "I don't like to say I'm retiring – I'm not old enough for that," he said. He and his wife will travel in Canada, England and France until the end of the year. "If it's mutually acceptable, I may return to the University some time on a casual or contract basis to work in the property management area," he said.



## The new Head of Trinity, Mike Shearer, starts a new job today – but he's in old familiar territory.

Mr Shearer has two degrees from UWA, Honours in Organic Chemistry and a Master of Science Education. For his first three years on campus, he lived at St Columba (now joined with Kingswood College to form Trinity), where he met his future wife, Karen.

"We still offer that service!" joked outgoing Head of College, Alec O'Connell, who is going to a new position at Notre Dame University, as The Executive Director of the Division of the Vice-Chancellery.

Mr O'Connell said he and Mr Shearer had similar backgrounds but had travelled slightly different paths. They were teachers first, then moved into educational management and leadership.

"Mike will provide a great balance between administration and practicality and, by that, I mean dealing with students. At Trinity, our focus is on the students, before anything else."

After 27 years at Hale School, Mr Shearer finished his time there as Director of Planning. He expects he will already know some of Trinity's residents, who were former Hale School students.

"You get a great sense of community working in a school," he said. He brings that experience with him, being mindful that Trinity is not a boarding school but an adult community.

Mr O'Connell said Mr Shearer also brought with him a very good strategic focus, and a depth and experience in education, as well as respect in the education sector.



*Alec O'Connell takes Mike Shearer on a tour of Trinity*

"Ten years ago, I had a year teaching in a co-ed boarding school in Uppingham, Leicestershire," Mr Shearer said. "It was a rejuvenating year. And I feel this change will be similar for me."

Mr Shearer's wife Karen teaches science at St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls. Their children are both studying at UWA: Kate is doing her Honours year in Natural Resource Management and David is studying science.

# back the bush

## Unigrunds staff have joined with young Indigenous volunteers to rehabilitate a degraded area of the University's controversial Shenton Park bushland.

Wayne Browne, Property Manager for Facilities Management, said the volunteers were family members from the Nyoongar circle of elders who are in consultation with the University over development of the land.

"I think it gave them a real sense of achievement," Mr Browne said. "They really worked hard for ten days, planting 13,000 seedlings. The Unigrunds staff appreciated working alongside them in this unique project."

He said the quality of the bush on the 32 hectare block varied, but dropped off significantly as the land rose higher. "There are two hectares near the top of the hill which are significantly degraded and the University is committed to its rehabilitation."

The volunteers and staff planted banksias, casuarinas and eucalypts, with acacia, hardenbergia and grass trees as an understory. All the seedlings had been raised from seed gathered from the Shenton Park site.

One of the grounds staff, Stuart Dyson, who is completing a diploma in conservation and land management, has supervised the project.

The first planting session covered about one hectare. Another session in about July this year will start work on the second hectare.

"It will probably become an annual program for the next few years, so we can keep on increasing the biodiversity," Mr Browne said. "It could take five to ten years to get the biodiversity we're hoping for."

The University's proposal is to subdivide 20 hectares of the block for residential use and retain 12 hectares of natural bush.



*Nyoongar volunteers, including Kylie Beck, worked hard on the project*

# Raiding the Great Southern

Team WA (from left): Peter Peeling, Ian Fitzpatrick, Felicity Sheedy-Ryan and team leader Grant Landers – ready for anything!



The fittest and most adventurous people on campus have just completed the first two day race in an international competition of extreme sport and team endurance (X-adventure).

The Raid World Cup, based in France, comprises four two-day (and night) adventure races at different locations around the world each year, from which are chosen the elite teams to compete in the final, which will be held in Europe in September.

The first X-adventure race was held over the weekend in the Walpole, Denmark, Albany area. More races are scheduled for Sweden, the USA and Andorra over the next few months.

Team WA, sponsored by Salomon and TourismWA (through EventsCorp), is made up of UWA staff and students, with Human Movement and Exercise Science lecturer and triathlon coach Dr Grant Landers the team leader.

Other members are students Felicity Sheedy-Ryan (who competed in the 2004 Raid with Dr Landers), Peter Peeling and Kate Laursen. UWA Sport and Recreation Manager, Ian Fitzpatrick, who also competed in the 2004 Raid, makes up the team of five. Four members of each team must compete in each race.

Adventure racing is the ultimate test of strength, strategy, skill and endurance. Mixed teams compete in a range of disciplines including (at least) orienteering, abseiling, canoeing,

mountain biking, rope activities and in-line skating, racing over 200 kilometres in two days and nights.

The teams must self-navigate and the course is kept secret until the night before the race. The UWA team competed in three of the Raid's races last year, and Ian said that, battling jet lag in the northern hemisphere, "even getting to the starting line required our navigation and orienteering skills!"

Participants say adventure racing is as much about logistics and strategy as it is about strength, fitness and endurance. When you consider that their first race

last year found the UWA team at the foot of a 14,000 foot mountain in America, covered with snow and ice, getting ready to run up and over the top – and none of them had even seen snow before, let alone competed in it – the organisation and tactics must be extreme.

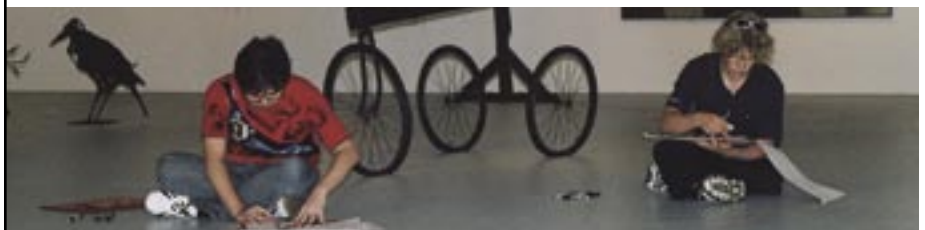
Competing for the first time last year against very experienced adventure racers, the UWA team were simply happy to complete the courses. This year, at least for the first race, they hoped to have a home-town advantage, but will be back to racing in ice and snow in the northern hemisphere later in the season.



Engineering students took advantage of the seclusion, the great light and the clean lines of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery to test their drawing skills recently.

They chose positions around the main gallery (before opening time) and practiced perspectives for a couple of hours, surrounded by sculptures and paintings from *A Parched Progress* exhibition.

Second year Mechanical Engineering student Courtney Lucas (*above*) took her perspective from the floor of the Maller Gallery while another second year Mechanical Engineering student, Joel Tinetti, (*below right*) and third year Mechatronics student Ronald Lee shared their floor space with Theo Koning's *Eight Hand Horse* and other works.





# Down to earth images



Peter Dailey's sculpture Working Class Shrine is echoed in Theo Koning's painting The Industrialist

Jenny Anderson's rubber crows, Encaw, stalk the gallery near Mark Cypher's wood and metal creation, European Driver



The word 'parched' conjures bleak desert landscapes and, in particular, Sidney Nolan's famous painting *Perished*, of explorer Burke lying dead or dying near Cooper's Creek.

While this painting is part of the exhibition, *A Parched Progress: Landscapes of Australia*, the collection on show at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery is not as bleak as it sounds.

There is hope and light and some whimsy, as well as traditional images of the outback and less traditional representations of suburbia.

Curator Janice Baker said the Nolans and similar pictures resonated for her with the news stories of German travellers coming to grief in the outback in recent times.

"They're following that myth of the heroic exploration of the parched land," Janice said.

Less visually desolate but still conveying the same message is contemporary Fremantle artist Tim Burns' *Death of a Miner*, which seems surely to have been inspired by *Perished*, but makes use of the psychedelic colours of the 70s in which it was created.

A murder of crows (*Encaw* by Jenny Anderson) appears to be made of rusted metal, but is actually ingeniously created from old car tyres. Close by is Fremantle artist Theo Koning's *Eight Hand Horse*, made from found objects, including bicycle wheels

(for legs), hessian, animal skin, scrap metal, rope (moulded into a head), and a horseshoe (for luck).

A porcelain platter from local artist Pippin Drysdale (*Logging*), a series of photographs of the edge of suburbia by Tom Gibbons (*Random Landscapes*), and a sculpture by Stuart Elliott (*Modern Sanitiser*), created with metal, wood, papier mache, glass and broken egg shells, expand the image of the Australian landscape.

All works in *A Parched Progress* are from the University's permanent collection and are on show at the Gallery until June 5.

Alongside the exhibition is one curated by Tjalaminu Mia, research fellow at the School of Indigenous Studies.

*Gnarlung Wirn, Gnarlung Ngark, Gnarlung Boodja* (our spirit, our mother, our country) is a cross-cultural exhibition featuring Australian Indigenous works and Balinese art.

The exhibition was a major cultural component of the *Universal Relationships and Responsibilities* symposium on campus late last month. The four day symposium, exploring Indigenous knowledge and contemporary ideologies, was a collaboration with Indigenous Studies, the Institute of Advanced Studies, the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, and the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences.

Ochre paintings by famous Kimberley artists Rover Thomas and Paddy Tjamitji present another perspective of the parched landscape.

*Gnarlung Wirn, Gnarlung Ngark, Gnarlung Boodja* is at the Gallery until May 22.

*Friday Talks*: May 6: Curator Tjalaminu Mia will share cultural perspectives with Norman Mc Donald and Karen Winmar, two of the artists represented in the exhibition.

May 20: Environmental historian Dr Andrea Gaynor will explore some of the lesser known stories of those who sought to adapt, work and protect the landscape.

Friday Talks at the Gallery are free and start at 1pm.

## Samer's a survivor Refugee rewarded



Samer Aljanabi always wanted to be a lawyer, like her father.

But she had to endure his execution, as well as living in hiding in Iraq for years, coming as a refugee to Australia and choosing another course of study until her English was good enough to study law.

Samer (pronounced summer) is now 28 and began studying

Law at UWA this year.

She says one of the worst things about being in hiding with her Kurdish mother, her sister and her brother is that she couldn't go to school or study.

"When you study, you feel alive," Samer said.

But her pursuits are not selfish. She wants to be a lawyer so she can help migrants and refugees. She was recently presented with an International Women's Day award for her contribution to the status of migrant and refugee women.

Samer was born in France, but when she was 13, her Iraqi father took the family back to Iraq to fight for democracy.

"He was executed, and my mother, who is Kurdish, had to go into hiding, which meant we all did," she said. It is still painful for Samer to relive that time in her life, and she prefers to dwell on her life in Australia and how she tries to help people who have had similar experiences to hers.

When she and her family arrived in Perth, Samer learnt English while studying politics at Notre Dame University. "The language of law was too difficult for me to go straight into law school," she said.

While studying for her first degree, Samer became involved with migrant and refugee support groups. Although she says she still has counselling to help her deal with her father's death and her family's incarceration, Samer works voluntarily for the Association for Services to Torture and Trauma Survivors (ASSETTS), providing counselling and settlement services to people from many different countries.

She is a board member of ASSETTS, chair of the client reference group, and on the steering committee and strategic planning committee.

Samer is also on the board of CASE (Centre for Advocacy, Support and Education) for Refugees. She works in their legal centre, helping people to stay in Australia.

"I can't help much yet with legal services," she said. "But I help with the social aspects, including how to handle the Australian culture."

Samer is fluent in French, Kurdish, Arabic, Spanish and, now, English. Her translation skills are invaluable in her voluntary work with refugees. She says she is studying hard in the hope of being able to take up where her father left off in the fight for democracy in the world.

## UWA Press book catches judges' eyes



Illustrated children's books are one of the most competitive markets in publishing.

UWA Press is proud that Laura Peterson, illustrator of the Press' Cygnet Picture Book *Eyes in the Night*, has been short-listed for the Crichton Award.

The Crichton Award is from the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) for picture book illustration. It is highly competitive. Only five other books, of the hundreds published each year, have been shortlisted. They are all from major and much larger Australian publishers, Scholastic, Penguin and Allen and Unwin.

*Eyes in the Night* was written by Jan Ramage. The winner will be announced at the CBCA Book of the Year in August.



## How to get into print ...

All notices, classified ads and redundant equipment can now be sent to our new email address:

**staffads@uwa.edu.au**

We are no longer publishing Campus Diary, as these events are now available on the Web at <http://events.uwa.edu.au>

Please call Maryvonne Bestel in Public Affairs (6488 1900) or Lindy Brophy, editor UWAnews (6488 2436) if you have any queries.

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

### ASTHMA FOUNDATION

**Dr J Pillow, Dr Timothy Moss, Dr Boris Kramer, Prof Alan Jobe, Women's and Infants' Health, External: 'Fetal Sensitization and Postnatal Airway Reactivity'—\$44,700 (2005)**

### AUSTRALIAN RETINITIS PIGMENTOSA ASSOCIATION

**Prof Pirooska Rakoczy, Dr M Yu, Dr Nigel Barnett, Dr Chooi-May Lai, Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science, External: 'Can the Process of Advanced Retinal Degeneration be Prevented or Slowed Down in the Rpe65/- Model of LCA'—\$60,000 (2005)**

### BAVARIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

**Dr Jason Antenucci, Prof Jorg Imberger, Water Research: 'BodenseeOnline Hydrodynamics Modelling'—\$26,480 (2005)**

### BUPA FOUNDATION

**Ms Judith Finn, Dr Geoffrey Dobb, Dr Steven Webb, A/Prof Matthew Knuihan, Population Health, Medicine and Pharmacology: 'Long-Term Outcome of Critical Illness in Intensive Care Unit Patients. A Data Linkage Study'—\$163,264 (2005-06)**

### CANCER COUNCIL OF WA

**Mr Andrew Currie, Dr Donald Davidson, Medicine and Pharmacology, External: 'Cationic Antimicrobial Peptides as Novel Natural Adjuvants for Enhanced Systemic and Intra-tumoural Cancer Therapy'—\$55,000 (2005-06)**

**Dr Jenette Creaney, Dr Richard Lake, Prof Bruce Robinson, Medicine and Pharmacology: 'Ribonucleotide Reductase: A Predictive Molecular Marker for Malignant Mesothelioma'—\$54,930 (2005)**

### CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT

**Dr Ian Eliot, Dr Gary Kendrick, Earth and Geographical Sciences, Plant Biology: 'Recreation and Rock Platforms: An Investigation Into Recreational Use of Shallow**

**Limestone Rock Platforms in the Southwest of Western Australia and Potential Impact on their Biota'—\$16,000 (2005)**

### CPA AUSTRALIA

**A/Prof John Watson, Economics and Commerce: 'The SME 'Finance Gap': Myth or Reality'—\$10,549 (2005)**

### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE (TRANSFIELD)

**Dr Roberta Bencini, Animal Biology: 'Road Mortality and Population Dynamics of Tammar Wallabies (Macropus Eugenii) on Garden Island'—\$28,900 (2005-07)**

### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & AGEING: MISCELLANEOUS

**Prof Gary Hulse, Dr Diane Arnold-Reed, Mr Robert Tait, Ms Virginia Stalenberg, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences: 'Ultrasound Assessment of Implant Biodegradability Over Time'—\$108,810 (2005)**

### GATORADE SPORTS SCIENCE INSTITUTE

**Dr David Bishop, Human Movement and Exercise Science: 'The Effects of Different Interval Training Methods on Muscle Metabolism and Ion Regulation During and After High-Intensity Workout'—\$1,500 (2005)**

### GLAXOSMITHKLINE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT LIMITED (GSK)

**A/Prof Peter Barrett, Prof Gerald Watts, Medicine and Pharmacology: 'ADD101535 - GSK Adenosine Trial' - \$236,599 (2004)**

### HEALTHWAY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH COMBINED UNIVERSITIES CENTRE FOR RURAL HEALTH (CUCRH), THE HEART FOUNDATION AND THE MIDWEST MURCHISON POPULATION HEALTH (MMR)

**Ms Nicole Edwards, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care: 'Geraldton Young People and Physical Activity Project (Year 1 Evaluation Plan)'—\$26,000 (2004)**

### NANO - MNRF TRAVEL & ACCESS PROGRAM (TAP)

**Dr Giacinta Parish, Faculty of Engineering, Computing and**

**Mathematics: 'Annealing Studies for Plasma-Damaged p-type GaN'—\$900 (2004)**

**Dr Peta Clode, Centre for Microscopy and Microanalysis: 'Calcium Transport in Reef-building Scleractinian Corals'—\$1,260 (2004)**

### NHMRC: EQUIPMENT GRANTS

**Dr Jennifer Rodger, Dr Giles Plant, Dr Catherine Arrese, A/Prof Sarah Dunlop, Prof Lynda Beazley, Prof Ralph Martins, Prof Leigh Simmons, UWA Centre for Medical Research, Anatomy and Human Biology, Animal Biology, External: 'Corbett Research RotorGene 4-Channel RealTime DNA Amplification System'—\$65,000 (2005)**

### NHMRC TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

**Dr Malcolm Lyons, UWA Centre for Medical Research: 'Proof that Murine Abca1 Determines Hdlq10, a Locus for HDL Cholesterol Levels and Investigation of the Effects of Common Amino Acids Polymorphisms on ABCA1 Activity'—(2005-07)**

### OFFICE FOR WOMEN'S POLICY

**Dr Joan Eveline, Economics and Commerce: 'A Targeted Women and Leadership Framework for the NGO Sector'—\$27,715 (2005)**

### RURAL INDUSTRIES R&D CORP

**Prof Clive Francis, Ms Margaret Campbell, Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture: 'Marketing of Alternative Oilseeds'—\$60,000 (2004-06)**

### UNIVERSITY POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

**Dr Yasmine Musharbash, Social and Cultural Studies: 'Anthropology of Boredom'—(2004-07)**

### VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY EX NIH

**Dr Dieter Wildenauer, Dr Sibylle Schwab, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, UWA Centre for Medical Research: 'The Genetic Epidemiology of Schizophrenia in Ireland'—\$407,731 (2004-08)**

## CLASSIFIED ADS

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**FORD LASER 1991 Hatchback.** 1.6 litre, auto, white, aircon, registered to January 2006. Good condition. Very good tyres, service history available. \$3,250 ono. Phone: 0418 914 204.

### FOR RENT

**CRAWLEY.** Furnished accommodation. Medium and long term. Delightful two bedroom self-contained apartment in Fairway, next to UWA. Fully furnished and fitted out (linen included). Air-conditioning, heating, TV, telephone, own laundry, undercover parking. Email: [crawley-apartment@iinet.net.au](mailto:crawley-apartment@iinet.net.au) Web Address: [www.goodstay.com/perthapartment](http://www.goodstay.com/perthapartment) Mobile: (+61) 0418 914 204. \$330-\$375 per week (depending on duration); telephone and power charges extra.

### WANTED

**DICTAPHONE:** Lanier foot controlled Dictaphone Model PI65 for transcribing dictaphone tapes. Contact: [mkamien@cyllene.uwa.edu.au](mailto:mkamien@cyllene.uwa.edu.au)

**ACCOMMODATION** wanted from Early October 2005 to Early April 2006. Retired Professional couple from UK seek tidy furnished home (house or Apartment) in Perth/Fremantle. Excellent references available. Contact: [dwebb@biz.uwa.edu.au](mailto:dwebb@biz.uwa.edu.au)

## NOTICES

### Entries in the

## AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM EUREKA PRIZES

### close soon

It's not too late to enter Australia's premier science awards offering \$10,000 cash prizes for achievements in science, education, innovation and leadership, research and science communication.

**But hurry - entries close Friday 13 May 2005**

Research - prizes for:

- Research in ethics
- Critical Thinking
- Biodiversity Research
- Inspiring Science
- Water Research
- Bioinformatics Research
- Interdisciplinary Scientific Research
- Environmental Research
- Scientific Research
- Research which replaces the Use of Animals or Animal Products Innovation and Leadership - prizes for:
- ITC Innovation
- Leadership in Business Innovation
- Leadership in Science

Science Communication - prizes for:

- Promoting Understanding of Science
- Science Journalism
- Environmental Journalism
- Photographic Journalism in Science, Technology and the Environment

Environment

- Health and Medical Research Journalism

Education - prizes for:

- Sustainability Education
- Agricultural Journalism
- Science Teaching
- Earth, Environmental and Planetary Science
- Science Eureka Schools Prize

**For more information and entry details go to [www.amonline.net.au](http://www.amonline.net.au) or email [eureka@austrmus.gov.au](mailto:eureka@austrmus.gov.au) or phone 02 9320 6483**

The winners will be announced at a gala dinner on 9 August 2005 at the celebrated Royal Hall of Industries, Moore Park, Sydney. Put this date in your diary now!

### APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN FOR

## 2006 Fulbright Symposium

The Australian-American Fulbright Commission annually offers a grant of \$A30,000 to an Australian university, group, or individual to host what is recognised as the Fulbright Symposium. The Symposium focuses on a topic of current bi-national interest between Australia and the United States and engages leading speakers from both countries.

The grant is awarded following a national competition with proposals assessed on criteria including a topic of bi-national significance, defined outcomes and benefits, and the wider professional and institutional interest and support. The Symposium must be held between March and October, 2006.

Applications forms for the 2006 Fulbright Symposium, further information and details of previous Symposiums are available at [www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au).

Closing date for applications is **Friday 29 July, 2005**. Selection will take place in late August.

## Physiology Seminar Series

Thom Nguyen

Wednesday 4 May 2005

Physiology Seminar Room (2nd floor Physiology Building)

4.30pm Refreshments, seminar commences at 5.00pm

***The effects of parabens on the mechanosensitive channel of large conductance (MscL) of E. coli***

ALL WELCOME

.....

Dr Rob Patuzzi

Wednesday 18 May 2005

Physiology Seminar Room (2nd floor Physiology Building)

4.30pm Refreshments, seminar commences at 5.00pm

***The neuroscience of yawning. Overlooked respiratory reflexes, sleep apnea and the central pattern generator of respiration***

ALL WELCOME

## The following staff have been awarded General Staff Development Grants from Organisational and Staff Development Services.

Inga Car, CSSE, Administrative Assistants Conference, \$150

Chrisitne Casey, Research Services, ARC/NHMRC Research Administrators Seminar, \$231.50

Simone Collins, Centre for Learning Technology, Introducing Macromedia Flash MX 2004, \$295

Narelle Crichton, Archives and Records, Local Government Records Management Group, \$72

Chester Cutinha, Graduate Research, Postgraduate Research Administrators Taskforce Annual Conference, \$316

Michelle Denham, Archives and Records, Local Government Records Management Group, \$72

Belinda Dodd, Mathematics and Statistics, Adobe InDesign CS Fundamentals, \$250

Leanne Dusz, Student Services, Introduction to Mindfulness-based Cognitive Therapy for Depression, \$60

Marisa Gulluni, CSSE, Administrative Assistants Conference, \$150

Peter Hay, Physics, Project Management Fundamentals, \$138

Fiona Ingram, Research Services, ARC/NHMRC Research Administrators Seminar, \$231.50

Kathryn Kirk, Research Ethics and Animal Care, Ethics in Human Research Conference, \$750

Catherine Lee, Accounting and Finance, Conflict Management Skills for Women, \$137

Sebastian Malcolm, Publications Unit, Open Publish 2005 Conference, \$750

Gwen Merritt, CUCRH, Universal Relationships and Responsibilities Symposium, \$510

Sylvana Oates, Student Services, Australian Counselling and Supervision Conference, \$690

Elizabeth Oliver, Student Office, Student Administration Conference conducted by the AUCC, \$750

Renata Owen, Employee Relations & Management Services, Law and Finance's 4th Annual Employment Law Intensive, \$440

Brian Skelton, Biomedical and Chemical Sciences, Molecular and Materials Structure Network Remote Access Workshop, \$728

Susan Smurthwaite, University Secretariat, Eighth Annual National Teaching Forum and the 2004 Australian Awards for University Teaching, \$546

Richard Stals, CATL, Red Hat Certified Engineer, \$750

Geoffrey Upton, Facilities Management, New Zealand Maximo User Group Conference, \$750

Emma Vyle, Student Services, Annual conference of the National Association of Graduate Careers, \$363

Tania Wiley, CUCRH, Universal Relationships and Responsibilities Symposium, \$510

Val Williams, Accounting and Finance, Conflict Management Skills for Women, \$137

Heather Williams, Graduate Research, Postgraduate Research Administrators Taskforce Annual Conference, \$316

Katherine Williams, Statistics Office, Tips and Tricks with Microsoft Word, \$110

### SIR CHARLES GAIRDNER HOSPITAL EDUCATIONAL SERIES

8th Floor, Function Room, G Block (Blue Lifts)

Light lunch from 12 noon followed by the seminar at 12.30pm

Grand Rounds

Tuesday 3rd May

Mr Luc Delriviere presents ***Liver Resection for Colorectal Metastases***

Tuesday 17th May

Dr Peter Campbell, Endocrine Specialist

Tuesday 24th May

Nina Graham (Palliative Care) presents: ***Who Cares for the Carer?***

School of Medicine and Pharmacology Lunchtime

***Cased Based Clinical Meetings***

Tuesday 10th May • Tuesday 31st May

**Jacqui Pettett Tel: 9346 3330 or 0401 623 517**

## UWAnews Deadlines


**WEDNESDAY May 4 for May 16 publication**

**WEDNESDAY May 18 for June 6 publication**

**WEDNESDAY June 1 for June 13 publication**

**WEDNESDAY June 15 for May 27 publication**



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**The Asthma and Allergy Research Institute  
2005 Medical Research Seminar Series**

AARI is pleased to present the following program of presentations by leading Western Australian scientists. Individuals with an interest in these topics are warmly invited to attend.

**LOCATION** Joske Seminar Room University Department of Medicine & Pharmacology 4th Floor, G Block Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital  
**TIME** 12:30pm – 1:30pm A light lunch is served at 12.

**9 May 2005** Mechanism of Transrepression of TNF-alpha promoter in Macrophages by Glucocorticoids.  
Prof David Joyce, School of Medicine and Pharmacology, UWA.

**23 May 2005** Understanding Hormone Action: Some Insights and Many Questions.  
Prof Peter Leedman, Western Australian Institute of Medical Research.

The Asthma and Allergy Research Institute (Inc).  
Ground floor E Block, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, Hospital Avenue, Nedlands WA, 6009  
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## the last word

**Ben Etherington** Arts Honours Graduate and winner of the 2004 General Sir John Monash Award

# That vision thing

It is appropriate that on a night like tonight we cast our eyes forward, and ponder the vision of our future. But before we do so, I would like to reflect momentarily on the quality of 'Vision', of which we have heard so much during recent elections.

'Vision' is something we tend groan at – a word that is used so loosely that we have lost any clear sense of what it could mean, and why it might be important.

Visions are not merely the wares of market-stall mystics, but the staple of political polls and job interviews. We have all come to expect that people who aspire to power have 'A Vision'. As Kim Beazley and John Kerry have learned in recent times, Visions are like underwear, you always need a few spare during sticky times.

When people begin to feel that they *ought* to have a Vision, they often see strange things. For example, the 19<sup>th</sup> century explorer Ludwig Leichhardt had a vision of central Australia where desert oases would sustain millions of European settlers. He disappeared somewhere en route in 1848. Recently we have been asked to entertain the vision of a 3700 kilometre-long canal that would provide enough water to sustain the manicured European gardens of all the future citizens of Perth. Former WA Opposition Leader Colin Barnett disappeared somewhere last month.

Yet, perhaps Leichhardt and Barnett knew what they were doing: disastrous visions resonate strongly with Australia's national destiny. Whether we are cannon fodder in wars with Boers, Turks, Germans, Vietnamese or Iraqis, we seem to have a grim desire to take lead roles in the violent and often tragic hallucinations of visionaries in other places.

Of course, more unnerving than political stunts and military egotism, is the relentless mirage of fundamentalism that, in its various guises, has deluded so many with its dogmatic vision: Puritanism, Fascism, Stalinism, Terrorism, Zionism, Islamism, White Supremecism, Born-againism, Managerialism. As George Bush Snr commented it's 'that vision thing' – and his cross-eyed son has it in spades. Luckily for Junior, Visions seem to require

about as much thought as ordering from the drive through.

So it becomes easy to agree with Thomas Hardy that "There's a condition worse than blindness, and that's seeing something that isn't there."

But then, not all Visions are chimeras. Most music students, and I am sure it is true of all of us graduating tonight, have had moments when we have encountered a vision of improbable human talent. For me, the occasion was witnessing the Berlin Philharmonic perform Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. If I hadn't been sitting next to my bassoon lecturer Peter Moore I would have bawled tears of joy. I was possessed with that vision. It was a point of ecstasy towards which I directed all the masochistic hours of technical training. This, it seemed to me, was an authentic vision – the harmony of ideal and reality.

So my understanding of 'Vision' isn't what works well in interviews but a personal, private, and often secretly held *truth*.

Tonight we graduate from this fantastic university – a university that will hopefully continue to resist the encroaching vision of a limited vocational training, and persist with the ideal of education as an innate and cherished goal. Hopefully some of us during our time here have glimpsed some kind of truth. And perhaps with this cherished vision, held tightly to our chest, we will shrug off the banalities of political and bureaucratic rhetoric and move towards fulfilling our own vision.

As academics, teachers, translators, social workers, accountants, musicians, business people or something else, we won't be announcing a single truth to the world, but a kaleidoscope of visions and aspirations forged during our years at UWA. I trust that as we move on to different experiences we will remember this grand institution and that we will not be depressed or intimidated by the imminent 'real world' and its coercive visions.

*This column was Ben's Valedictory Speech, delivered at his graduation ceremony.*

