



Confucius links China and UWA

Vice Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson and His Excellency, Mr Raidi, Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China are surrounded by dozens of photographers after they have unveiled the plaque to launch the Confucius Institute at The University of Western Australia.

Australia-China relations have reached a new high with the establishment of Australia's first Confucius Institute at UWA.

China's Deputy Leader, His Excellency Mr Raidi, a senior official of one of the world's most powerful nations, visited UWA to launch it.

The Institute, for enhancing the understanding and appreciation of Chinese language and culture, co-ordinating China-related activities, and forging links with business and government, was launched with ceremony at UWA on May 20.

A brass plaque proclaiming the newly-forged links was unveiled, and it will adorn the home of the Institute.

Staff in Asian Studies, in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, are very excited that the government of the People's Republic of China chose UWA to host its prestigious Institute.

Universities in other capital cities and other universities in WA with Asian studies had all been under consideration for this first Institute.

Chair of Asian Studies, Dr David Bouchier, and lecturers in Chinese, Dr Gary Sigley and Dr Wang Yi, agreed that our University's strategic and economic relationship with China made UWA the best choice.

Dr Sigley pointed out that while China is Australia's third largest trading partner, it is WA's second largest partner.

"And the Chinese presence has always been strong at UWA, with descendants from the Chinese diaspora in South East Asia making up a very big group of our students," he said.

by *Lindy Brophy*

The Institute, which will start operations later this year, will be a major asset for the University and the State. It will bring together members of the ethnic Chinese community, Chinese language teachers, schools, Murdoch and Curtin universities, the business sector and first generation Australians who want to stay in touch with their parents' culture and language.

A collaboration with the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL) and Zhejiang University, the Institute will be accredited to run the Chinese Government's official language proficiency examination. It will also teach language and culture classes for students and people in the community outside the University. Teachers of Chinese language in WA (about 50 of them) will have a focus and a home, and will be able to undertake professional development through the Institute.

There will be short courses for business people in language and etiquette. A popular course is expected to be Pinyin or romanised Chinese, using a phonetic alphabet, for business people and visitors to China, so they can communicate without having to learn Chinese characters.

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CHINA ISSUE

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Earlier in 2005 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Seares signed the agreement with Madam Xu Lin, Director-General of the National Office For Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language

Confucius links China and UWA

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Funding for the Confucius Institute will come from the Chinese Government, which will supply teachers, language learning software and books. UWA will provide the real estate, the administrative infrastructure and huge support from the Vice-Chancellery.

Dr Bouchier said the Chinese delegation from the Chinese Embassy were very impressed with the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, when they visited in January, looking for a university to accredit for the language proficiency test.

"The Education Counsellor, Professor Shuanggu Zhang said, on the spot, that he was so impressed with the support from UWA, that he would like to set up a Confucius Institute here. That was only a few months ago," he said.

The booming Chinese economy has kindled a world-wide enthusiasm for China and its language, and Beijing has started to set up these Confucius Institutes all around the world, to spread its influence through language and culture.

Counsellor Zhang said interchange with foreign countries was thriving, especially in economic areas.

"But to try understand China, one must also know its language. We hope more people will learn more about China through our Institutes," he said.

The Chinese Government's goal is to eventually establish about 100 institutes world-wide. They are already in Japan and South Korea (the first centre opened in Seoul in November last year), and there are plans for Institutes in the United States, Sweden and Uzbekistan.

They are named after the fifth century BC philosopher who greatly influenced Asian thought. Confucius believed that ren (goodness) was man's ideal. Although Confucius was attacked as a symbol of feudal patriarchy during the Cultural Revolution, his reputation as a great teacher has been re-established in China since the 1980s.

The Institute's Website is www.confuciusinstitute.uwa.edu.au



Vice Minister of Education, Mr Xinsheng Zhang and Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson at the signing of the initial Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year

Feet first into new degree



Associate Professor Alan Bryant and administrative officer Lucy Brennan-Jones settle into the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

UWA will be doing its bit to help people stay on their feet, with a new course in podiatry starting next year.

The four year Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine is planned to be offered by the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry to 30 students in 2006.

Associate Professor Alan Bryant, the course coordinator, said podiatry was a very important branch of medicine in the overall scheme of keeping people healthy.

"The health community's slogan *Stay on your feet* has very broad implications," he said. "If people keep walking and moving, they can maintain their cardio-vascular and respiratory health.

"As people get older, it is important to keep them mobile so they can remain independent. A lot of ongoing care of elderly people is necessary simply because of lack of mobility. And that can often start when people have problems with their feet.

"So podiatric medicine can literally keep people on their feet and help to ensure a healthy and independent life."

A/Professor Bryant said podiatry had become an integral part of treating diabetic patients. "Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in the incidence of diabetes in the Western world. And long term diabetes can often lead to foot problems. People who have had diabetes for a long time can have difficulties with circulation, healing and sensitivity in their feet."

Biomechanics, sports podiatry and care of children's feet can all be part of the work of a podiatrist.

"... podiatric medicine can literally keep people on their feet and help to ensure a healthy and independent life."

Plans to set up a Master's degrees in advanced clinical or surgical podiatry will be pursued in future years for the discipline of Podiatry at UWA. A/Professor Bryant said that elective foot surgery had been performed by surgical podiatrists in WA since 1979. "There are only seven or eight podiatric surgeons in WA and, in Australia, they do about 15 percent of elective foot surgery."

A new podiatry clinic will be set up in 2007 for the clinical training of podiatrists, and students will undertake clinical rotations there and in public and private hospitals.

A/Professor Bryant is a podiatrist and previously taught in the podiatry course at Curtin University of Technology. That course will wind up at the end of this year, and the UWA course will be the only podiatry program offered in WA.

"UWA's Bachelor of Podiatric Medicine is pitched at a higher academic level with a higher clinical component and we hope it will lead to postgraduate research in the field," A/Professor Bryant said.

Further information can be found at www.meddent.uwa.edu.au/podiatry



Vice-Chancellor's column

Long-term future for UWA-China partnership



Two major events in recent days provide a reflection of the growing significance of our relationship with China and the mutual benefits that have developed from this relationship – in particular, the signing of contracts for natural gas training programs in Australia and China involving collaboration between our University and Curtin University of Technology; and the selection by the Chinese Government of UWA as the home of the first prestigious Confucius Institute in Australia.

The first of these two major initiatives is the culmination of years of work by UWA and Curtin – in partnership with industry and government – which has helped Western Australian industry secure Liquefied Natural Gas contracts which will provide a significant boost to local and national economies. The provision of training programs to support wider economic imperatives highlights the enormous potential for successful partnerships with industry, government and business, as well as with other universities.

The second initiative – the establishment of the Confucius Institute – is a major recognition by the Chinese Government of our University's history and future strategic direction. This was made clear when we hosted His Excellency Mr Raidi, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China and a delegation of other

Chinese officials at the launch of the Confucius Institute at UWA.

Speaking to an audience of Chinese and Australian government, business and community guests, Mr Raidi praised UWA as a 'cradle' for producing highly-talented graduates based on outstanding teaching and research. And he described the establishment of the Institute as a significant milestone in the area of education cooperation between China and Australia. He also noted the deepening relationship between China and Australia which is being supported by a growing understanding of language and culture – a key role for the Confucius Institute.

These developments are matters of which the University and the wider community should be justifiably proud, for it is a clear indication that our engagement with China over many years provides benefits for both parties.

There have been many people across the university involved in bringing these projects into being. To them we owe congratulations and thanks.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor

Fresh start for

*My doctor
plays the
oboe ...*

A musician and a mining engineer are among a new group of students who will become doctors in a few years.

The University's first graduate medical student intake began this month with 21 graduates starting an intensive 26-week bridging course before they join the current second year medical students when they all start third year together next year.

The group includes a lawyer, a dentist, a physiotherapist and three engineers. Three of the new students already have PhDs and eight of them completed their first degrees with honours.

Dean of Medicine and Dentistry Professor Ian Puddey said the graduate students would enhance the medical course with their life experiences and maturity.

"Their diverse and impressive backgrounds bode well for the contribution they will eventually make to the medical profession," he said.

Professor Puddey said most universities in Australia now offered graduate entry medical training. "There is an urgent need for more doctors in the community, and a shorter course will get them into the workforce more quickly."

He said the graduate entry numbers would be increased to 40 next year and the standard entry (school leavers) numbers would be decreased by 40. The following year, the numbers would be increased to 60 graduate students and school leavers would be cut back by 60.

Michael Cross-Pitcher and Robyn McIntyre are two of the new students who consider themselves extremely lucky to be given a second chance in life.

graduates brings rich mix to medicine



... mine is a lawyer

Robyn was accepted into medical school in Sydney as a school leaver but chose to study Music at UWA, specialising in the oboe. She became a music teacher then married a farmer, moved to Esperance and had two children.

"But I still wanted to be a doctor. So while the children were babies, I did a Bachelor of Science by correspondence. When UWA announced its graduate entry scheme, I knew my chance had come."

Robyn (41) is the oldest of the new intake. She has moved to Perth with her children, aged five and seven, to study for four-and-a-half years, while her husband has remained on the farm.

"Lots of us have children. It will be hard going, but it's what I want to do and, like all of us, I'm committed to it," she said.

In Michael's case, he graduated with first class honours in Engineering from UWA in 1995 but knew within 18 months that it was not what he wanted to do.

"I had looked at Engineering as a course but not as a vocation," he said. "When I heard about a graduate medical course, it just clicked and I thought that's for me."

"I moved to Queensland because the University of Queensland was one of the first to run a graduate course. But I met

and fell in love with the woman I was to marry, and love and children and buying a house put off medical school for a while.

"But, like all the other students in our course, I had the courage to pursue my dream. We sold our house and a small investment property and now live in an outer suburb. Most of us have given up a lot to be here, and we're determined to succeed."

Associate Professor Sally Reagan is the course co-ordinator for the graduate entry program. She said a couple of the students had come straight from completing their first degrees but most of them had experience in the workforce. "They are delightful people, so proud of themselves," she said.

"It's been very hard work to put together a course for them. It was too expensive to create a whole new graduate program while we had an undergraduate course running. So we have designed a highly-intensive 26-week bridging course, then we will integrate them into the undergraduate third year next year.

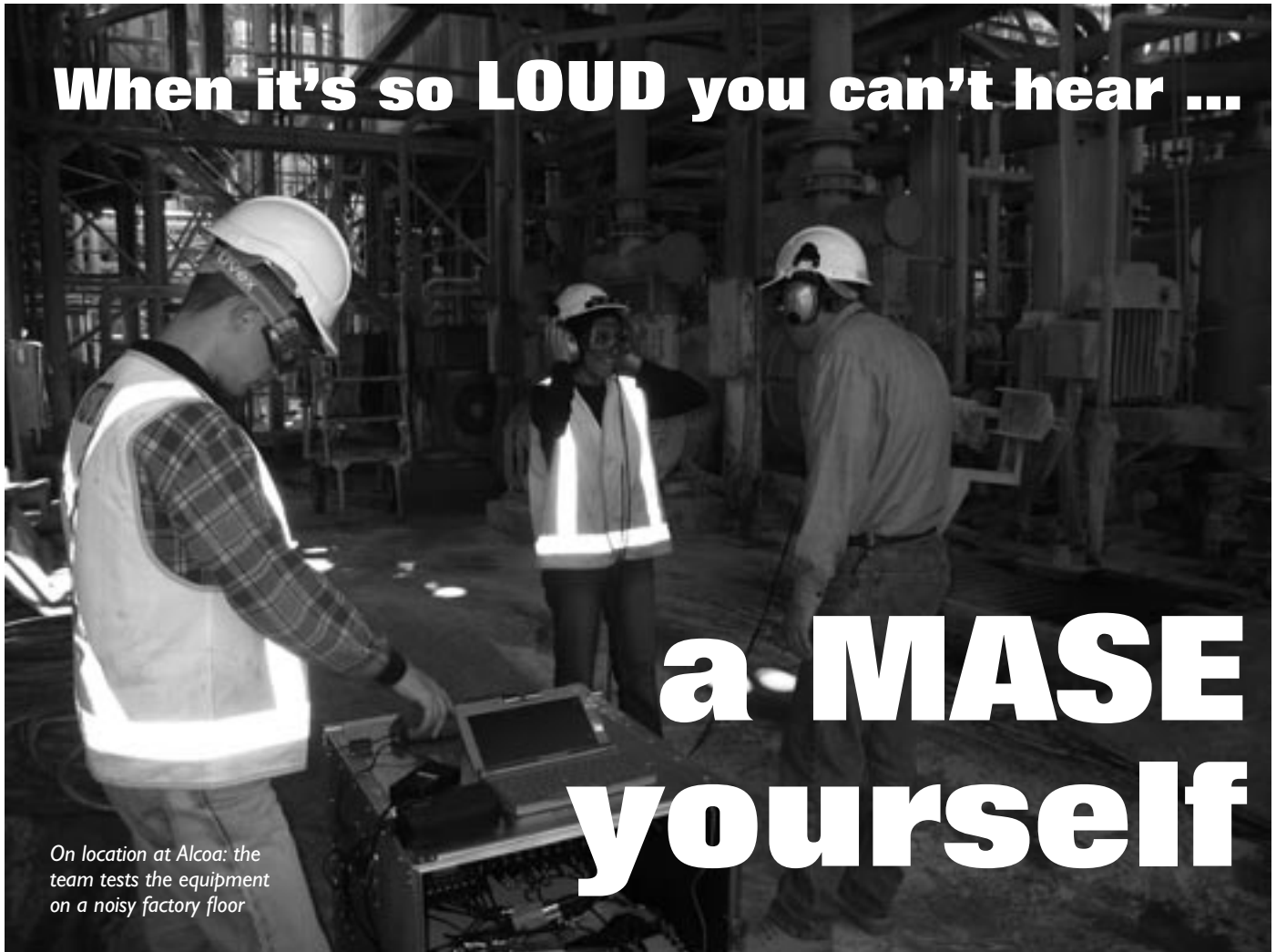
"The tricky part is preparing them adequately this year without overloading them. There is a lot of self-directed learning and I think they really appreciate the course we've designed for them," she said.

ABOVE: The new group of students at orientation with course coordinator A/ Professor Sally Reagan (centre) and lecturer in medical education Gina Arena (right)

BELOW: Michael Cross-Pitcher and Robyn McIntyre ... hugely enthusiastic about starting to study medicine



When it's so LOUD you can't hear ...



On location at Alcoa: the team tests the equipment on a noisy factory floor

a MASE yourself

Before he became an electronic engineer, then a specialist in communications technology, Professor Kevin Fynn was a performer in the rock music industry.

He still has a guitar in his office at the Western Australian Telecommunications Research Institute (WATRI) at the edge of the UWA campus.

But an even more constant reminder of his former life is Professor Fynn's permanent hearing damage.

"Every year in WA, hundreds of young people between the ages of 17 and 25 get permanent hearing damage, mostly from extremely loud music in pubs and clubs," he said.

WATRI (a joint venture between UWA and Curtin University of Technology) has Pathfinder funding (through UWA's Office of Innovation and Industry) to help them push ahead with commercialising a development that could eventually save the hearing of people who work in noisy environments, including young people working in pubs and industrial sites.

A Microphone Array Speech Enhancement (MASE) system has been developed by a team headed by Professor Fynn and Professor Sven Nordholm, with members Anders Johansson, Alan Davis, Anusha Vasudevan and Jon Wilson.

Professor Fynn explained how, eventually, tiny microphones will be incorporated into headsets and attached to small earplugs. These products will suppress background noise, while allowing speech to be clearly heard.

Currently, the system is incorporated in a hard hat with earmuffs for industrial applications, with an array of tiny microphones at the front of the hat. The WATRI team have tested it on the factory floor at ALCOA.

"I've heard many times that workers wearing earmuffs to protect their ears momentarily take them off to hear a workmate or supervisor say something to them," Professor Fynn said. "All it can take is a few seconds exposure to extremely loud noise and permanent hearing damage can be the result.

"With MASE, the worker on the floor is protected from harmful noise, but

can still hear what somebody close by is saying to him.

"We see it working in the hospitality industry too, with bar staff and waiters wearing earpieces with microphones inside, so their hearing is not damaged by the loud background noise and music but they can hear customers ordering drinks and food."

He said he realised it would take some time for a cultural change that would allow the general public to feel comfortable wearing ear pieces in public.

"But I can see the system being developed into something very small like an iPod earpiece, which should become widely accepted," he said.

"We're very excited about this project. Nothing like this exists anywhere else in the world," Professor Fynn said. They hope it will revolutionise industrial workplaces.

The MASE project is one of the outcomes of WATRI becoming a State Government Centre of Excellence, with \$2.42 million funding over three years, from the Office of Science and Innovation.



Professor Kevin Fynn and Professor Sven Nordholm test the MASE system in situ

“We are now the focal point for telecommunications technology in WA,” Professor Fynn said.

Within weeks of winning the Centres of Excellence grant, the Institute became the first Western Australian partner in the Federal Government’s National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) program. NICTA is part of the Government’s

Backing Australia’s Future initiative, with funding for biotechnology and communications technology projects.

A collaboration between NICTA and the institute, worth \$3.69 million, is focussing on the development of technologies to improve information transmission.

The joint initiative, called *The Last Metre Problem* aims to develop

technologies that transmit information to and from people, without restricting mobility.

“The joint initiative aims to develop technologies that transmit information to and from people in a transparent way without restricting mobility or forcing them to change habits. It focuses on the last link or ‘last metre’ channel in information transmission; the small zone physically surrounding a person,” explained Professor Fynn.

NICTA aims to convert great ideas into commercial results, and WATRI is working towards achieving this.

“The project will address issues such as the amount of information that can be transferred to a device worn by a human, how small these devices can be and where they should be placed,” said Professor Fynn.

“*The Last Metre* will target technologies that are likely to have an impact in the mass markets of the home and office.”

Callista SMS Go-Live June 8, 2005

A message from John Murray – Project Director

This week the University’s new student record system, Callista SMS, will go live, thanks to the hard work of all the members of the SIMS Team and the many stakeholders who gave their valuable time and suggestions to the project team.

We look forward to your continued support as we progress and streamline Callista SMS to meet the needs of our university community.

I’m sure that everyone understands that change to a major university system on this scale may cause some concern for those using the system for the first time, and even those on the implementation team. Let’s make every effort to show tolerance to our work colleagues during the changeover and familiarisation period.

To assist in a smooth changeover, you have access to the following:

- **Callista SMS Help Desk**

Call 6488 4777 or email callistasupport@admin.uwa.edu.au from 8am to 6pm for the first six weeks after Go-Live, or from 8.30am to 4.30pm thereafter for any assistance. Callista support staff will also be available to assist you at your workplace on request.

- **Training**

Many of you would have already attended extensive training sessions. For any further training needs, please direct your enquiries to callistatraining@admin.uwa.edu.au

- **Strategies**

If you have concerns or queries about particular strategies or are just plain interested, all the cutover strategy documents are available on the web at http://intranet.uwa.edu.au/sims/welcome_to_sims/strategy_documents These documents describe the plans and decisions that have been put in place in relation to admissions, exams, fees, student support etc during the cutover period and immediately post go-live.

Once again, thank you to the university community for your continued support and encouragement for the SIMS team as Callista SMS Goes-Live.

Be sure to look out for the SIMS team’s snazzy sweaters on Go-Live day.



Spotlight on China at UWA

Our links with China can be found in every corridor of the campus, from language to geology, from business to agriculture.

Most visible is the flourishing Chinese language program, the most comprehensive in Western Australia. Asian Studies offers 16 units in Chinese language, delivered in five streams, from beginners to native speakers. There are 168 students enrolled in these units. The program has a team of dedicated and professional Chinese language tutors.

They have the opportunity of an in-country language program, offering either semester-length units in China or eight-week field study trips during the summer break.

UWA's partner institutions for these exchanges are Zhejiang University, our partner in the Confucius Institute, the Beijing Institute of Education and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics.

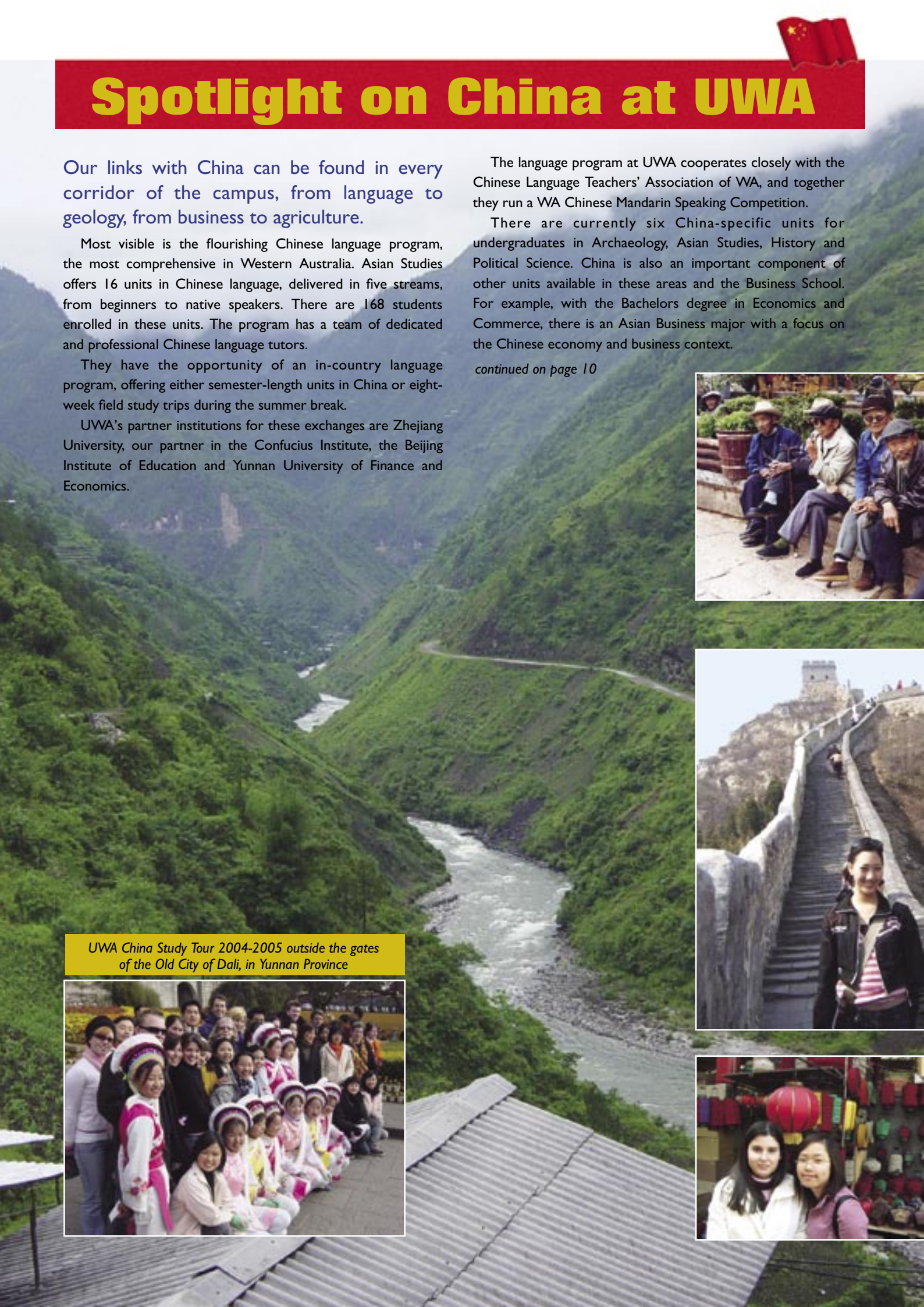
The language program at UWA cooperates closely with the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of WA, and together they run a WA Chinese Mandarin Speaking Competition.

There are currently six China-specific units for undergraduates in Archaeology, Asian Studies, History and Political Science. China is also an important component of other units available in these areas and the Business School. For example, with the Bachelors degree in Economics and Commerce, there is an Asian Business major with a focus on the Chinese economy and business context.

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UWA China Study Tour 2004-2005 outside the gates of the Old City of Dali, in Yunnan Province



Life is hard along the Tea Road

Russell Harwood has a business degree, but instead of putting on a tie and going to work in an office each day, he is spending a year in one of the poorest valleys in China.

He is living with the ethnic minorities in the Nujiang Valley (pictured left), through which runs the old Tea Road, to Burma and on to India.



Dr Gary Sigley (right) meets some of the local characters, the Naxi people of Lijiang

The people of this valley, near the border of Burma, are some of the most poverty-stricken in China, and Russell is studying poverty alleviation, as the focus for his PhD on economic development, under the supervision of Dr Gary Sigley, lecturer in Chinese Studies, and Dr Lyn Parker, senior lecturer in Asian Studies.

This is part of his fieldwork for his PhD but undergraduates have the chance of spending time in China too. About 16 UWA students take up the option for the innovative in country study program in China each year. If they are approved by the School of Asian Studies, the students can opt for short stays of eight weeks when they attend Beijing and Kunming universities (four weeks in each place) over the summer break (12 credit points).

Or they can go for the semester-length programs in Hangzhou or Beijing and earn 24 credit points towards their degrees. The students are always affiliated with a university in China.

Russell has taken on a big challenge, living for a year with people, few of whom speak the Mandarin in which he is fluent.

"It will be hard for him," said Dr Sigley. "But he will go to Zhejiang University in Hangzhou to beef up his language, so that will help him some." This is the same university which is a partner in the Confucius Institute.

Dr Sigley said the people in the Nujiang Valley practised what he called 'extreme farming'. "They grow vegetables, rice and maize on the steepest slopes imaginable. As well as their amazing agricultural practices, the valley has other interesting characteristics. It has a lot of non-government organisations working on environmental projects and there are also a lot of Christian communities. Russell will certainly have the experience of a lifetime."

Russell received a scholarship from the Ministry of Education, the same Ministry that is funding the Confucius Institutes at UWA and around the world.

Dr Gary Sigley recently received the following email from one of his students, Emily Edwards, who is spending a semester studying Chinese at the Beijing Institute of Education. She is with another UWA student

Sasikan Kunakool (both pictured left). They are both enrolled in an Advanced Chinese In Country unit. Dr Sigley said the letter was a typical example of the response to the school's In Country program.

Hello!

The China In-country Study program has been a great opportunity for me to improve my Chinese language skills as well as broaden my understanding of Chinese culture.

At the Beijing Institute of Education we are the only English speaking students in our building which means we use our Chinese all the time. We spend a lot of time with our classmates and whether we're eating, shopping, playing badminton, watching movies or going clubbing we have a lot of fun and it's all in the name of language learning. I know I make a lot of mistakes but I am learning all the time.

The other students in our dorm this semester are from Thailand, Korea, Mongolia and Russia. We also have made Chinese friends, often talk to the teachers outside of class as they are very friendly and helpful, and the owners of the small convenience stores outside the school gates love to hear all of our stories.

Every morning we take classes focusing on different language skills; listening, reading comprehension, writing, speaking, basic vocabulary and grammar class. All classes are taught in Chinese.

Classes are small (only five students in my class) and every student also has a one-on-one class with a teacher — a chance to practice spoken Chinese or work on any particular areas of weakness. Many students also have Chinese language partners. We have a weekly activity class learning calligraphy and songs.

The weekends we have to ourselves and I try to make the best of my time in Beijing. While the school takes us on one excursion a week there are many beautiful, famous and ancient tourist attractions to visit, not to mention the shopping opportunities. Beijing's public transport system, the buses and subway, as well as its relatively cheap taxis, make it so easy to get around that we have no excuse not to visit the ancient hutongs, beautiful parks or glitzy shopping malls. I just have to make sure I leave enough time to do my homework!

The Beijing Institute of Education is ideally located between the city centre with Tian'an men square and the Forbidden City, the expat. districts on the east side of Beijing, and the university district of Haidian.

There is a park down the road where kids play and old people do exercises. In the other direction there is a square with dancing and taichi and market stalls every evening. A number of the restaurants are open 24 hours and we can buy any thing from instant noodles or biscuits to water and toilet paper from one of the many convenience shops just outside the gate until at least 11pm. I have been there in my pyjamas more than once!

I am really enjoying living and studying here and I hope that many more UWA students take up this excellent opportunity.

Yours, Emily Edwards

Spotlight on China at UWA

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More than a dozen academics are actively involved in research on China and its culture, institutions, structures and processes. They include: Dr Esta Ungar (History); Dr Wang Yi (Asian Studies); Dr Jie Chen and Dr Sandra Penrose (Political Science); Dr Gary Sigley (Asian Studies), A/Professor Yanrui Wu (Economics), Dr Fang Liu (Information Management and Marketing) and Alex Gardner (Law).

More staff are indirectly associated with the study of China through collaborations with scholars both within and outside the University.

In addition to the study of China's culture and institutions, there are many academics who are engaged in specific scientific research projects that focus on the physical features of China, or are involved in collaborative research with academics in Chinese universities.

This work is spread over the Faculties of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics; Life and Physical Sciences; Natural and Agricultural Sciences; and Medicine and Dentistry.

For example, the Tectonics Special Research Centre (Natural and Agricultural Sciences) focuses on the study of early super-continentals and involves many projects on the formations in China.

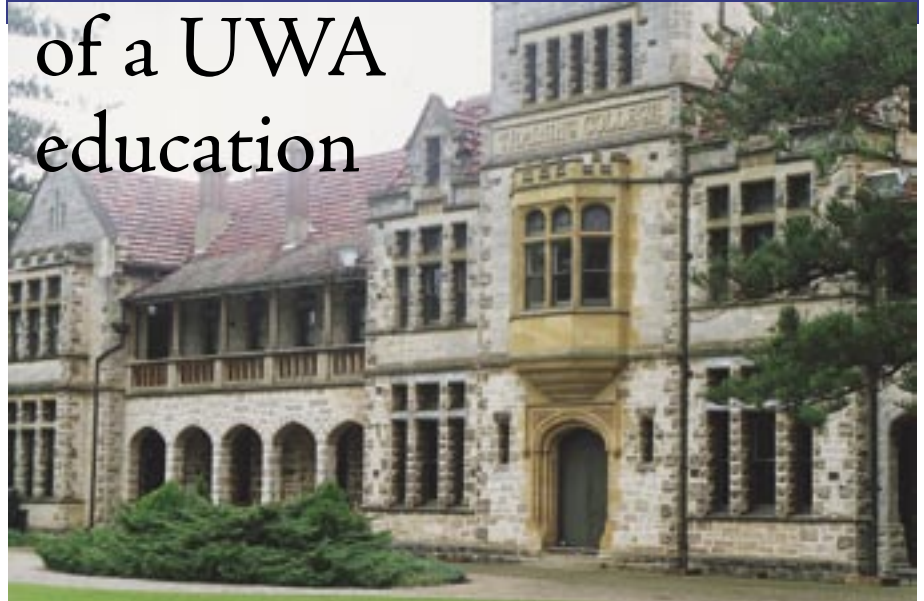
As well as academic connections, there are the long-term and important economic and political connections between the state of Western Australia and the People's Republic of China.

Five of the last six Australian Ambassadors to China are graduates of UWA. As a result, the University has commissioned a series of lectures called *On China: The Ambassador's Lecture*, which began last year.

Western Australia has arguably the deepest industrial and business connections of any Australian state with China. From the 1980s, WA has developed economic links that include the provision of iron ore to China, then the export of alumina and nickel, as well as Chinese investment in steel and the recent sale of LNG to China.

There is also Chinese investment in WA dairy farming and in the establishment of the China Southern Flying College at Merredin and Jandakot.

Laying the foundations of a UWA education



The newly-acquired Claremont campus will be home to our Foundation College

UWA will establish a Foundation College, for incoming international students, at its new Claremont campus — opening up other markets including China.

Until now, international students either came direct to UWA from their schools or institutions or attended an external foundation college, to help them improve their English language and academic skills, and to learn about the nature of the Australian education systems.

Professor Paige Porter, Director of the UWA Institute for International Development and Chair of the interim Board of Studies for the College, said it was a great development for UWA to be setting up its own Foundation program.

"Previously, international students could attend programs at other local (Tuart or Canning) colleges or at some private colleges, and they still will have those options, but now they will also have a UWA option".

"We will now have control over more of our pre-university training, and control over the curriculum. If students from our Foundation College achieve at the required high levels, they will be able to enter UWA. However, they may also choose to go elsewhere, in which case, we will help them," Professor Porter said.

"The courses will be equivalent to our Year 12 curriculum, but not exactly the same as the TEE," Professor Porter said.

"We will probably offer six, 12 and 18 month courses, depending on the needs of the individual students."

She said the purpose of setting up our own College, aside from providing better preparation for international students, was to open up markets for students from countries in which UWA has not previously recruited.

"We haven't done much direct marketing before in some countries (including China), because we were not able to offer a bridging course — a pathway — to enter UWA. We would have had to suggest that the students go elsewhere to prepare to come here, which makes it quite complicated and indirect.

"Now those markets are open to us and we can offer a package of UWA plus the Foundation College."

She said there was evidence to suggest that students who had prepared for university at a Foundation College were often usually more successful than other international students.

UWA took over ownership of the Claremont campus on May 27 and details of the Foundation College, which will use half the facility, are still to be finalised.

Professor Porter said accommodation for international students attending the Foundation College would be negotiated with Currie Hall. "For other students, especially younger ones, tightly-controlled home stays will be arranged."

The College is a project of the UWA Institute of International Development.

Managing a \$25 billion industry



Members of the first LNG training group meet UWA and Curtin staff

UWA helps Chinese partner

UWA's Business School in collaboration with Curtin University's Business School, has set up an executive education program for senior managers in the new Chinese gas industry.

The program will train Chinese managers over the next ten years, as part of the historic \$25 billion liquified natural gas (LNG) sale to China in 2002, the biggest in Australia's history.

It is expected that a cohort of managers in the industry will annually attend the Perth-based program, completing a joint UWA/Curtin Executive Management Certificate (Gas).

The contract, to provide advanced management education specific to the requirements of the LNG industry, has involved negotiations across industry and governments in both Australia and China.

The Australian Centre for Natural Gas Management has been established by UWA and Curtin Business Schools to provide a comprehensive understanding of the global gas industry from management, business and financial perspectives.

The program involves English language training; advanced management education; and specialist training in the specific requirements of the gas industry, including competition policy and

regulatory regimes, practical analysis of production at the North West Shelf and visits to pipeline operators, distributors, major industry users and regulators, in WA and also in Victoria and Canberra.

Funding for the program has been made possible under the Australia-China Natural Gas Technology Partnership Fund, a by-product of the LNG sale. The training program has been developed to meet the specific needs of the Chinese gas industry.

The establishment of The Australian Centre for Natural Gas Management was celebrated on May 19, the day before the launch of the Confucius Institute.

Director of the UWA Institute for International Development at UWA, Professor Paige Porter, said the first eight Chinese managers started the training program two weeks earlier.

"They include senior managers from the LNG receiving terminal now being built in Guandong Province, senior managers from power generating companies, and officials responsible for energy policy from the governments.

"In addition, two universities in Guangzhou are also responsible for training that will take place inside China: Zhongshan University and South China University of Technology.

"That training will be larger in scale and will have substantial technical components as well as management education," she said.

Funding will also allow for gas-related research to be conducted by Australian and Chinese researchers.

Life changing learning experiences

David Carroll is in close contact with DNA

A love of learning is the simple key to the success of the UWA-Shenton College Learning Links program.

Now in its sixth year (the program was started at Hollywood Senior High School at the end of 1999, then renewed at Shenton in 2001), there is no doubt that the program has hugely benefited high-achieving high school students, and their enthusiasm, in turn, has delighted the academics who have been involved with the program.

Two teachers involved with the Academic Talent Program (ATP) at Shenton who have had the most to do with Learning Links (or Unilinks as it is known at the school) are mathematics teacher Warwick Mathews and history teacher Louise Secker.

"Unilinks (Learning Links) gives us both physical and intellectual resources we just can't supply," Mr Mathews said.

"The sessions with academics are very engaging for our students because these people are so passionate about their fields of study," Ms Secker said. "So are many of our high school teachers, but they are asked to spread themselves so thinly that they don't have the time to devote to enriching experiences like these."

Mr Mathews said that, as ATP teachers, they were charged with introducing lateral thinking among their students, and developing critical thinking skills. "We want to promote the pure act of learning," he said. And Learning Links was a great way to do this.

"Some of our kids absolutely love learning, and when they come back to class after a session at UWA, their thinking is more conceptual, they are excited about what their minds have been opened up to, and they share this with the other students in the class, passing on the benefits to everybody," Ms Secker said.

The program introduces students from Year 10 to Year 12 to broader thinking by involving them in projects and seminars with



academics and postgraduate students at the University.

Over the past 12 months, the engagement has been widespread.

In the area of humanities, students of society and environment in Year 10 took part in a presentation at the Institute of Advanced Studies on Big Ideas, including racism and totalitarianism; Year 12 economics students were taught how to access and manipulate the Australian Bureau of Statistics website, by Michelle Mahoney and Carol Newton-Smith in the Library; Year 12 political and legal studies students attended a lecture by Professor Campbell Sharman; Dr Norman Ashton and PhD student Jay McAnally provided master classes in Ancient Greece for Year 12 ancient history students; and Dr Mark Edele conducted master classes on communism and Marxist theory, and the Stalinist regime, for Year 12 history students.

Science students were kept busy with physics experiments under Professor Ralph James and involvement in the Gravity Discovery centre with Professor David Blair. They took part in an innovative and interactive presentation at UWA for the International Einstein Year of Physics; some learnt about fluid dynamics and issues of sustainability relating to the Swan River from Professor Greg Ivey, while others discovered the science of viticulture and made wine, using the facilities at UWA's Shenton Research Park. One particularly able mathematician did some modelling of tsunamis with Professor Chari Pattiaratchi.

The UWA Fitness Centre adjacent to Shenton College is used for fitness activities and sports team conditioning, run by UWA's Michael McGowan, and Ben Pedan from the UWA Fencing Club



Young Einsteins from Shenton College (Gene de la Hunty, Callum Taylor, Andrea Willsmore, Sabrina Woodward) joined Professor David Blair in his celebration of the Einstein Year of Physics (picture by Paul Ricketts, DUIT Multimedia)

taught the students the art of fighting with foils.

Dr Lucien Stoyanova conducts ongoing Saturday morning classes for bright young mathematicians and Dr Lorraine Sim continues the SmARTS program for high school students, with Shenton students subsidised by UWA for half the cost of the program.

Last year, University students studying French helped Shenton French students on a regular basis, coordinated by Dr Hélène Jacquemard. This year the program will be extended to include students of Japanese.

The WorkUWA program of work experience at the University saw 50 Shenton students trying out various jobs at UWA earlier this month. Jayne Browne in Student Services co-ordinated the many staff who offered their time and expertise.

“When people like David Blair and Greg Ivey are prepared to talk to students and show genuine enthusiasm, it increases our students’ applications to their subjects because they can see that, if they do well, something comes afterwards,” Mr Mathews said.

“For humanities students, it can’t be as hands-on as with science students,”

Ms Secker said, “but for our conceptual thinkers, they can learn so much more from even short seminars and discussions, than they learn in the classroom.”

Despite logistical problems of timetabling, transport and completing the set curriculum, the teachers and students at Shenton College are still fired up about the Learning Links program.

“It gives our students breadth as well as depth, and expertise that we just don’t have,” Mr Mathews said.

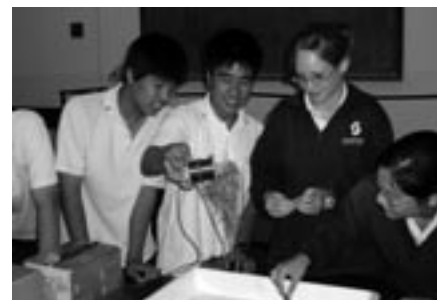
Ms Secker said she discovered an interesting spin-off when talking to final year students about their choices for the following year.

“Some top students, who would once have opted to study medicine or law, are now choosing science and arts degrees because of their experiences with academics in these fields,” she said.

A draft review evaluation of the Learning Links partnership between



Physics is fun says Kane Blackburn



Ben Ngooi, Edwin Goh, Melissa Longman and Katherine Lau turn their hands to some practical science

Shenton College and UWA, by two graduate education students, is currently being considered by the Board of Management.

The review was largely positive and provides the Board with ideas on how to improve the program in future years. Importantly, it concluded that Learning Links was a successful community outreach opportunity for the University.

Dr Mark Edele gets enthusiastic with a group of history students



RESEARCH GRANTS & CONTRACTS

SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING AND MODELLING N.V. (AMSTERDAM)

Dr Stephen Wolff, Biomedical, Biomolecular & Chemical Sciences: 'Implementation of Analytical Second Derivatives in ADF'—\$47,092 (2005)

TDI BROOKS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Prof Mark Randolph, Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems, Civil & Resource Engineering: 'Hand Held Offshore Penetrometer'—\$30,000 (2005)

WELLCOME TRUST

A/Prof Peter Mcminn, Prof Mary Cardosa, UWA Centre for Child Health Research, External: 'Enterovirus 71 in the Asia-Pacific Region: Reverse Genetic Approaches to Virus Surveillance and Vaccine Development'—\$ 418,613 (2004-08)

WATERS AND RIVERS COMMISSION

Mr Paul Close, Dr Peter Davies, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences: 'A Review of Approaches to Establishing Ecological Water Requirements for the Hill and Moore River Estuaries'—\$7,500 (2005)

WHITFIELD FELLOWSHIPS

Mr Shuzhi Peng, Mechanical Engineering: 'Whitfield Fellowship' (2005)

Mr Kirk Yip, Surgery and Pathology: 'Whitfield Fellowship' (2005)

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FOR RENT

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NEDLANDS Comfortable semi-furnished one-bedroom unit. Available from June 1. Private courtyard, near river and UWA. \$130 per week. 9386 1366 or 9386 6369

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NANNUP holiday house available for rent. Beautiful 3x2 jarrah lodge set on 6 secluded acres surrounded by state forest and close to Blackwood River. Electric blankets, pot belly stove, TV/Video, dishwasher, bbq. 5 minutes from Nannup town. Relax and enjoy this well appointed property. Sleeps 6/7. Please contact Nicky on Ext 4671 or ndavison@admin.uwa.edu.au or 9380 6508. See www.kanjarralodge.com.au

COMO: 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Furnished accommodation. Available to mid-August or part-there-of. Email: dkennedy@cylkene.uwa.edu.au



Picture by Natasha Phillips, WorkUWA, Shenton College



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NOTICES

THE CENTRE FOR NEUROMUSCULAR AND NEUROLOGICAL DISORDERS SEMINARS

Ms Amanda Meade

Peptide inhibitors of neuronal death

Mr Graham Jeffs

The role of the sodium-calcium exchanger (NCX) in neurons following ischaemia

Friday 3 June 2005 1.00pm

4th Floor, A Block, QEII Medical Centre

A light lunch will be provided

Mr Sherif Boulos

Is cyclophilin A, a neuroprotective protein?

Friday 17 June 2005 1.00pm

4th Floor, A Block, QEII Medical Centre

A light lunch will be provided

George Ellis

Professor of Applied Mathematics, University of Cape Town

The Way the Mind Works: how emotion underlies intellect

Thursday, 28 July 2005 6.30pm

University Club Theatre Auditorium, UWA

PHYSIOLOGY SEMINAR SERIES

Professor Don Robertson

Using RNA interference to investigate the function of inner ear proteins

Wednesday 1 June 2005 4.30pm

Physiology Seminar Room (2nd floor Physiology Building)

Refreshments, Seminar commences at 5.00pm

ALL WELCOME

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REID ORATION 2005

Professor Allan Fels, AO

Thursday 21 July, 2005 6.30pm

Octagon Theatre, UWA

The Regulation of Business and its Public Administration

Professor Fels will discuss the general strategies which regulators of business apply, drawing upon his experiences as former Chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and as Dean of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.

2005 SIR WALLACE KYLE ORATION

Professor Paul Davies

Wednesday, 29 June 2005 6pm

Octagon Theatre, UWA

Life in a violent universe

Abstract: Violence is the leitmotif of the universe. It was born in a big bang. Its fundamental structure was forged in a searing maelstrom of unimaginable ferocity, at temperatures exceeding a trillion degrees. Its history is one of cataclysmic explosions, implosions and collisions of literally astronomical proportions. Yet amid this cosmic mayhem, life has not only emerged, but flourished. How has something so delicate and elaborate as life made a home amid the chaos of a violent universe? Paul Davies shall examine three threats to life of increasing severity—the impact of comets and asteroids, the explosion of stars, and the big bang itself—and argue that each has a creative as well as a destructive aspect in the story of life. Indeed, it seems to some as if the universe is unreasonably bio-friendly.

This event is free and all are welcome, but TICKETS ARE ESSENTIAL to gain entry.

Tickets are available from the Octagon Theatre box office, t: 6488 2400, Mon-Fri 12:00-4:15pm.

Early bookings are advised, limit of 6 tickets per customer applies.

Enquiries to ias@admin.uwa.edu.au or 6488 1340

Do you speak one of the less well-known languages of the world ... from Africa, Asia, the Pacific, South America ... ?

... and would like to earn some money?

Linguistics is looking for a person to assist with a Field Methods course to be taught in second semester. The work will require 2-3 hours per week through most weeks of the semester (late July to end of October). Some flexibility is possible in the class times.

The assistant does not need any special skills or any background in studying linguistics or in teaching. You only need to be a fluent speaker of one of the less well known languages of the world (Africa, Asia, the Pacific, South America ...) and a good speaker of English.

Contact: Dr John Henderson, Linguistics, Room 2.47 Social Sciences
Phone. 6488 2870 email: john.henderson@uwa.edu.au



Picture by
Natasha Phillips,
WorkUWA,
Shenton College

REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT

Bids should be accepted by Monday 13 June with schools to have first option

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X 2 Green G3iMac	\$150 (each)	4	2	PIAF	Caroline Wood Ext 8622
Power Mac (no mouse)	\$140	4	2	PIAF	Caroline Wood Ext 8622
HP4500N Colour Laser Printer (64 mb)	Offers	5	2	Economics	Glenys Ext 2920

the last word

Averil Riley

Senior Occupational Therapist, Safety and Health Office

What do RSI and mental illness have in common?

Both RSI and mental illness in the workplace need to be prevented.

The 1980s was a time when many workers developed Repetitive Strain Injury (RSI), as computers replaced typewriters. One of the problems with RSI was that for many sufferers there was no clear diagnosis and nothing that showed up on tests available at the time. This sometimes led to non-sufferers being sceptical, which in turn contributed to the myth that RSI was "all in the mind".

Gradually diagnostic methods improved, better knowledge of soft tissue injury and myofascial pain occurred along with appropriate treatment regimes, leading to a shift in attitude.

The greatest impact on reducing RSI frequency occurred in the early 1990s, with the adoption of a preventative approach in the workplace, better design of equipment, correct work practices and getting the message out to computer users to report symptoms early.

To avoid the stigma attached to RSI, the term Occupational Overuse Syndrome (OOS) is now used. It is now extremely rare that OOS leads to permanent disability.

Compared to the 1980s, the biggest difference is that staff understand what OOS is, and collectively we know how to identify, treat and manage the condition. There is no longer fear and stigma if symptoms occur. Most staff take responsibility for their health and make changes, or seek advice.

The Safety and Health office provides ergonomic assessments for staff and post-graduate students. From over 300 assessments completed in 2004, most people reported their symptoms of discomfort reduced significantly after intervention.



How does this compare with mental illness, particularly depression and anxiety disorders in the workplace?

The NTEU Stress Survey in 2003 found that over 40 per cent of staff at UWA who completed the survey were at risk of psychological illness or disorder. While this compared favourably with other Australian universities, it is still cause for concern.

As an employer, is what we are facing with the prevalence of mental illness similar to what occurred in the 1980s with RSI? Do we have a good understanding and work practices that aim to prevent mental illness and promote mental health and well-being? Are sufferers able to recognise symptoms early and do they seek assistance? Are non-sufferers who do not understand what mental illness is about cynical and disbelieving? Are we able to readily offer appropriate support and assistance to at risk staff? Some suggestions follow:-

For managers and supervisors

- The most important thing that you can offer your staff is your time and genuine interest in their well-being.
- Be aware of and address unhealthy norms e.g. staff working through their lunch time, staff not stopping for breaks, taking work home and working excessively long hours.
- Be aware of the role model that you provide. Staff tend to follow what is espoused by their supervisor.
- Take time to find out how staff are feeling and be prepared to discuss work life balance individually with staff during feedback sessions.
- At team meetings, allow staff to come up with ideas and suggestions on how to reduce stress at work.
- Know how to recognise early warning signs of mental illness and how to discuss this with staff who might be at risk. Use the Manager Assist program (available through the Employee Assistance Program) or attend the Mental Health First Aid training course (contact the author for further details).

What individuals can do

- Learn what your own early warning signs are – stress and anxiety affect everyone differently.
- Understand things from others' perspectives before reacting.
- If having difficulty coping with work, talk to your supervisor or the Employee Assistance Providers.
- Eat a balanced diet, and exercise regularly.
- Learn how to relax. Seek counselling or do a course if you have difficulty unwinding from work e.g a meditation course.
- Listen to your self talk – seek help (from your doctor or a counsellor) if your thinking is frequently negative or if you continually feel irritable, down, overtired or burnt out.
- Look after yourself and allow yourself to take proper breaks from work.
- Plan ahead for holidays and enjoyable events.
- Seek to have a rewarding life away from work.

This article does not aim to address the reasons why universities have a prevalence of staff who are at risk of psychological illness, but there certainly is the scope for us to understand, care and be kinder to ourselves and each other. Think back to how RSI ended up being better managed and in the main prevented!