Larger than life Festival
Help us change lives—leave a gift that will keep giving

Sir John Winthrop Hackett founded The University of Western Australia with a generous bequest more than 100 years ago. One man’s gift has become the legacy of an entire community through the visionary support of UWA friends and alumni such as sisters Marjorie Le Souef and Joyce Chapple.

The sisters were generous contributors to the University during their lives and they left bequests that will have a positive and lasting impact on teaching and research.

Help us change lives – remember UWA in your will.

Contact Development and Alumni Relations on +61 8 6488 1688 or visit development.uwa.edu.au/bequests

The University of Western Australia
Andrew and Nicola Forrest have set the bar high with the biggest single philanthropic donation in Australian history. At a graduation ceremony in Winthrop Hall they received honorary doctorates from UWA Chancellor Michael Chaney – see In Focus.

The battle to save one of the world’s most endangered freshwater turtles began at UWA more than 50 years ago. Today, a new generation of UWA scientists and students are working to secure a future for a turtle found only in the swamps of the Upper Swan.
Our University appreciates that leadership has its genesis in many spheres: think Andrew and Nicola Forrest setting the benchmark high in the hope of ushering in a new era of philanthropy in Australia; think our State’s new Chief Scientist, UWA’s Professor Peter Klinken, urging Australian scientists to “go in search of a new continent rather than fine-mapping one already discovered”.

Life Scientist of the Year, Professor Ryan Lister, building the team that is “vaulting in search of a new continent” with new DNA technologies is already on that quest, as is Enrico Palermo (this issue’s Newsmaker), building the world’s first “spaceline” at Virgin Galactic. This engineering graduate’s leadership style is about “empowering and trusting your team, giving them the tools to succeed, not micromanaging” – and team-building is also the maxin of UWA’s new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Dawn Freshwater and Olympians Fergus Kavanagh and Adam Commens, graduates already preparing for Rio in 2016.

You’ll encounter the above in this issue, along with graduates honoured by our nation and State: 2014 Senior Australian of the Year Dr Fred Chaney and 2014 Young Australian of the Year Dr John von Bockxmeer. Earlier this year, the pair stirred UWA’s pride when sharing their journeys to Australia Day honours with students and guests at the Octagon Theatre.

The much-honoured Dr Chaney, whose work in support of often marginalised people has never faltered, says his passion for reconciliation began on campus as a Law student. At that time Indigenous people faced “de-facto segregation, with people living in little more than tin sheds on reserves at the edge of town, not having the vote, having limited access to employment and education, with child removal on racial grounds still occurring”.

The founding co-chair of Reconciliation Australia established the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, was a former Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Deputy President of the National Native Title Tribunal. “In all his leadership roles, Fred inspires others to work collaboratively, respectfully and ambitiously to overcome the barriers that inhibit people’s full economic and social participation in Australian society,” read the award citation.

We profile the State’s Young Australian of the Year, Dr John von Bockxmeer, in this issue, along with fellow graduates who helped him launch the award-winning Fair Game.

With its international readership growing (35% of readers are now outside Australia), the expansion gives the UWA academics who write for The Conversation a wider reach than ever before. Visit theconversation.com or to pitch an idea contact The Conversation’s WA-based editor Michael Hopkin michael.hopkin@theconversation.edu.au.

An extraordinary video work by a Russian collective that portrays purgatory as an international airport will be a central feature of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery’s Memento Mori exhibition that runs to December 13. The AES+F video is joined by commissioned works by contemporary WA artists and works from the UWA Art Collection. The gallery’s exhibition partner is the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, and public programs running through November include a free symposium that reflects on the nature of death and its representation in visual art and literature. For details of this and other exhibitions at the gallery and Berndt Museum, visit lwgallery.uwa.edu.au

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The Conversation goes global

The Conversation – one of Australia’s leading independent news sources, of which UWA is a founding partner – is branching out into the United States with the launch of its Boston newsroom. The move follows the launch of its London-based UK arm last year and the recent appointment of a Jakarta editor.

The Centenary Campaign.

Gives Back and the New Alumni Weekend, UWA event, the Centenary flagship LUMINOUs night of events and initiatives: the US-based contemporary art exhibition partner is the ARC Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions, and public programs running through November include a free symposium that reflects on the nature of death and its representation in visual art and literature. For details of this and other exhibitions at the gallery and Berndt Museum, visit lwgallery.uwa.edu.au

Creating leaders, past, present and future

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While Andrew Forrest branded himself the boy from the bush with a stutter, to graduating students he addressed in Winthrop Hall he personified the leadership of the legendary Forrest family that put Western Australia so firmly on the map of a newly federated Australia.

One of the nation’s most successful entrepreneurs, Andrew Forrest returned to the campus with his wife Nicola to receive honorary doctorates for outstanding service to the community. Last year, the couple set the bar high with the largest single philanthropic donation in Australian history: $65 million to attract the best minds to our State.

In an address few students will forget, Mr Forrest advocated humility — a quality that continues to define the graduate — and generosity of spirit.

“Be generous with your time as much as with your capital,” he said. “Give in a way that strengthens the receiver. In enhancing a person or community’s circumstances, you empower their ability to stand independently without your charity. Give of your precious time; teach people to fish not just give them a fish. Be unafraid to always teach…”

Using the ups and downs of his own career to underscore his advice, the graduate also urged fortitude in adversity: “When times are rough, when you do fall, when you skin your proverbial shins, that is exactly when the wisdom and character within you grows.”

Last year, the Forrests became Australian signatories to The Giving Pledge to dedicate the vast majority of their wealth to philanthropy. Their gift to WA universities funds the $50 million Forrest Research Foundation scholarships and fellowships across five WA universities, along with $15 million for a new residential college at UWA, Forrest Hall.

Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson reminded the gathering that when announcing their gift to WA, the Forrests urged us never to forget “that only education can be the final key to eliminate poverty and raise the universal standard of living.”

Ms Jo Agnew, Director of Development and Alumni Relations, believes the Forrests’ generosity encourages others to support UWA in a way that has meaning for them.

“When the launch of our New Century Campaign last year, over $215 million of a $400 million goal has been raised. The Forrests’ gift will go down in history as transformational, not only for this University, but for our State and our country.”

“Andrew and Nicola Forrest have changed the game. They’ve shown us that people can drive change and, because of them, UWA will change the world,” said Ms Agnew.
Creating his fourth and final Perth International Arts Festival, Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway believes the absolute essence of this midsummer celebration of the arts is being “beautifully poised between the University and the City of Perth”.

“Because it was founded by UWA and is based on campus, the festival has a distinctive intellectual rigour and world-class excellence,” Jonathan tells UNIVIEW. “And while it’s grown exponentially since 1953, one factor remains consistent: the relationship with the University is in the DNA of the festival.

“Like a university, the festival must be open and accessible. For us that means finding that balance between satisfying the smart, clever and curious, as well as those who simply want to have an extraordinary experience.

“I’ve wilfully gone for extremes because the middle ground is strongly served in Perth, so my programs have ranged from the complex and challenging to the engaging and surprising.

“Designing a festival is a bit like embarking on research not knowing what you’ll discover. You start asking questions and come up with a theory that you send out to the world to see if it holds up. It’s a journey with no known destination – and I think the UWA connection gives us licence to do that. And just as a scientist makes discoveries along the way, so we and our audiences should be enlightened by our journey.

“My feeling is the festival must be extraordinary. It’s not about climbing a hill – it’s about traversing the north face of Everest. And what’s exciting about 2015 is that we’re moving towards a different sort of engagement. It’s not only about buying your ticket and coming to be entertained. It’s about turning up for a show like I Wish I Was Lonely and preparing to be totally involved.

“This sort of theatre reflects what’s happening in society – and in universities where the lectures and tutorials remain in the mix but there are new and exciting ways of engaging with learning.”

One of the biggest ‘mountains’ Jonathan has scaled for the 2015 festival has been The Giants, arguably the biggest and most expensive production yet staged in Australia. Securing funding was ‘the north face’, but an extraordinary range of government and corporate sponsors came to the party for this free event that will bring the ancient art of puppetry to the streets of the city.

The Giants is a three-day marathon event that begins on February 13, 2015, and details of their journey through our streets will be revealed in January. Visit perthfestival.com.au for updates. Parts of the narrative of this ‘larger than life’ story with a Great War setting were inspired by a book written by a PhD student (see The girl on Breaksea Island).

“While public theatrical spectacle has been around since Roman times, the old-school techniques, the pulleys and winches, make The Giants totally engaging and surprising,” says Jonathan. “My dream is that it will be so successful that ambitious one-off shows will become a feature of WA’s arts scene – because events of this magnitude can be truly transformative for audiences.”

It would also be a fitting testament to the vaulting ambition of an artistic director who was never daunted by ‘thinking big’.

What’s next for Jonathan? Right now he’s so embedded in PIAF 2015 there’s no time to contemplate the next step so he’s following his festival maxim: the journey that lies ahead is sign-posted ‘destination unknown’.

THE GIANTS, ROYAL DE LUXE, (PHOTO: GARRY STEEN)
Graduates get together

Former Supreme Court Judge Nicholas Hasluck (an Honorary Fellow in the Law School) made a memorable speech at the UWA Graduates Association reunion earlier this year (see Grad News).

The author of a string of highly regarded books, Mr Hasluck paraphrased Matthew Arnold when observing that a university acquaints students with the best that was thought and said in various fields of knowledge.

“You go to university for the habit of attention, for the art of expression, for the art of assuming at a moment’s notice a new intellectual position, for the art of entering quickly into another person’s thoughts, for the habit of submitting to censure and refutation, for the art of indicating assent or dissent in graduated terms, for the art of regarding minute points of accuracy, for the art of working out what is possible in a given time, for taste, for discretion, for mental courage and mental clarity, and — above all — for self-knowledge.”

Mr Hasluck’s fiction includes the award-winning The Bellamine Jug and last year’s Legal Limits that examined the connection between law and literature. He recently launched Rooms in the City set in 1915 Athens, a city buffeted by the chaos of war and swarming with spies. The graduate, who is Chair of the Art Gallery of WA board, is one of several graduates who have recently seen their works published (see Grad Briefs).

Entrepreneur shares secrets of success

UWA graduate Brad Rosser has created start-ups and raised millions during a career that has included forays into music, online branding, gyms, property and financial services. Little wonder, therefore, that when he shared his expertise at the inaugural UWA Business School Young Alumni event, he had a captivated audience.

Mr Rosser graduated with an honours degree in Accounting and Finance and went on to do an MBA at Cornell University. He worked for Alan Bond (“a roller coaster ride”) followed by time at McKinsey and Co, Virgin and Unilever.

Marie Claire Bennetts, Alumni Relations and Executive Officer of the UWA Business School’s Ambassadorial Council, says the newly created Young Alumni chapter will help graduates build their careers.

“This initiative will see a series of events designed to provide support for recent graduates and to create a powerful network of future leaders not only locally, but nationally and globally,” she said.

For further information on the UWA Business School Young Alumni chapter, contact Marie Claire on +61 8 6488 3785; email: marieclaire.bennetts@uwa.edu.au

Greta Scacchi remembers, the New Fortune celebrates

In this issue we talk to Emmy Award-winning Greta Scacchi about her first time on stage in a student production at UWA. Aarne Neeme, who was Resident Director of the Octagon (1969–71), directed the teenage actor in Edward Bond’s Early Morning, the production that opened the New Dolphin Theatre. Mr Neeme returns to campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the New Fortune Theatre with a lecture-performance on November 14. This is one of the Faculty of Arts events marking the Arts Building’s anniversary. For information contact: jenny.pynes@uwa.edu.au

Grad News

UWA graduate Brad Rosser

Grad Briefs
Masters launch in a heritage setting

Cross-disciplinary in nature, the Faculty of Arts, the School of Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts will teach into the Master of Heritage Studies that commences in 2015.

Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson believes the new course will promote Australia and this State as a world-class living heritage training centre. “Furthermore, heritage degrees that support Indigenous self-determination, closing the Gap initiatives and substantive Indigenous employment and knowledge-sharing programs are essential to Australia’s cultural heritage conservation and management,” he said.

The two-year course covers heritage management issues such as conservation, economic development, cultural sustainability, planning and design, representation and ethics. It will be highly relevant for those with careers in fields that intersect with heritage, whether it be working with and representing Indigenous communities, or in areas such as national parks and conservation reserves, government, industry, non-government organisations, international agencies, museums and cultural centres. Further information can be found at arts.uwa.edu.au/heritage

UWA’s future students

Law, medicine, education and sports science are attractive career options for Indigenous students who gave up mid-year holidays to participate in the WACE revision camp hosted by UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies. Families from Broome to Albany had to do without these high school students who have put tertiary studies firmly in their sights. Many have previously attended SIS outreach programs – from leadership seminars to science camps – and their participation signalled they’re serious about gaining an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank. However, it wasn’t all study: there was time to relax, meet like-minded students, and explore the campus. If you want to know more about SIS Outreach visit: sis.uwa.edu.au/outreach

More than 200 Indigenous high school students also attended the 2014 Future Footprints Indigenous Careers Expo at the UWA Business School. The expo is sponsored by Woodside, SIS and the Business School.

The perilous voyages of 18th century Dutch East India Company trading ships from Amsterdam to Indonesia’s ‘spice islands’ left a rich historical and cultural legacy that continues to link communities in The Netherlands, Australia and Indonesia – and UWA has turned that legacy into an enriching educational experience.

UWA’s Centre of Excellence for the History of Emotions (CHE) has used the Zuytdorp voyage, and the 300th anniversary of its wreck north of Kalbarri, to explore the history of global exploration and encounter in the region traversed by trading ships. Two previous Zest Festivals focused on links with The Netherlands (2012) and South Africa (2013).

The culture and cuisine of India, Indonesia and Sri Lanka contributed to the 2014 theme, The Colour of Ritual: the Spice of Life.

Religion, philosophies and rituals surrounding birth, death, marriage and coming of age all featured in festival highlights that included an outdoor performance involving puppetry, music and dance. An education pack created by CHE was particularly welcomed by teachers, generating lesson ideas, Australian Curriculum links and informative historical content.

CHE’s Professor Susan Broomhall says the Centre has worked closely with Kalbarri District High School over the past three years, with local families also becoming involved. This year, the Centre, in partnership with the Methodist Ladies College, gave Kalbarri students an appreciation of the complexities of playing ornate gamelan musical instruments. “The students have relished visiting artistic workshops each year and having the opportunity to perform at open-air events,” says Professor Broomhall.

“The students have relished visiting artistic workshops each year and having the opportunity to perform at open-air events,” says Professor Broomhall.

“By partnering with CHE, the knowledge and innovations created at Zest have enjoyed a far broader reach with project presentations in Canberra, The Hague, Budapest and Taiwan to date.

“Not only has the festival generated new scholarly publications and a new opportunity to enhance the Dutch-Australian relations, but it has had significant outcomes for the Kalbarri community, including its first Welcome to Country, relationship-building with Nhanda families and an increased appreciation of the place of our mid-west region in the history of global exploration and encounter.”

The impressive Zest Festival Education Pack can be downloaded from historyofemotions.org.au/education-outreach/resources and for Kalbarri locals and visitors, the good news is that there will be more Zest in 2015.
UWA climbs higher in world rankings

In just 12 months, The University of Western Australia has climbed three places in the Academic Ranking of World Universities, to be placed at 88th in the world.

The result, announced today, joins Universities at China’s Shanghai in one of the nation’s - and the world’s - top 100 universities.

Only three other Australian universities are in the 2014 rankings: Melbourne, Australian National University and UWA is the only university in WA to make the top-100 list.

UWA Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, said UWA’s climb from 91st in the world to 88th in one year confirmed that the University’s strategies of attracting the most talented staff from around the globe, and increasing the number of publications in prestigious journals,

Aim

Postgraduate qualifications are becoming an expectation in the global workforce and the defining factor in successful careers. When you choose to study a postgraduate degree at The University of Western Australia, you are choosing to further your studies at a university ranked in the world’s top 1%.

At UWA, we equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to be the best in your field, as you study alongside like-minded, passionate peers and build your professional networks. You can benefit from over 130 postgraduate courses, all designed to meet the specific needs of industry.

To advance your career, improve your employability or change career direction, choose wisely.

Visit studyat.uwa.edu.au/postgraduate
Responding to the challenge of higher education reform

Over the past six months you would have noticed a great range of commentary in the media in relation to the Federal Government’s proposed reforms to the Higher Education sector. As an engaged alumnus of UWA, I appreciate that you seek clarity around what these reforms propose, how the University is responding, and why we have adopted this position.

Earlier this year the Federal Government introduced legislation into the parliament that would make a number of changes to the University fee structure. At the time this edition of Uniview went to print, the legislation was before the Australian Senate for review. This discussion about the future of higher education comes at an important time for the sector as we face a number of emerging challenges and opportunities created through increased global competition, the emergence of new disruptive technologies, funding uncertainty and changing community and stakeholder expectations about the impact of our efforts.

As you are aware, since the establishment of the HECS system in 1989 undergraduate students have paid a contribution towards their university education. This student contribution (currently between $6,000 and $10,000 per year of study, depending on the subjects chosen) is in the form of a government loan which recipients are required to repay once they have graduated and are earning above $50,000. This deferred payment system remains intact and means that no student is required to outlay cash for fees upfront.

It was also under this HECS system that a funding model was established whereby the cost of a university education was shared between the Federal Government and the student – currently the government pays around 60 per cent and the student contribution covers about 40 per cent of tuition costs. The proposed reforms would see the government’s contribution reduced by 20 per cent, which would require a corresponding increase in student contributions of 30 per cent just to maintain the income of universities at the current level.

However, the current level of funding is too low. Government enquiries in 2008 and 2011 concluded that funding per student needed to rise by at least 10 per cent for Australia to maintain and develop its world-class higher education system. Data from the OECD confirms this. Australia currently ranks 25th out of 30 OECD countries for public investment in tertiary education, and invests 32 per cent less than the OECD average. This is the result of a long-term decline in public investment in universities. In 1990 the student-to-staff ratio in Australian universities was 13:1. Today it is at almost twice that level – around 24:1.

There is little prospect of government reversing this long-term decline in public funding. The funding cuts proposed by the current government follow hard on the heels of reductions of several billion dollars imposed by the previous Labor government in 2011-12. We are not willing to compromise the quality of education or the support we give to students and therefore we must seek solutions to rebalance our funding. If there are no additional taxpayer dollars to be had, the only alternative source of revenue is fees paid by students, and the proposed reforms allow for this by allowing undergraduate fees, which are currently set by the Federal government, to be determined by each university.

This is why UWA announced on 22 September that we would be setting all undergraduate course fees at $16,000 per year. We made this announcement for a very important and simple reason. Since the reforms were first proposed by the government our universities, students and the community have faced uncertainty as to what the changes would bring. We have chosen to end that uncertainty for our prospective students by being the first university to announce their fees under the new structure.
This annual fee will be consistent for every domestic undergraduate student, regardless of their course of study. This clear and transparent fee structure complements the curriculum reform introduced in 2012 which saw more than 80 separate undergraduate degrees streamlined into four principal undergraduate degrees in arts, commerce, design and science, all with common entry criteria.

We believe that deregulation of fees will allow universities across the country to differentiate and play to their strengths, and will provide greater choice to students by opening up the higher education market to new competitors who will offer differing price points. All 39 public universities in Australia have endorsed this move to a deregulated higher education system, because it is recognised to be the only plausible pathway to long-term sustainability of investment in teaching, research and community engagement activities.

The proposed legislation is complex and I want to make it clear that the University does not support the entire package of reforms. We endorse the following proposals as we believe they will be of advantage to both students and to the University;

• The creation of a new commonwealth scholarships scheme (CSS) which will require each university to allocate 20 per cent of additional fee income to measures which support access for students from disadvantaged backgrounds;
• Greater competition by providing commonwealth funding for students undertaking courses at non-university higher education providers (NUHEPs); and
• The retention of the HECS system meaning students will not be required to pay for their education until they have graduated and are earning more than $50,000 per annum.

The University does, however, have great concerns about the Government’s intent to;

• Introduce a real interest rate on student debts which will disadvantage graduates who are out of work or earning less than the threshold, or who take career breaks. The proposal particularly disadvantages women taking time out of the workforce to raise children;
• Reduce government co-funding of student tuition by an average of 20 per cent, which we believe is excessive, and which, for technical reasons, is likely to have a particularly adverse impact on the funding of science and engineering courses.

Under the current legislation, the new fee structure will not commence until the start of 2016 and will apply only to students who have enrolled in universities subsequent to the May 2014 federal budget.

I think all universities would like to see an increase in public investment in higher education in Australia, but we realise that this is unlikely to happen. At UWA we intend to use the option to increase fee revenue from students in a responsible way that ensures that UWA remains a high quality, accessible institution which continues to make a great contribution to our community. That will be the best way for UWA to continue to advance the welfare and prosperity of our students, our alumni, and the broader community.

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor
When Andrew Burbidge opted to study the little known Western Swamp Tortoise for his PhD at UWA in the 1960s, he already knew the intriguing story behind the discovery of one of the planet’s most endangered turtles.

On a misty morning in the 1950s, in Upper Swan, a boy spied a turtle — small enough to hold in the palm of your hand — crossing a road from one of the nearby ephemeral swamps. The swamp teemed with aquatic life in winter only to dry to parched clay through Perth’s long hot summer.

The boy presented the diminutive turtle to a young neighbour, a keen naturalist, who presented it to scientists at the Perth Naturalists Club’s Wildlife Show with the query: “What’s this?”

Scientific brows furrowed. There was considerable debate. Celebrated naturalist (and UWA graduate) Dr Vincent Serventy speculated it could be an escaped pet while the WA Museum’s then director, Ludwig Glauert, declared it could be new to science, and later confirmed this view by describing a new species. (In WA, there being no land-dwelling true tortoises, freshwater turtles are often called tortoises.)

Interest stirred across the naturalist world — until a world expert on turtles at Harvard University announced that the swamp tortoise had already been scientifically described in 1901 and that there was a specimen in a museum in Austria. *Pseudemydura umbrina*, had been collected by a globe-trotting naturalist in 1839 and labelled simply ‘Nova Hollandia’.

Drawn to the Upper Swan swamps — the only place on Earth where the turtles live — Dr Serventy unearthed a specimen. Buried beneath leaves and clay, it was protected from heat and from hungry foxes.

Determined to preserve the turtle’s habitat and secure specimens for captive breeding, Dr Serventy used his scientific and government connections to secure funding and to mount a public appeal that eventually saw 250 hectares of swampland purchased and reserved.

This is when UWA PhD student Andrew Burbidge enters the story. When he had arrived at UWA in the 1960s, it was Professor Bert Main’s lectures in ecology and evolution that convinced Andrew Burbidge to major in Zoology. Professor Main was a legendary natural historian who had arrived at UWA after a period in a German POW camp during World War II. He went on to become Professor of Zoology at UWA.

“He was a great natural historian and scientist, extremely passionate and well known for service to the community,” says Dr Burbidge. “He agreed that I could choose the Western Swamp Tortoise for my PhD research, but because it was rare and would be difficult to study, Bert added the oblong turtle and the plate-shell turtle, both WA freshwater turtles, to my study. A very wise move!”

Tracking and studying the Western Swamp Tortoise proved to be pioneering territory that called for ingenuity.

“While there were plenty of opinions about the little turtle, there was not much science,” recalls Dr Burbidge. “The very first one I found was soon killed by a fox — at that time, there was little understanding of the degree of threat posed by feral animals. Unlike many other creatures that you can trap and later return to the wild, Western Swamp Tortoises won’t go into traps. They eat live aquatic invertebrates like water fleas – so I rapidly appreciated that I needed to radio-track them, and in those days that meant me building radio transmitters that could operate on land and in water.”
The Western Swamp Tortoise has been a part of his brief so he was delighted when Dr Gerald Kuchling, a world authority on freshwater turtles, was appointed to UWA’s School of Animal Biology – at a time when the turtle appeared to be on the brink of extinction.

“We knew numbers were crashing in the wild and Gerald made the Perth Zoo captive breeding program — that hadn’t been successful before his arrival — a priority. In the 1980s we set up a captive breeding committee working between Parks and Wildlife, Perth Zoo and UWA and that developed into a recovery program, one of Australia’s first.” (Dr Burbidge chaired the recovery team from its inception until 2002 and retains membership of it.)

The Western Swamp Tortoise remains Australia’s rarest reptile and one of the world’s most endangered turtles and Dr Kuchling says the battle to save it has attracted research students and postdoctoral researchers from France, Germany and the United States.

As an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at UWA and as a Senior Research Scientist with the Department of Parks and Wildlife, the Austrian-born scientist remains committed, describing the turtle monitoring that began with Andrew Burbidge as one of the world’s longest-running studies of a freshwater turtle.

Once thought to be extinct, there are currently four wild populations (only 200 individuals in all) at Ellen Brook, Twin Swamps, Mogumber and Moore River Nature Reserves, and a similar number in the Perth Zoo captive population. Recently the 500th captive-bred and captive-raised juvenile turtle was released into the wild within a predator proof fenced area and the State Government has committed a million dollars to construct a new captive-breeding Zurich facility for a program that has environmental awards.

However, in a drying climate, bore water must be pumped to maintain water levels at Twin Swamps and scientists are considering new options for the turtle’s future.

“Long generation times and low genetic diversity mean that the turtle is unlikely to adapt quickly to climate change, so human intervention may be necessary to prevent their extinction in the wild,” says Associate Professor Nicola Mitchell in the School of Animal Biology, who is leading a study into assisted colonisation.

“UWA research suggests that the coastal regions of the southwest — while well outside the historical range of the turtle — may provide good habitat,” she says.

“While there is understandable unease about species introductions, this turtle has already been moved to new habitats, so assisted colonisation may not be such a philosophical leap. But the physical ‘leap’ to a novel habitat will demand engagement with stakeholders, careful site assessment and monitoring of released animals and their impacts on the biological community.”

However one thing is clear: this little Aussie battler has won many friends among researchers, Parks and Wildlife and Perth Zoo scientists and school children and members of the public visiting the zoo – along with a dedicated friends group that fund-raises, lobbies and spreads the word about the plight of the WA turtle (westernswampturtle.com.au)

Today Dr Burbidge chairs the Western Australian Threatened Species Scientific Committee that provides advice to the State Government. He has been a member of the Board of Directors of WWF-Australia, and is co-author of The Action Plan for Australian Mammals 2012. In the 2014 Australia Day honours he was made an Officer of The Order of Australia for distinguished service to the environment as a conservation biologist.
Turning lessons of life into leadership

UWA’s new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor says that in many spheres of 21st Century life, change has become a way of being. The fitness fanatic (she has run seven charity marathons) has clearly embraced change while scaling the heights of an impressive career.

Ask UWA’s recently appointed Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dawn Freshwater, about the nature of leadership – whether it is packaged in genes or can it be nurtured or shaped by circumstance and challenge – and she takes you back to her early years and her rise from an undergraduate juggling family, work and study to being offered her first executive post at a university in the United Kingdom, a job she wasn’t at all sure she would enjoy.

The high achiever sees being the eldest child in her family as a starting point: engendering responsibility for siblings, being a role model and pulling the family together.

“Then there was my training as a health professional,” she says. “From the age of 18 you’re making difficult decisions, coming up against life. Suffering, trauma, death – all are things most people don’t encounter so early, and there’s your role in a patient’s comfort, dignity, quality of life. You quickly become responsible, accountable for your actions – and appreciate how important it is to have a team of good people working around you. Working across disciplines, working collaboratively – these were instilled in me very early.

“In my case there was also the fact that I always asked a lot of myself. When studying part-time as an undergraduate, I worked full-time as a health professional while raising my family. It was a tremendous balancing act. Then, during Honours, my supervisors suggested it would make a fantastic PhD study and that I should go on – so more balancing!

“Of course it’s not enough for someone to encourage you to take that next step. You must be receptive, take a risk, put yourself out there. But along the way there are key people who teach you invaluable things, and people in leadership positions who see in you something that could be enlarged, enriched, nurtured.

“When I was enjoying being a professor, heading a research team known for its translational research, I was approached to take on a head of school role at the University of Leeds. My instinct was; ‘No, I am happy doing what I am doing!’ because I liked where I was and wasn’t sure I had the capabilities to lead and develop strategy.

“The curious thing was that as soon as I stepped into the role I realised that I was indeed a closet strategist! I went on to build a great team and to develop an effective strategy for a school that would become top in its field. And being successful in that job led to being offered the role of Pro Vice-Chancellor for Organisational Effectiveness at Leeds.”

It was while bringing about organisational change at the University of Leeds, advising the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and sitting on the Research Excellence Framework...
Panel for the UK’s Higher Education Funding Council that the high-powered academic caught the eye of members of this University’s executive (Leeds, like UWA, is part of the World University Network).

Professor Freshwater viewed accepting the senior appointment at UWA as an impossible-to-resist opportunity, despite it requiring her to move half-way across the world from much loved family, children, grandchildren – and a flock of Scottish sheep in her Yorkshire Dales home.

“It is exciting for me to work in an international context and, with our executive team, to take this University – that already has a reputation for academic excellence – to the next stage of International excellence,” she says.

She is also upbeat about the multiple challenges facing leading international universities today: volatile economies, the pace of technological change, the highly competitive market and, in Australia, deregulation.

“UWA is not just about delivering a world-class education, it is creating innovative graduates who will thrive in an environment in which food security, security in general, the increased risk of pandemics and climate change, amongst others, are major global challenges. We have to work together to address them from our University’s specific areas of strength,” she says.

Professor Freshwater believes that in academia internationally the ‘level playing field’ is yet to come. She says the message that national productivity suffers when the full potential of 50 per cent of its population is not realised needs to reach secondary schools as well as tertiary institutions.

“Throughout my career I’ve been able to see opportunities and take them. When discussing leadership with women I talk about strategic manoeuvring – making sure that, while having a strategy, you’re open to new opportunities. Your next leadership role might not be the one you planned; you might find yourself doing something you hadn’t anticipated,” says the new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

“In my own career I’ve encountered prejudice, and I have had to work extremely hard to manage competing responsibilities,” says Professor Freshwater. “But in addition to that, my expectations of myself were always huge. It was very difficult for me not to expect that I could do it all – juggle everything – and do it well!

“However, I also became very good at asking for help and seeking other people’s input, appointing good colleagues and importantly entrusting them with the authority delegated to them. Good leaders have good teams around them,”

Professor Freshwater says that industrial quantities of literature on change management models and theories are readily available. What is missing, in the context of how leaders facilitate inclusive change, is how to lead movement.

“If we talk of managing change – as if it was a project – we’ve missed the point. Change is a constant. We tend to forget that the ground beneath us is constantly moving. However, we have choices and we can direct that movement consciously and in a considered deliberate way. Change is a way of being.”

How would she like potential students to view studying at UWA?

“As an opportunity to expand their horizons and engage with global thinkers, but also to focus very deeply on one specific area,” says Professor Freshwater. “The trick is to find a balance between being focused and being expansive – to develop critical, analytic thinking that allows you to move between the universal and the particular. UWA wants graduates to go out into the world with finely tuned skills that lead to great employment opportunities – and to have fun acquiring those skills!”

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“As a health professional you’re making difficult decisions from the age of 18, coming up against life... You quickly become responsible, accountable for your actions – and appreciate how important it is to have a team of good people working around you. Working across disciplines, working collaboratively – these were instilled in me very early.”
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The University of Western Australia
The real-life story of a young Albany girl who buoyed the spirits of Gallipoli-bound soldiers is one of several Anzac stories that inspired the Perth Festival’s *The Giants*. The author of the award-winning *Lighthouse Girl* recalls its tenuous birth, and the novels she is completing as part of her PhD studies at UWA.

On November 1, 1914 the first convoy of Australian and New Zealand troops departed from King George Sound, Albany. They were farewelled by the young Fay Howe (above), daughter of the lighthouse keeper on Breaksea Island. The story inspired PhD graduate Dianne Wolfer to write the award-winning *Lighthouse Girl*.

*(Albany photos: Albany Historical Society)*
Six years ago, storyteller Dianne Wolfer became intrigued by the story of an Albany girl who waved to departing troops from the windswept isolation of an offshore island. The departing troops held on to that final memory of home and the lighthouse keeper’s daughter, and from the Middle East they sent postcards to Albany addressed to “the little girl on Breaksea Island”.

“It wasn’t a story that was well known in Albany,” says Dianne. “I’d never heard of Faye Howe, the daughter of the lighthouse keeper, until I read a reference to her in an article on World War I in The West Australian.”

However, the article mentioned that the girl’s son was still alive and when Dianne contacted him in the hope of hearing the story and viewing some of the old postcards, she was disappointed: memorabilia associated with the wartime years in Faye Howe’s life had been lost to history.

“At that point I nearly gave up...” recalls Dianne, but by then she was hooked on the atmospherics of the story: the sombre sight of the AIF ships gathering in King George Sound; the remote island lighthouse and the lonely 15-year-old (mourning the loss of her mother) who sent semaphore signals to the departing soldiers.

“There were 30,000 men on those ships, with little opportunity to go shore. Some sent messages to their families through Faye, others stowed notes in bottles that washed onto beaches,” says Dianne. “For departing soldiers Albany was their last sight of home and the lighthouse girl their last human link as they sailed out of the harbour.”

With scant facts to work with, Dianne’s imagination and literary skills took over and Lighthouse Girl began to take shape. Later, Fremantle Press commissioned artist Brian Simmonds to add some memorable images to an award-winning story that turned out to be far longer than most illustrated children’s books.

Dianne was delighted with the result, and the book won the 2010 WA Young Readers Awards. The author later added a partner WWI tale, Light Horse Boy, that won the CBCA Honour Book 2014. As Albany prepares to mark the anniversary of the departure of the ANZAC fleet, local bookstores are well stocked with the books by the well-known local author who has some 15 titles to her credit.

Today Dianne is working on two further children’s books as part of her PhD supervised by UWA’s Professor Van Ikin and Postdoctoral Research Fellow Tess Williams. Her topic is anthropomorphism in Australian Children’s Literature and her research ranges from works like Animal Farm to the Magic Pudding. The fiction works are a WWII story involving a dog and a fantasy set in Papua New Guinea that explores the ancient practice of shark calling, along with the mythology and rituals relating to sharks. The two novels, Flynn of the Outback and The Shark Caller (for readers in the 11–15 age range), are nearing completion. Dianne hopes they will soon be accepted for publication.

NOTE: Extending the postcards theme from the story of the lighthouse girl, the Perth International Arts Festival has a Postcards from Home project in which they are calling on the public to share with them the Anzac stories of relatives and friends. To find out more visit the festival website: perthfestival.com.au
During the summer of 1975, Greta Scacchi performed on stage for the first time at UWA and made life-long friends that keep drawing her back to Perth. The acclaimed actress spoke to UNIVIEW while in Perth to perform in Black Swan’s production of Chekhov’s The Seagull at the State Theatre.

She remembers two “magical years” that opened a world of possibilities when her stepfather took a sabbatical at UWA.

When my stepfather took up his appointment and I was plucked kicking and screaming from my school in England I was not impressed but when we moved into a house close to the campus I felt at home.

“I remember riding through the campus that first weekend—I hadn’t even started school—and seeing an audition notice on a tree. It was for a University Dramatic Society production of The Faery Queen and the audition was a week away. I’d wanted to go on stage since I was eight and while my mother, being a dancer, was supportive there hadn’t been any drama clubs where we lived in England. But there were elocution lessons and my wonderful teacher had taught me one of Helena’s speeches from The Faery Queen.

“So I went along just to see what an audition looked like. It was held in that little pre-fab that was the original Dolphin, and there was John Milson, Will Queckett, David Zampatti, Julia Moody (who played Helena). They thought I looked rather interesting, but I told them I was only there to watch – after all I was only 15 and wasn’t even a student. Of course I had that Helena speech up my sleeve, and when I did it they were quite stunned because I did it rather well!

“That was the beginning. I was immediately cast as one of the fairies and as Titania’s understudy, and after that, while I was supposed to be at Hollywood High most of the time I was at UWA painting scenery, handing out leaflets, designing posters or rehearsing.

“UDS was my social life. It was my rite of passage. And those bonds of friendship remain and bring me back to Perth. It was a magic time. They were a very close-knit group, very good at partying, and I was introduced to their colourful world. In lots of ways I had found a new home even though I was a little out of my depth. However they did protect me – I recall David Zampatti took it on himself to be my ‘chaperone’ …

“While we were rehearsing The Faery Queen we were also writing the script for the Fairly Clean Revue which was not clean at all, so we met in each others houses and I got to see what student digs were like.

“For me it was an introduction to a group of brilliant young minds in their early 20s making full use of the New Fortune and UWA’s facilities. They were all people who went on to do interesting things in the arts, like Jeff Kelso and Phil Thompson, David Zampatti who is now a theatre critic, and Julia Moody who is the voice coach at Black Swan.

“Director John Milson also roped my twin brothers Tom and Paul into The Faery Queen because another member of the cast had an identical twin and they all looked rather similar in age and build. So in that scene where Puck throws his voice to confuse the young lovers, instead of the actor dashing back stage to a new position, John had four Pucks to plant all over the place. My brothers couldn’t get out of it: they wore nothing but a fig leaf and didn’t forgive me for years!

“I loved the fact that the people I met at UWA had such an appetite for culture and there was so much going on. There was also an openness of mind – and that is still one of the pleasures of doing a play like The Seagull in Australia.

“After those two years in Perth I went straight to drama school in England, to the Bristol Old Vic, where the selection process was very stringent. But I remember feeling that my new companions lacked the intellect, the imagination, and cultural and political awareness I had encountered at UDS. That is what I found so stimulating so I’ve always been grateful for those two years because in many ways they opened doors for me and opened my mind.
People tend to think of paralysis solely in terms of ‘nothing’ as a result of loss of movement, but it’s much more complex,” says Professor Sarah Dunlop who is researching neurotrauma leading to paralysis.

“We were born to move and loss of movement plus forced inactivity sets in train serious health complications. They range from cardiovascular disease to urinary tract infections, pain, depression and pressure areas where tissues starved of oxygen lead to necrosis and infection. That’s how Christopher Reeve — who did so much to raise awareness of spinal injuries — eventually died.”

Spinal cord injuries cost Australia $2 billion a year and the human cost is incalculable. Every year in Australia and New Zealand around 350 new cases are added to those whose lives have been tragically changed in an instant, generally by motor vehicle accidents, but also through surfing, diving, horse and dune riding and skylarking. “It’s almost one a day,” says Professor Dunlop. “There are about 11,000 people living with spinal cord injury in Australia. Adding another dimension is the tyranny of distance – because accidents can happen far from hospitals.”

The UWA Professor in the School of Animal Biology is currently involved in leading the WA arm of a clinical trial exploring the use of moderate hypothermia in spinal injury cases. Immediate Cooling & Emergency Decompression (ICED) involves bringing the patient’s body temperature down to 34 degrees, ideally en route to hospital. This is achieved by administering an intravenous icy saltwater solution that reduces swelling and slows metabolic activity in the damaged spinal cord.

“In cases of spinal injury, some tissue will be lost immediately, but a substantial amount may remain and you need to get in early with moderate hypothermia to prevent the spread of damage that makes the injury worse. Dropping body temperature to 3 degrees below normal buys time to get the patient into hospital for emergency decompression to relieve pressure on the spinal cord. Cooling is a relatively simple thing that paramedics can perform on the way to the emergency department. The idea is to ‘stop the rot’ and preserve as much tissue as possible to give patients the best possible chance for rehabilitation.

“A great example of the importance of emergency decompression is a young lady, Katie Ferguson, whom I met recently and who had a spinal cord injury while on holiday in Bolivia. She was in a bus en route to a major hospital with someone else on her tour who had been taken ill. The bus hit a speed bump, throwing Katie out of her seat. She immediately realised the seriousness of her injury and the bus driver called ahead. Katie was very lucky to be greeted at the hospital by a neurosurgeon who knew he had to operate within four hours, otherwise she would not walk again. Katie is now back in Australia undergoing rehabilitation and making great progress.

“In WA and elsewhere in Australia, it is often not possible to undertake complex surgery within four hours and that is why we need hypothermia to buy time. Indeed, four hours is the gold standard for treating ischaemic...
stroke, where, just like spinal cord injury, tissue continues to be lost after the initial infarct. So, if we treat stroke within that time frame, why not think the same way for spinal cord injury?”

Professor Dunlop says that a century ago, the survivor of a traumatic spinal cord injury would be lucky to survive. Today, life expectancy can be close to that of the able-bodied, and she believes it’s vital to encourage those who have lost the use of limbs to participate in exercise regimes and social life.

In another area of research she is pursuing, she has seen first-hand the positive effects of intensive exercise regimes and while gains tend to be small, they are incremental. To advance this research, the UWA scientist was instrumental with a colleague in Victoria, Professor Mary Galea, in establishing SCIPA (Spinal Cord Injury Physical Activity), a bi-national, multi-centre series of randomised controlled trials focusing on ongoing exercise to optimise health and wellbeing.

“SCIPA focuses on people with severe injuries where, if any function can be regained, it will give the patient more independence,” she explains.

“It’s about getting people who’ve been flat on their backs upright in a harness and on a treadmill with therapists moving their legs. If there is enough circuitry below the level of the injury that still works, it can make a difference – some stepping movements can start to happen.

The SCIPA trials also include exercising at acute stages after injury using bed cycles with electrodes on the legs to keep the ‘engine’ ticking and prevent loss of bone and muscle mass so that the patient is better prepared for rehabilitation.”

She says teamwork is a vital component in an area of research such as this and funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council, the Victorian Government and the WA State Government’s Neurotrauma Research Program (NRP), a local initiative funded by the Road Safety Council’s Road Trauma Trust Account, has made a huge difference.

“Funding like this enables people to collaborate – often in ways which haven’t happened before – and to try new approaches. For instance, my NRP funding of $400,000 enabled us to leverage a further $8 million in funding from other sources,” she says. “Importantly, we’ve forged links between basic scientists such as myself and clinicians – and that it so important...” says the researcher.

“It’s about first preserving as much tissue as you can and then driving neurological recovery in the circuitry that remains intact, as well as using exercise to reduce the impact of those secondary complications that come with a loss of movement.

“Once discharged people with spinal cord injuries experience many barriers to doing exercises, so SCIPA is also training trainers in gyms to make exercise safe and increase participation.”

Working in the Shenton Park gym with a young man who clearly relished the exercise sessions spurs her commitment to this research.

“The first time we got him upright on that treadmill he was elated. Of course it’s expensive: a team of therapists, one on each leg, one behind, one operating the hoist. He’s upright, three times a week for 12 weeks. We’ve watched his skin colour change, we’ve seen him smile for the first time in a long while and he’s lost six kilos just from doing exercise.”

The NRP is the longest standing program administered by the UWA-affiliated Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. In addition to clinical research, the NRP also supports laboratory-based studies in brain and spinal cord injury.

The enormous human cost of spinal cord injury underscores the need for research with potential to deliver better outcomes for patients. Thanks to the generous funding provided by the WA State Government, the NRP has been able to support Professor Dunlop’s work, which is one impressive example of how neurotrauma research is being translated from the laboratory to clinical trials and out into the community to improve lives.

The NRP warmly welcomes private donations and sponsorship, which will ensure continuity and expansion of the program in years to come.
Fair Game

One of the unheralded aspects of campus life is its power to bring together—and ignite—idealistic minds that make good things happen. This is the story of one such idea that came to a UWA medical student who had opted for ‘the road less travelled’ in his study options. Fellow graduates helped him to realise that dream—in the midst of his medical studies—and today it is bringing tangible benefits to remote communities. Fair Game has recently won a Community Service Excellence Award and national recognition for its founder.

Graduate John van Bockxmeer, this year’s WA Young Australian of the Year, is determined to achieve better health outcomes for disadvantaged communities. Initially this passion was fuelled by overseas electives that took him to places as diverse as Kazakhstan and East Timor. “Australia has a really good health system compared with other countries and I think we forget that sometimes,” says Dr van Bockxmeer, an intensive care resident at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

One of the unheralded aspects of campus life is its power to bring together—and ignite—idealistic minds that make good things happen. This is the story of one such idea that came to a UWA medical student who had opted for ‘the road less travelled’ in his study options. Fellow graduates helped him to realise that dream—in the midst of his medical studies—and today it is bringing tangible benefits to remote communities. Fair Game has recently won a Community Service Excellence Award and national recognition for its founder.

It was a placement in Port Hedland that underscored for the graduate that distance and disadvantage can dilute the benefits of that system. Watching Indigenous kids kicking a tin around a dusty oval triggered the idea of recycling sporting equipment from our affluent capital city to remote communities that needed more sport and the health benefits it brings.

It was an idea that initially came to him far from home, on exchange at Bristol University where he discussed its potential with fellow UWA exchange student Natalie Swan. “We became good friends,” recalls Natalie, “and John’s idea immediately struck a chord with me. I loved the Robin Hood approach of redistributing sporting goods to where they were needed, obviously without the stealing part! When John returned home from his Pilbara placement it really brought home the need for Fair Game. He phoned me and said: ‘let’s make this happen’, so three of us, John, myself and another fellow graduate Fiona Stretch, began to work on it...”

Five years down the track the charity has donated over 8,000 items of recycled equipment to Indigenous and migrant communities – and is also bringing about change through fitness, capacity-building and health education.

“Watching Fair Game grow has been truly inspiring,” says Natalie. “It’s fantastic to see that a voluntary grass-roots initiative can really make a difference. We’ve grown from three people to 70 volunteers and we could not have asked for better people to join us – they’re all as passionate as we are!”

Dr van Bockxmeer is Chair of Fair Game, Natalie is Secretary and a third graduate David Prout fills the role of Vice-Chair.

Fair Game’s founder believes success comes from its three-pronged approach: recycling sporting equipment, mentoring and training locals and organizing community programs.
“Fair Game evolved rapidly after we appreciated that the sporting equipment inspired an improved approach to health and fitness,” says Dr van Bockxmeer. “We’ve got a unique delivery because we integrate our messages within the program. For example, before a game of football, we’ll smear the ball with sticky goo and later, when the kids see their hands under a UV light, the message is clear ‘wash your hands!’ The end result is reduced communicable and respiratory illnesses.”

Fair Game has morphed in a number of directions. Dr van Bockxmeer initiated an Indigenous, culturally-relevant yoga program delivered in local dialects throughout WA. He’s also trained migrants involved in sporting programs in first aid and works with mental health patients at the Richmond Trust.

“I’ve always tried to have variety in my life,” says the 27-year-old medico. “I’m heading towards a twin-pronged specialty in Emergency Medicine and General Practice which isn’t a standard career pathway. I did an Arts/Medicine double degree which was a little unusual too, and then studied urban planning in the UK. But Fair Game is my main passion ...”

Natalie completed a double Arts/Commerce degree majoring in Management, Human Resource Management and Psychology. “My majors have proved invaluable in my role on the Fair Game executive committee as well as in my role as Acting Learning and Development Manager at the Department of Treasury,” she says.

“The skills and knowledge I acquired at UWA, particularly through participating on the university exchange program, opened up many unexpected opportunities and introduced me to friends for life who have inspired me and enabled me to contribute to the community in ways I had never imagined.”

Fair Games Vice Chair, Dave Prout completed an undergraduate degree in Exercise and Health Science before going on to complete his Grad Dip Ed. “From Phys-ed up in Broome to where I am now – an Occupational Health role within a great resource company with a leading approach to health and wellbeing – all of that’s been possible through UWA, and the University and Fair Game thread runs deep,” says Dave.

“I didn’t initially know Nat or John at UWA, but it was going back to complete UWA’s Grad Cert in Social Impact that introduced me to the work of Fair Game. It was a perfect fit – the passion and expertise behind the 100 per cent volunteer based, youth-lead team was a real inspiration. I’ve not looked back.”

Partnerships are a key component of Dave’s role with Fair Game. One such project is the initiation of Fair Game’s student Service Learning arrangement with the UWA School of Sports Science, Exercise and Health. The program, inaugurated in 2013 sees 3rd year UWA students join the Fair Game team for 70 hour professional practicums.

“In truth, they end up doing far more than that,” says Dave. “We’re finding that they love the experience so much, they go on to complete our full two-day training, to become ‘official’ Fair Gamers the following year. It’s great for Fair Game, great for the community, and – importantly – it’s enriching for the students.”

Talk to students involved and you quickly appreciate just how enriching. The School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health’s Professional Practice Director, Kerry Smith, confirms that this year many more students than could be accommodated asked for Fair Game placements. “The students are looking forward to additional opportunities to get involved during 2015, underscoring the fact that such placements provide a meaningful experience which matches students’ skills, abilities and interests with their sense of social and community responsibility,” says Ms Smith.

With the assistance of the UWA Centre for Social Impact, Fair Game has very recently had a Social Return on Investment (SROI) report written on the UWA Service Learning program.

“We’re at a point now where the project is poised for scale. We have a vision to enrol 100 students through this opportunity within a 5-year period,” says Dave.

Fair Game is hopeful the report will assist in establishing long-term financial support for the project. “SROI is a story about change. It provides information on which to base decisions, validate social return on capital and improve program logic. We hope it will lead ultimately to the creation of greater social value and the growth of robust service delivery partnerships. We’re certainly inviting all enquiries related to the project.”

If you’d like to know more about Fair Game, visit the website: fairgamewa.org

CONTACT

Natalie, David and John can be contacted via email: executive@fairgamewa.org

Fair Games Vice Chair, Dave Prout with young Fair Game participants in a remote community
The making of a Rhodes Scholar

Freya Shearer’s educational journey has taken her from a tiny century-old school at Wooroloo to Oxford University as UWA’s 2014 Rhodes Scholar.

Two years ago Freya Shearer went through the daunting process of Rhodes Scholarship interviews preceded by a Government House dinner (“candidates swap seats each course to speak with a different panel member”). While the UWA student missed out on securing a scholarship, she was still in the running for one of three Australia-At-Large Rhodes Scholarships. Another round of interviews further tested her nerve – this time, in Canberra – and again she missed out.

“I came away really disappointed, but being unsuccessful forced me to reflect, to work out what I really wanted – and made me determined to re-apply in 2013,” she recalls. “I took on board the feedback the scholarship committee gave me about being cautious in delivering opinions on contentious issues – and, over the next eight months, worked hard on that.

“When I re-applied for the Rhodes last year, I was a more tenacious person due to my work at St John of God Hospital and for Upside Nepal. I was honoured to tell the committee about my work in the Emergency Department where I was involved in developing a protocol that improved treatment times for heart attack patients by 30 minutes. Cardiologists have a saying – time is muscle – because every minute a heart muscle is deprived of oxygen there’s further damage, so cutting those times is significant.

“When I finally walked out of the Rhodes interview last year I knew that – whether or not I’d won – I was more resilient and more purposeful in expressing my point of view.

“Now, I appreciate that the whole experience has been life-changing and I’m sure this is only the beginning. I wouldn’t change anything about the way I got to this point; missing out initially may have been as important as winning...”

Freya urged graduating students at her high school, Perth College, not to stress about being unsure of their career choices. “At my Year 12 presentation night I had no idea what I wanted to do,” she recalls. “My advice is to pick something you like, do it well and work hard. It is difficult to predict where your choice will lead you.”
The graduate’s love of sport and of volunteering has been a constant thread through her educational journey to Oxford. She has State medals in the 100m hurdles and continued to train with former Australian hurdler Lyn Foreman’s squad until she left for Oxford.

“I enjoy all sport and I feel it gives you the energy to fit everything into your day – and I love the social aspects,” she says. “In recent years, playing weekly soccer matches with detainees at the Perth Immigration Detention Centre has strengthened my belief that sport transcends cultural and linguistic barriers, and helps refugees meet people from the wider community.”

This community service – along with volunteering with disadvantaged groups in WA and remote communities in Nepal – were an important element of her winning the prestigious scholarship that is selected on the basis of exceptional intellect, character, leadership and commitment to service.

At Oxford, Freya will study a Doctor of Philosophy in Population Health, which will further develop the knowledge and skills in health and international development gained through her UWA degree (BSc Hons), her research at St John of God Hospital (Murdoch) and her international development work with the not-for-profit organisation Upside Nepal.

“I approached an Oxford research group that is a leader in infectious disease cartography and asked if I could be involved,” says the graduate. “It has a great track record in mapping malaria and dengue fever and the group suggested that I contribute in the area of mapping Yellow Fever, Japanese Encephalitis and West Nile Fever, all closely-related mosquito-borne diseases. My aim is to produce global evidence-based risk maps that will improve the targeting, implementation and evaluation of disease prevention, surveillance and control strategies.”

And if her track record is anything to go by, this Rhodes Scholar’s contribution to one of global health’s major challenges will be significant.

“I wouldn’t change anything about the way I got to this point; missing out initially may have been as important as winning...”
New Century Campaign – celebrating a year of giving

A year after the launch of the University’s ambitious New Century Campaign, an extraordinary $215 million has been raised – or more than 50 per cent of the $400 million target.

Every day, people are stepping up to be part of something bigger than themselves and, already, lives have been impacted in meaningful ways. UWA’s vision for innovative global leadership in a knowledge-driven world is being realised.

Create the future

Rising research stars

Already the UWA community has contributed almost $20 million for our rising research stars.

One such donor, Mrs Ana Africh, believes in the power of education to change lives. Ana contributes to a number of scholarships for UWA students.

As a child in Eastern Europe during World War II, Ana’s educational opportunities were sparse. Now, UWA students are the beneficiaries of her struggle and her commitment to giving young people opportunities she never had.

One of Ana’s passions is medical research and she supports it through postgraduate scholarships named in her honour, along with a fund dedicated to support stem cell research.

The impact of Ana’s generosity can already be seen in research breakthroughs. The work of Ana Africh scholarship recipient, Calyn Moulton, aims to reduce the side effects of treatment on prostate cancer patients. His research will soon be used clinically, making a real difference in the lives of millions of people around the world who are battling the disease.

Forrest Research Foundation

The announcement of an unprecedented $65 million gift from Andrew and Nicola Forrest set the stage for the launch of UWA’s $400 million New Century Campaign.

A year on, the Forrest Research Foundation is established and Forrest scholars from across the globe will soon be pursuing big dreams and ideas in Western Australia.

The Foundation has a pivotal role to play in establishing UWA as a world-class centre for research and new knowledge. It will fund scholarships and postdoctoral fellowships across all five Western Australian universities, in perpetuity, building innovative capacity across our State.

The Forrests’ donation will also fund Forrest Hall at UWA, a creative living space for rising research stars, rivaling the best residential colleges in the world.
Alumni engagement

Our alumni are changemakers. They are business leaders, community trailblazers, former prime ministers and Nobel Laureates. They are lifelong UWA stakeholders and advocates and their contribution to the New Century Campaign is vital.

Since October 2013, UWA has been connecting like never before with alumni across Australia and the globe. Graduates in New York, Singapore, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, London, Cape Town and Mumbai have shared in discussions about UWA’s vision for the future and our place in the world.

We’ve asked graduates about their experiences, before and after graduation. We’ve asked about their own hopes and ambitions for the future. UWA has reached out to alumni and they have enthusiastically reached back, connecting with their University and with each other, providing invaluable insights and driving an international network.

Today, we are closer than ever to ensuring that UWA plays a meaningful role in the life of every UWA graduate and in the world in which they live.

To find out more about alumni networks near you, contact Ms Jenn Parsons, Alumni Relations Manager, on jenn.parsons@uwa.edu.au or +61 8 6488 3511

Academic leadership and excellence

More than $55 million has been raised to support academic leadership and excellence. The creation of the Wesfarmers Chair in Australian History, based in the Faculty of Arts, is just one example. How appropriate for two proud Australian institutions to join forces in support of our heritage and our country.

Wesfarmers’ Chair, Professor Jane Lydon, is increasing understanding of Australian society past and present. At her inaugural oration on 30 October, audience members were transported in time as Professor Lydon delved into the changing nature of photography for Indigenous Australians and the role it plays in connecting them to their rich cultural legacy and the land.

This award-winning author and historian is making the world take notice of Western Australia by shedding light on the exchange between Indigenous people and settlers, and the ways in which that exchange continues to shape Australian society today.

The EZONE

With $30 million raised for the EZONE, the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics’ vision to empower people to change the world is taking shape.

Refurbishments to existing facilities are transforming the built environment, creating open, collaborative work and study spaces for our researchers, staff and students – space to tackle the needs of industry and of our communities.

Through gifts from individuals, such as a generous bequest from the late Bob Telford, and support from industry partners like Woodside (with a $10 million investment) and BHP Billiton (with a further $17 million for UWA overall), an environment capable of unparalleled innovation is emerging.

The Australian Aboriginal Cultures Museum

The momentum to create a place where we honour, learn from and share our nation’s extraordinary cultural heritage has never been greater, as those attending UWA’s Senate Community Dinner in August can attest.

Alumnus and 2014 Senior Australian of the Year, Dr Fred Chaney AO, expressed his hope for the future of Aboriginal Australia at the dinner, based on the many positive changes he has witnessed and been part of since he first became involved in Indigenous rights as a UWA student over 50 years ago.

UWA aims to celebrate the living culture of the Aboriginal people of this country through the creation of the Australian Aboriginal Cultures Museum. The commitment to Indigenous heritage is vital to cultural understanding in Australia and beyond.

“This is the best time in a lifetime for the possibility of Aboriginal advancement.”

Dr Fred Chaney AO

The Museum will house the internationally acclaimed Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, where leading researchers are set to record and interpret the stories, history, relationships to land, social boundaries and belief systems depicted in ancient rock art.

Through the Museum, people around the world will come to better appreciate the country we live in, its original inhabitants and our ancient soils. But above all, the Museum must be relevant to our State’s Aboriginal communities.

To this end, in the new year UWA will embark on the second phase of an extensive community consultation led by Noongar statesman, Dr Richard Walley AM.
It was the river with its black swans and riverine vegetation that attracted Captain James Stirling and his pioneering party in 1827 when they sailed in cutter and gig from its mouth to the foothills of the Darling Range.

Known to Noongar people as Derbarl Yerrigan, it would become the Swan to early settlers and it would prove to be an invaluable transport artery for the timber, wool and wine that were early exports from the fledgling Swan River Colony.

Fast-forward almost two hundred years, and the river remains one of our capital city’s great assets, but the catchments that once replenished it and remnant wetlands are being challenged by the demands of a growing capital city, by thirsty industries and a drying climate.

Western Australia is particularly challenged by climate change modelling that predicts even drier conditions for the State’s south-west by 2030. Research signals that runoff into reservoirs and irrigation dams is shrinking; that the water table is falling, that wetlands are drying out and industries such as mining, agriculture and horticulture are facing rising water prices. Western Australia was the nation’s first in adopting seawater desalination and plants in South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales have followed.

Variations of these problems are shared by cities across the world. Water is becoming one of the globe’s most contested resources and its sustainable use is exercising the minds of scientists and governments. It’s a challenge that can only be addressed by bringing together the best minds across disciplines within universities, industries and governments – and it is this realisation that has spurred the Federal Government to provide a decade of funding for the Co-operative Research Centre for Water Sensitive Cities, with nodes in WA, Victoria and Queensland, and a network of government and industry partners.

The Australian Government has identified the reform of urban water systems and the creation of liveable, sustainable and productive cities as a national priority. To meet this challenge it is funding a CRC that brings together water engineers, urban planners and ecologists, climate and social scientists, water economists – and leading researchers from other relevant disciplines – to work on 21 priority projects.

Our State and this University are widely acknowledged as being at the forefront of water-related sciences, so while the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities is headquartered in Melbourne, its WA node is run by Professor Anas Ghadouani (School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering) who is also the Executive Director of the CRC’s multi-disciplinary research teams from UWA, Monash and the University of Queensland. And the researchers are working with Federal, State and local governments agencies, 25 across WA alone.

“When you look at the world’s top 10 most liveable cities, you’ll find Perth and Melbourne up there, so we’re doing some things really well, however our challenges tend to revolve around water,” says Professor Ghadouani, a water scientist/engineer with impressive international credentials. Born in Morocco where he began his studies, he completed his PhD at Canada’s University of Montreal and the University of Alberta. Joining UWA in 2003, he is a member of several government water-related
bodies and is a Visiting Professor at universities in Canada and the People’s Republic of China.

“My interest centres on how to transition our cities to become water-sustainable, how to change the way we manage and use water,” says the UWA researcher. “We spend extraordinary amounts providing access to clean water, but we can be far more innovative in using it: by creating aesthetic features that mitigate urban heat; by harvesting stormwater through novel bio-filters; by retrofitting established cities; by finding acceptable solutions to the wastewater recovery and changing community attitudes to water use.”

The CRC’s strength is its ability to draw on thought-leaders in all these areas while tackling the challenge of navigating the labyrinthine layers of governance that can impede the adoption of innovative technology and creative solutions.

“This CRC is unique in that it links researchers across 20 disciplines,” says Professor Ghadouani. “For the first time ever we have psychologists, lawyers, economists, environmentalists, engineers, computer scientists, architects, landscape architects, population health and the humanities researchers talking with one another and with industry leaders and government planners. We believe that integrating urban design, social science, planning and engineering will produce the best outcomes.

“Our aim – it’s ambitious but achievable – is to deliver transformative change in the way we design our cities. By 2050, about 80 per cent of the world’s people will be living in cities, so we have to do better: to retrofit existing cities and to better plan new ones to soak up that extraordinary growth.”

In WA, Geraldton will serve as an ‘incubator’ for some of the
CRC’s initiatives, and researchers hope it will serve as a model of how regional centres can evolve to become water sensitive.

A large number of researchers from UWA are involved in addition to more than 20 research fellows and PhD candidates.

While tackling some the nation’s water challenges may be technical, engineers involved will also get an insight into the history of our nation’s approach to water use. UWA researchers Professor Jenny Gregory and Dr Ruth Morgan are among the CRC’s team of historians piecing together the water histories of Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth through changing infrastructure and cultural attitudes.

When Professor Ghadouani presented the 2014 George Seddon memorial Lecture Water for Society, he highlighted the importance of bringing concepts such as “the sense of place” (identified by researchers such as the late George Seddon) to the design of our cities. “We believe we are better placed today to use the innovations in water engineering, sociotechnical modelling, economics and urban design to deliver to our communities on the broad concepts of sense of place and liveability,” he said.

The CRC offers courses and workshops that – in this State – have already attracted around 180 participants. For details of its 2015 program, visit the website watersensitivecities.org.au or phone 08 6488 4547. A full list of 83 current participants can be found on the CRC website (watersensitivecities.org.au/about-the-crc/participants). The CRC has international participants in Singapore, the Netherlands, Austria, and Denmark. A collaboration with researchers working on similar projects in Stanford University will see a delegation from UWA and Stanford exchanging their findings under the recently announced strategic alliance.

Left: Minister for Mines Bill Marmion, an engineer by profession and a UWA graduate, at the formal launch of the CRC for Water Sensitive Cities in Perth with Professors Tony Wong, CEO of the CRC, Professor Peter Davies, Pro Vice-Chancellor Research, and Anas Ghadouani, Executive Director of the CRC.
To borrow from Star Trek, you could say that Enrico Palermo is, in engineering terms, going “where no man has gone before” – and UWA was his launch pad. When Enrico and Nadia Palermo left steady jobs in the resources industry as the boom ratcheted up, the graduates were pursuing Enrico’s dream to get involved in the space industry.

Today, he is Vice President of Operations for Sir Richard Branson’s The Spaceship Company (TSC) building the world’s first fleet of commercial manned spaceships. Joining Virgin Galactic in 2006, Enrico was the first engineer to lead operations in Mojave, California, from business plan concept to fully-fledged spaceship assembly and test operation. At UWA Enrico received a prestigious Clough scholarship among other awards, and he counts his involvement with UWA Motorsport and CEED as being invaluable.

As a secondary student, did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?
I’ve always had an interest in science, mathematics and their application to how things work. As a teenager I developed a passion for space exploration and space science. It was a relatively easy decision for me to pick a double bachelor’s degree in Science (Physics, Applied Mathematics) and Engineering (Mechanical) at UWA – it offered a broad skills, experience and communication base which I thought would be important down the road.

How did you view your future career when studying at UWA and what were the ‘landmarks’ that helped to shape your career?
Whilst studying I could see opportunities to take many different paths. I intended to pick up engineering design experience early in my career although I felt my strengths were in leadership and project management. Although I had a passion for space I knew it would necessitate moving overseas – driving me to pick up German in my final years at UWA.

Pursuing opportunities and real-world projects during my studies at UWA was critical. I joined the inaugural UWA Motorsport (UWAM) Formula-SAE team in 2001 working on the car’s wiring and electrical systems, followed by being responsible for the engine in the 2002 car. I was fortunate to be the first driver of a UWAM car in competition driving in the skid-pan event in 2001. Projects like that were invaluable as they required a multi-discipline team to work together in achieving a common goal.

I also completed a Co-operative Education for Enterprise Development (CEED) project with Rio Tinto in mine planning as part of my Mathematics honours thesis. This exposed me to the challenges with optimisation in a practical environment and dealing with immense amounts of data.
Finally, I picked up great experience on vacation employment, including time at Woodside’s LNG plant and working with Andersen Consulting on an enterprise wide IT systems implementation and business process reengineering project.

Another UWA landmark was having support from great supervisors and mentors at UWA including Angus Tavner and Alastair Mees who were driven by technology application and practicality. I’ve been fortunate throughout my career since UWA to have had great leaders and mentors to learn from.

What are the major challenges of your current role and what are the personal qualities that have proved to be assets in your career?

At The Spaceship Company and Virgin Galactic we are building the world’s first ‘spaceline’, something no one has ever done before. There is no ‘yardstick’ for what hasn’t been done before – we are ultimately driven by achieving milestones and ensuring the safety of our product. Leading the operations for TSC – which is a startup – I constantly review how we employ and marshal our resources to the priority of the day. Days and weeks can be long but you don’t notice because we’re passionate about our vision. We operate from a relatively remote location (Mojave, California) so attracting talent, particularly those with families, can be difficult at times – being far from loved family and friends in Perth, I can certainly understand why.

I have found that genuinely caring for the wellbeing and morale of my teams has been an asset, along with keeping calm in stressful or pressure situations, so you can think clearly through issues. Working for a startup requires me to be adaptable – things never pan out exactly as you expect, so you need to be open to making course corrections. Another personal quality is the willingness to take risks, make sacrifices and move laterally with my career choices. As an example, my wife Nadia (who studied Commerce at UWA) and I decided to quit our steady jobs in Perth in the resource industry, just as the resource boom started to ratchet up, and headed to Europe in pursuit of our goals.

What is your working day like and how do you relax?

It is a super exciting time to be at TSC and Virgin Galactic – a culmination of many years of hard work. When we moved to Mojave we started with a business plan and a tiny leased office at the spaceport. TSC now operates three main buildings, has extensive capabilities and our team is topping 275 talented individuals. Recently my boss and I abandoned our office and moved to our assembly and test hangar shop floor. Directly opposite my desk the assembly of TSC’s first SpaceShipTwo is rapidly taking place. To my right is the first WhiteKnightTwo mothership which we took delivery of from scaled composites earlier this year – I was lucky to observe her through all stages of her build and test. In the other corner of our hangar our flight simulator is going through its verification and testing phases. Later this year we hope to have our first spaceflight and shortly thereafter commence commercial operations.

To relax, Nadia, my son Nicola and I take every opportunity to hit the road and explore. We’ve set a goal of visiting all of the USA’s world-class National Parks – no easy task! We’ve visited 20 out of 59 so far, several of them multiple times.

What does the future hold?

Right now my focus is doing everything I can to support our goals of getting to space and starting commercial operations, then shortly after completing TSC’s first spaceship. Beyond that I see plenty of new exciting opportunities in scientific research, small satellite launching, fast inter-continental travel and beyond.

To listen to the ABC interview with Enrico Palermo visit uwa.edu.au/galaxy-talk

Left to Right: Enrico and Nadia Palermo with son Nicola

Enrico Palermo leads Sir Richard Branson on a tour of the Mojave facilities

TSC’s first SpaceShipTwo during its first rocket powered flight. “We are focused on completing our powered flight test program and hope to have our first flight to space by the end of 2014,” says the UWA graduate Enrico Palermo. (Photo by Virgin Galactic)
“We’ve come such a long way in so many areas … but suicide rates have gone backwards,” says UWA’s straight-talking Professor Pat Dudgeon who is leading national research initiatives in mental health and suicide prevention from the School of Indigenous Studies. The high profile academic leader was Australia’s first Indigenous psychologist when she graduated. She has been awarded the Indigenous Allied Health Australia Lifetime Achievement Award and a Deadlys Award for Excellence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health.

When she left a Darwin school at 15, Pat Dudgeon was well aware of her unfulfilled academic potential, and as she observed the problems faced by some Northern Territory and Kimberley communities, including racism, the young Bardi woman became determined to tap that potential and work on behalf of her people.

With no university in the Territory at that time, she returned to Western Australia, driven by the notion that “there were things I felt I could do in the Aboriginal community”. As inaugural Chair of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association and now a Commissioner of the National Mental Health Commission,

“This is the way to do research and bring about change,” says UWA Professor Dudgeon. “We must work in partnership with the communities so they own the process and the outcomes.”

Below: Like the late Rob Riley, Pat Dudgeon believes that psychologists and mental health and social science professionals have an absolute obligation to share in the difficult task and she urges others to take up Riley’s call to “join us in this quest”. (Photo from Working Together Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing, Principles and Practice)
she has been serving the interests of communities across Australia ever since.

“We’ve come such a long way in so many areas – with far more support and pride in Aboriginal people – but suicide rates are at least two to three times higher than in the mainstream community,” says Professor Dudgeon. “It’s an epidemic, and few extended families, including my own, have not suffered. That has galvanised me to work in this area of prevention.”

That determination to be an agent of change saw the UWA researcher coordinate a unique roundtable event – The Third Conversation: Has Anything Changed? Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Suicide Prevention – bringing together elders, youth leaders, health professionals, academics, social justice campaigners, state and national Mental Health Commissioners and government representatives.

The June forum pivoted on the presence of Professor Michael Chandler from The University of British Columbia whose research emphasises that youth suicide can be addressed, provided young people see they have a future.

“This was Professor Chandler’s third visit and he was the catalyst for the forum,” says Professor Dudgeon. “His research highlights common problems facing our people and those of First Nation communities in Canada. He sees these problems very much in terms of a lack of valuing a cultural identity and of communities exercising self-determination or ‘cultural continuity’.

“Suicide prevention strategies are linked to cultural continuity: positive land rights negotiations, the community-controlled delivery of services, acknowledging the wisdom of elders, putting women in leadership positions and establishing facilities to strengthen culture and community. All of these elements are markers of the importance of cultural continuity and reflect the situation of Indigenous people in other settler countries such as the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

“Despite the Apology and Reconciliation, we have a long way to go to address implicit racism in Australian society and institutions. Education can play a key role in moving forward, because increasing the number of students and staff and embedding Indigenous Studies in school and university curricula ultimately empowers Indigenous communities and benefits mainstream society as well.

“In Australia, we need to reclaim our culture and adopt a gendered approach to representation on boards, as advocated by the United Nations. Ten years ago there were few women in leadership positions; now our role is acknowledged as significant.”

During the roundtable, the second edition of Working Together, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health and Wellbeing, Principles and Practice was launched. Acknowledged as an excellent resource for those working in mental health and suicide prevention, it is edited by Professor Dudgeon, UWA’s Professor Helen Milroy and Associate Professor Roz Walker from the UWA–affiliated Telethon Kids Institute. (aboriginal. telethonkids.org.au/kulunga-research-network/ working-together-2nd-edition-2014)

Also launched at the forum was a new leadership group that signals a new era in the areas of mental health and suicide prevention: the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership in Mental Health group has coalesced around a core group of senior Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders associated with the Australian mental health commissions (natsilmh.org.au)

While Professor Dudgeon has clearly been an inspiration to many, she in turn was motivated by activists such as the late Rob Riley, a member of the Stolen Generation who took his life in 1996. His contributions are remembered in the second edition of the Working Together book.

Being the first Indigenous keynote speaker at an Australian Psychological Society Annual Conference in Perth in 1995, Rob Riley appealed to the discipline and allied professions to find better ways to deliver mental wellbeing services to Aboriginal people.

“There are of course daunting and at times seemingly insurmountable obstacles, yet the challenges can be stimulating and enticing…I make the assumption that you…have the motives and open-mindedness to incorporate different perspectives within the discipline that you have chosen,” he said.

Like Mr Riley, Pat Dudgeon believes that psychologists and mental health and social science professionals have an absolute obligation to share in the difficult task and she urges others to take up Riley’s call to “join us in this quest”.

Professor Dudgeon is currently leading several major national research projects, including being project leader of the National Empowerment Project funded by a Federal Government grant to UWA. The project is partnering with local communities, training and supporting local researchers and offering suicide prevention and other programs.

“This is the way to do research and bring about change,” says Professor Dudgeon. “We must work in partnership with the communities so they own the process and the outcomes.”

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Vaulting the species divide

UWA’s Professor Ryan Lister has just won the Prime Minister’s Life Scientist of the Year Award. The outstanding genome biologist is working at the frontier of science, unravelling the epigenome.

“We can now vault the species divide and as the cost of DNA sequencing and synthesis continues to fall, so the science pushes towards new frontiers.”

“Standing on the shoulders of giants,” is a familiar acknowledgement at science award ceremonies, as scientists pay tribute to earlier ground-breaking work that made their own discoveries possible.

UWA’s Professor Ryan Lister – who added the Ruth Stephens Gani Medal from the Australian Academy of Sciences to his Tall Poppy Award – points to the Salk Institute’s scientist Joseph Ecker for sparking his interest in epigenetics.

In turn, Dr Ecker has acknowledged ‘the father of modern genetics’, Gregor Mendel, a 19th century Augustinian monk who first documented the inherited traits of pea plants in his secluded monastery garden.

Not having the patience of a monk, Dr Ecker fast-tracked his research using gene sequencing technology. Decoding the 25,000-odd genes of the mustard weed Arabidopsis thaliana, he turned this humble plant into the gold standard of plant research around the world.

As a PhD student at UWA, Ryan Lister followed Dr Ecker’s astonishing progress while completing his thesis on mitochondria, the energy factories in cells. He approached the US scientist, and was awarded a prestigious Human Frontier Science Program Fellowship in 2006. This took him to the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California, and to Ecker’s Genome Analysis Laboratory.

“Much of biological science is driven by technology, and Joe’s research group was always on the bleeding edge of technology. We got early access to one of the first of a new generation of DNA sequencers in 2007 – we could sequence DNA faster and cheaper, and do experiments that were impossible only a year or two earlier,” says the graduate.

“By pushing the new DNA sequencing technology to its limits, we were able to pursue lines of research that were never before possible – and that’s a strategy that I try to continue in my laboratory at UWA.”

Professor Lister has developed new techniques that use large-scale DNA sequencing technologies to accurately map the molecular tags added to the DNA that turns genes on or off, throughout the entire genome and at unprecedented resolution. This area of research, epigenomics, is providing great leaps forward in our understanding of the workings of human and plant genomes and cells, and it promises significant advances in human health, regenerative medicine, and agriculture.

“Essentially, every cell in the body of an animal or plant contains the same genome sequence. Yet despite these carbon copy DNA sequences, the cells display astounding variation in form and function.

“One way a cell can turn particular genes on or off is by adding tiny chemical tags to the DNA, like molecular signposts that signal stop or go. We now have the technology to map exactly where all these tags are located throughout the genome, to produce a map termed the epigenome.”

Professor Lister divides his time between the Lister Lab and the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology, a collaboration involving UWA, the Australian National University, the University of Adelaide and La Trobe. The Centre has earned a worldwide reputation for its research.

“It was Professor Lister’s work on discovering and mapping the large-scale reconfiguration of the epigenome during brain development in humans that won him the Academy of Science medal.

“We’re also doing plant epigenome research at the Centre of Excellence, looking at its involvement in plant growth, cellular identity and function. And in both plant and human systems we’re developing new molecular tools to try to precisely engineer the epigenome, which has not been possible in the past.

“In my lab we’re working on the mustard weed and rice in some projects and on human and mice cells in others, to look at how the epigenome has changed throughout evolutionary time. We can now vault the species divide – with new DNA reading and writing technologies we’re seeing those old discipline borders dissolve – and as the cost of DNA sequencing and synthesis falls, so the science pushes towards new frontiers.

“It’s really exciting working in this area. There’s a real buzz in my lab among undergraduate, graduate and postdoc researchers because we’re conscious that things are changing fast, and it’s a challenge just keeping up! There’s no routine, and that appeals to young researchers.

“Genome biology is undergoing a revolution based on these technological advances, and it really is going to change the world. There are countless questions to be asked and problems to be solved – so the best and brightest will want to be involved!”

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The collective giving of over 10,000 UWA alumni has raised an extraordinary $5 million for the Annual Fund since 2001.

Alumni Annual Fund Grants – enhancing the student experience

Tamara Glick, UWA architecture student, has fallen in love with the outback after a work placement with Martumili artists in the desert communities of the east Pilbara.

Tamara said the experience was life changing and thanked the UWA alumni who donate to the Annual Fund to support innovative projects that enhance the student experience.

“It was such an amazing experience and totally changed my perspective on desert living. Now I just pretty much want to find a way to get back out there permanently, as soon as possible!” said Tamara.

The Annual Fund grant has provided a number of students, including Tamara, the opportunity to work with art centres and artists in remote parts of Australia, some spending time with communities in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands and Haasts Bluff (Northern Territory), and others in Arnhem Land. There are plans for the program to continue, providing transformative learning experiences for more UWA students.
Ninety-seven per cent of Fairway students have received offers from WA universities

Below: UWA Fairway camp participants, January 2014

Fairway UWA – helping high school students achieve their academic potential

In our changing educational landscape, supporting students to gain entry into university and assist them through their studies is more important than ever.

Through the generosity of our alumni, the Annual Fund is making the UWA educational experience available to young people who have the ability to benefit from it, irrespective of their financial circumstances, physical abilities or location.

By supporting the leaders of tomorrow, the Annual Fund is helping our young students achieve their dreams and make a difference in the world.

In three years Fairway UWA has almost tripled the number of students it supports, with a total of 260 students taking part in the program in that time. Just one of UWA’s programs to increase access to a university education, Fairway UWA provides disadvantaged Year 12 students the opportunity to realise their academic potential and achieve a university education. Ninety-seven per cent of Fairway students have received offers from Western Australian universities.

Scholarships – learning through living

Living and learning on campus creates a more engaging, rewarding and successful student experience. By living on campus, students are part of a vibrant community, surrounded by a diversity of thinking and cultures that expand their perspective while enhancing their studies and forming bonds that will last a lifetime.

Recognising this, the Annual Fund has provided the first residential scholarship for UWA’s only official hall of student residence, University Hall (Uni Hall), to maximise the unique experience of living on campus for those who might not otherwise have the opportunity.

Yone Ansell, the inaugural Uni Hall scholarship recipient, says that without the scholarship and support of UWA alumni, she would not have been able to afford to stay at UWA.

“When I applied for a course at UWA, I had only enough money to guarantee one year’s accommodation on campus. The demands on my time due to my engineering/physics double major would not have allowed me to travel and work… This scholarship has allowed me to focus on studies, without the stress of worrying about accommodation fees.”

Growing up outside Darwin, Yone completed specialist mathematics via computer linkup and was keen to come to UWA because it is globally recognised. She also wanted to experience life outside the Northern Territory. The Uni Hall scholarship is providing Yone this opportunity.

“I have made so many friends, including WA locals and students from all around the globe, whose views and ideas are diverse and sometimes challenging. It makes me realise the complexity of the world in which we all share,” said Yone.

Collective giving, collective impact

The collective giving of over 10,000 UWA alumni has raised an extraordinary $5 million for the Annual Fund since 2001. Through this support, UWA students can access high quality education and first class facilities and programs, including immersive learning opportunities, such as Tamara’s, and scholarships, such as Yone’s.

The Annual Fund was launched as a way for alumni and friends to support their University. During telephone appeals, student callers and alumni are able to connect through a shared UWA experience, and alumni hear about ways they can stay involved.

Make a difference

As UWA alumni, you know the difference a university education can make in a person’s life. To ensure others have the same opportunity, visit campaign.uwa.edu.au/give-now/annualfund, call the Annual Fund team on + 61 8 6488 4200 or email annualfund@uwa.edu.au and make a donation.

Uniview The University of Western Australia | 35
Training the best legal minds

Terrorism, refugees on boats, one punch fatalities, Internet privacy, the impassioned clash of farmers and coal seam gas companies... all have a legal context. Little wonder UWA's Law School has seen remarkable growth in what is taught under the banner of Law, and in the workplaces welcoming our graduates.

“I find a link to law from almost every headline,” says the University’s first female Dean of the Law School, Professor Erika Techera. “That makes it important we offer contemporary courses that address the full spectrum of Law – and have a multinational and multidisciplinary team.

“Law is a discipline that needs teachers who encourage students to think outside the square, to anticipate tomorrow’s problems. Our academic team can do that because of its specialist skills and depth of experience,” says Professor Techera.

“We’ve recently added 10 new academic staff, and my aim is to broaden the scope of what we teach and research. We have criminologists, specialists in socio-legal studies, intellectual property, Chinese legal reforms, dispute resolution, taxation law, and a range of private and public international law areas – so we expose students to the full range of career possibilities.”

This year Professor Harry Blagg, well known for his work on Indigenous people and policing, restorative justice, family violence and court innovations, returned to the Law School. Also back on campus is Assistant Professor Ambelin Kwaymullina (from the Palyku people of the Pilbara), highly regarded for her expertise in Indigenous legal systems and Indigenous interactions with Western legal systems.

“One of the School’s invaluable assets is having some of Australia’s best legal minds among our alumni – from the Chief Justice of the High Court Robert French to Justice James Edelman of WA’s Supreme Court (who currently teaches into the Unjust Enrichment Unit). And they are very generous with their time.

“Recently the former Federal Foreign Affairs Minister joined our staff. Professor Stephen Smith brings an extraordinary breadth of experience and knowledge to UWA, and he is helping to develop our new Master in International Law and double Masters in International Relations and International Law.”

Today large legal firms are often global, which means that UWA graduates can be found from New York to London to Beijing. Queens Counsel Karyl Nairn, who recently visited the campus, won the 2014 Australian Global Awards in Sydney. She is regularly cited as a leading international arbitration expert and one of the most innovative and influential women in law.

“Law graduates have many options, both within and beyond the legal profession,” says Professor Techera.

“A graduate destinations survey with students completing degrees in 2013 indicated that three months before graduation more than 85 per cent already had jobs, 81 per cent being law-related jobs.

“That was an excellent outcome in a difficult job market. It’s important to remind students that they have a valuable qualification whether they want to practise law, work in government or non-government organisations, politics, international relations or a myriad of other areas.

“I’ve had three careers. When I graduated I ran a company, then became a barrister and continued studying, completing a teaching qualification, two Masters and a PhD in environmental law to become an academic. Always an environmentalist at heart, I’ve been able to combine what I love with what I do.”

Professor Techera’s area of research is international and comparative environmental law with a particular focus on marine environmental law and heritage law and policy. She is the author of the recently published *Sharks: Conservation, Governance and Management*.

The new Dean sees 2014 as the dawn of a new era for Western Australia’s first School of Law. “It’s all about innovation, internationalisation and diversification, and remaining responsive to current trends and future challenges,” says Professor Erika Techera.

Having successful bedded down last year’s postgraduate Juris Doctor program, the School is preparing to launch its new Graduate Diploma and Master in International Law, Graduate Diploma and Master in International Commercial Law, Graduate Diploma and Master in Law, Policy & Government and the Graduate Diploma in Chinese Business Law next year. If you would like to know more about these courses, visit the Law School website: [law.uwa.edu.au](http://law.uwa.edu.au)

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When was the last time you went to a movie or a concert? How about a festival or play? In your free time, do you listen to music, read novels, take photographs, dance, paint or play a musical instrument?

Well, if you engage in any of these activities, you’ll be glad to know it was time well spent. According to Christina Davies, the 2013 winner of the Convocation Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence and PhD candidate at the School of Population Health, “engaging in the arts for enjoyment, entertainment or as a hobby is good for your mental, social and physical wellbeing”.

Christina’s PhD paper “The Art of Being Healthy”, published in BMJ Open, is the first internationally to look at the link between general population health and arts engagement. The paper is currently ranked in the top 2% of articles by attention (out of 2.3 million articles across all journals) and won the Arts and Health Research Award for Excellence at the 2013 International Arts and Health Conference.

“In this study, arts engagement was found to make people feel happy,” Christina said. “It helped to reduce people’s stress and was an enjoyable activity to do with family and friends. The arts resulted in the creation of good memories, helped people make new friends and broadened their ideas and beliefs. The arts also had an impact on general knowledge and identity, and resulted in physical activity such as walking and performance-based movement.”

“Given the significant pressure on our health system, the arts may hold the key to a new type of health promotion and healing,” says Christina.

Thanks to the Convocation Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence, Healthway and a UWA PhD travel award, Christina has presented her PhD findings in Sydney, Melbourne, Texas and Rome. Christina has a background in psychology and health promotion and is also a qualified visual artist. Christina’s supervisors are Professor Matthew Knuiman and Associate Professor Michael Rosenberg, senior academics in health promotion and public health.

For more information on the arts and health visit sph.uwa.edu.au/research/health-and-arts. For further information on the Convocation Postgraduate Research Awards and to see a video of Christina Davies talking about her award visit convocation.uwa.edu.au/prizes.
Convocation establishes a Scholarship to honour Dr Sue Baker.

During August, Convocation Council was deeply saddened to learn that, on Tuesday 12th August 2014, Dr Suzanne Baker, a former long serving Warden of Convocation, passed away unexpectedly at the age of 59. Given her major contribution to Convocation and her efforts in establishing the Convocation awards program, Convocation Council has decided to establish a postgraduate travel scholarship in her honour. Those members of Convocation who wish to support this initiative with donations are encouraged to contact Halina Dorward at the University either by phone at +61 8 6488 3420 or via email at halina.dorward@uwa.edu.au.

Sue’s relationship with The University of Western Australia began with her student days when she gained a B.Sc. (Agric) with First Class Honours in 1979 and a PhD in 1985 and continued when she was appointed jointly by the CSIRO and the University to a lectureship in 1986, which position she held until 1994.

In 1995, whilst employed by CSIRO as Principal Research Scientist, CSIRO Animal Production, Sue was appointed as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer by the University in recognition of her regular and significant contribution to the activities of the University, Sue had responsibility for undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and held this honorary post until 2006 when she was re-appointed an Adjunct Associate Professor.

During her years of study, Sue had developed a great love and appreciation for the University and the opportunities it had given her. She felt that one way in which she could make a worthwhile contribution would be to stand for election to the Council of Convocation.

In 1983 Sue stood for, and was elected a member of the Standing Committee of Convocation – now the Council of Convocation. Since that time Sue served on the Council in various capacities for a total of twenty five years.

However, it is in her role as Warden of Convocation that Sue is deservedly worthy of recognition for her outstanding service to the University. Sue stood for and was elected first as Deputy Warden from 1994–1996 and then Warden from 1996–2003 and again from 2006–2008. In total Sue served as Warden for a period of nine years (1996–2003 and 2006–2008) making her the second longest serving Warden in Convocation’s 100 year history.

Sue was always respectful of the history and ceremonial role of the Warden as the fourth most senior official in the University, and was a keen supporter of UWA’s unique relationship with graduates through their membership of Convocation. While many other universities regard their graduates as external stakeholders, Sue understood that UWA is one of the few universities where graduates continue as part of the University community as life-long members of Convocation.

As the Warden of Convocation, Sue attended meetings of the Senate over a nine year period, first as an Observer, then as a member Ex-Officio and finally as a Convocation elected member.

Sue’s primary focus as the Warden was on the establishment of supportive and complementary programs to assist the graduate community. With the aim of increasing the number and value of the Convocation awards program, Sue successfully established collaborations with the University Research Committee, the Postgraduate Student Association, the Guild and the UWA Sports Association.

During her term as the Warden of Convocation, the number and value of Convocation Scholarships and Prizes grew to the point where there are now more than 60 undergraduate and postgraduate scholarships, prizes and awards given annually.

In recognition of her outstanding voluntary service to the University, in 2010 Dr Sue Baker was awarded the UWA Chancellors Medal.

For over twenty five years Dr Suzanne Baker gave sustained and outstanding voluntary service to the University, through membership of Convocation and through her adjunct academic appointments. In all of her dealings, both within and without the University, she proved herself to be a true citizen and ambassador of the University of Western Australia.

Her passion, enthusiasm and dedication for facilitating closer engagement between graduates and the University will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with her husband, Barrie Purser and their family, colleagues and friends as they come to terms with this loss in their lives.

To commemorate Sue’s immense contribution to Convocation, at its September meeting the Council of Convocation unanimously agreed to name a postgraduate travel scholarship in Sue’s honour. If you would like to contribute to the monies required to fund this initiative, please contact Halina Dorward at the University either by phone at +61 8 6488 1336 or via email at halina.dorward@uwa.edu.au.

All members of Convocation Council who were aware of Sue’s outstanding contribution to our University, felt that an annual postgraduate travel award in her name would be a fitting tribute to her memory.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM
Warden of Convocation
Annual Elections 10 March 2015

Nominations for the following positions open on Monday, 17 November 2014 and close 12 noon Monday, 15 December 2014.

- ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER OF SENATE
- ELECTION OF WARDEN AND DEPUTY WARDEN
- ELECTION OF NINE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF CONVOCATION

Mr Roderick Quentin Cooper will complete his term as a member of the Senate of the University of Western Australia, elected by Convocation, in March 2015.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM will complete his one-year term as Warden of Convocation in March 2015.

Mr Paul McCann AM will complete his one-year term as Deputy Warden of Convocation in March 2015.

Seven members of the Council of Convocation will complete terms in March 2015. There are two additional vacancies for positions on the Council of Convocation, one 2-year term and one 1-year term.

Nomination forms for all positions are now available from Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) by contacting the Returning Officer, WAEC at:
Level 2, 111 St Georges Terrace, Perth,
email: waec@waec.wa.gov.au,
phone: +61 8 9214 0400 or fax: +61 8 9226 0577;
or by contacting Juanita Perez, Convocation Officer on +61 8 6488 1336 or email on convocation@uwa.edu.au
and include your postal address.

Candidates may include with their nomination form a statement of biographical information not exceeding 250 words in length, and a recent passport size photograph.

All graduates of UWA are automatically members of Convocation and entitled to vote and/or nominate for positions in these elections.

For further information on the elections and the role of Convocation go to www.convocation.uwa.edu.au

Nominations received after 12 noon Monday, 15 December 2014 will be invalid.
50th Anniversary Reunion Luncheon

UWA Graduates of 1964

More than 70 graduates from The University of Western Australia in 1964 and their guests joined Convocation Council members to celebrate the 50-Year Anniversary of their graduation at a Reunion Luncheon at the University Club on Sunday, May 31.

Guest speakers for the event, 1964 graduates, artist and author Mrs Philippa O’Brien, former Federal Attorney General Mr Daryl Williams and Dr Nicholas Hasluck, former Justice of the Supreme Court and authors spoke enthusiastically of their time at UWA in a very different and vibrant era. They reflected on the turbulence of the 1960s, world events, political and social, the music of the time and their varied experiences in a campus community much smaller than it is today.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr, Warden of UWA’s Council of Convocation said the 50-Year Anniversary Reunion Luncheon had become a key event in the UWA Calendar with many graduates travelling from interstate and overseas to meet up again with former student friends and colleagues.

“The 50-Year Reunion Luncheons are delightful occasions, full of warmth and goodwill as graduates catch up and share their experiences of what they have been up to in the intervening years. As individuals and collectively, the Graduates of 1964 have made and continue to make significant contributions to Australian society in many and varied roles,” he said. “Convocation believes these events are important in maintaining important historical and community links between the past and the present. It is always pleasing to learn from graduates of this era about aspects of student life all those years ago. And how important graduating with a degree from UWA has been to them in being able to fulfil their potential.”

Guests were able to enjoy a guided tour of the University Campus that informed them of the significant capital and academic and educational developments to the campus over recent years.

1965 REUNION UNDERWAY

Planning for the next 50th Reunion—for UWA students who graduated in 1965—is well underway, so please spread the word to colleagues and friends.

The Outreach Committee of Convocation arranges the function but would welcome volunteers from among the 1965 graduates to join the committee and assist. If you are interested, please leave your name and phone number with the Convocation Officer, Juanita Perez on +61 8 6488 1336 or email: juanita.perez@uwa.edu.au
Grad Briefs

Stay in touch!

We’d love to know where you are, what you’re doing and planning, so please send us your news.

Email: terry.larder@uwa.edu.au
or post to: Terry Larder,
The University of Western Australia,
M474, 35 Stirling Highway,
Crawley, WA 6009.
We’d love to hear from you.

1940s

GWENYTH GRAHAM (nee Bowen) (BA 1949; DipEd 1951) husband Peter spent 10 years in Indonesia and Malaysia, their first assignment overseas being in West Timor (1957-1959). Returning to Perth in the 1970s with their three children, she shared her husband’s interest in Aboriginal involvement and was voluntary manager and secretary of Amnesty International WA for over a decade. Her book, The Winds of God, is the story of St Matthew’s Anglican Church in Shenton Park. Gwenyth and Peter’s latest commitment involves a partnership between the Nedlands Uniting Church (to which they belong) and the Christian University of West Timor (UKAW), with the church providing scholarships for disadvantaged students and facilitating academic exchange to develop the university’s accreditation status. If academics are interested, Gwenyth’s email address is gagraham@iinet.net.au.

1950s

GLEN PHILLIPS (Bed 1958; Med 1967) was born in 1936 in Southern Cross, WA. He is an internationally published poet and writer with 25 poetry collections and numerous other works. Glen is currently Director of the International Centre for Landscape and Language at Edith Cowan University. He has lectured in English Literature and Creative Writing at tertiary institutions for the past 52 years. His teaching and writing have taken him to Italy, India and China. Glen’s works have been translated into many languages and he has been featured on the ABC and SBS television. He is currently writing a trilogy of historic novels set in China and Australia in the period 1930-2010.

1960s

JOHN MELVILLE-JONES (PhD 1963) After studying at Cambridge University, John was appointed to a lectureship at UWA in 1957. As well as teaching Latin and Greek, he introduced units in Greek and Roman Art and Architecture, and specialised in the study of ancient numismatics. Developing an interest in the Byzantine world, particularly in the relationship between Byzantine and Venice, he has published several books. John became an Honorary Senior Research Fellow and Emeritus Professor in 2012.

MICHAEL MURRAY (LLB 1964) practised with the Crown Law Department, became Crown Counsel for WA and was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court of WA in 1990. He retired in 2012 and now chairs the Juvenile Parole Board and is Parliamentary Inspector for the Crime and Corruption Commission. Michael is an Adjunct Professor of Law at Murdoch University and a Member of the Executive of the National Trust of WA. In the 2014 Australia Day Honours list, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for significant service to the judiciary, law reform and education.

1970s

SUE NUTTALL (née Watson) (BA 1973) worked as a research assistant in the UWA Department of Education before returning to the Eastern States where for some years she was a farmer’s wife, mother and shearer’s cook. She was a lecturer at the State College of Victoria and occasionally lectured at La Trobe University where she later worked as Alumni Officer. Sue is now retired and indulges in grandmotherly pursuits, continues to learn French and in 2013 travelled to the Rhone Valley to explore the life and pottery of Anne Dangar, Australian potter in France 1930-51. Former classmates can contact Sue at nuttalls@impulse.net.au.

PETER YOUNG (BA 1974) has retired from corporate life to work full-time as a painter. He was previously a WA Newspapers journalist and since 1988 was Head of Public Affairs and an official spokesperson for Ansett, Medicare Private and Cricket Australia. Peter lives in Trentham, Victoria. Former classmates can contact him at petersyoung@cricket.com.au.

DOMINIC SPAGNOLO (MB BS 1976) is Clinical Professor of Pathology at UWA’s School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and a Consultant Pathologist at PathWest. He was awarded the Distinguished Pathologist Award from the Australian Division of the International Academy of Pathology (IAP), the Academy’s highest award.

Riding high

BRYCE BEVAN (BCom & BSc(Agric) 2014) will be one of the first West Australians to fly to Ireland on a prestigious two-year Darley Flying Start Scholarship. The former St Joseph’s College (Albany) and UWA School of Indigenous Studies graduate is one of only three Australians and 12 people worldwide to win a 2014-2016 scholarship into the Darley Flying Start management program. Bryce said his grandfather got him interested in horses when he was a boy by taking him to the trots in Albany, and from then on he had been passionate about horses. He gained his trainers and reinsman’s licence in the standard bred racing industry when he was 18 as well as completing various work placements in the thoroughbred racing industry while studying at UWA.

He has contributed to diagnostic histopathology, immune-histochemistry, ultra-structural pathology, molecular pathology, research and teaching. His post-fellowship training at Stanford University Medical Centre led to interests in lymphoma pathology. He sits on a number of journal editorial boards and his contributions to the IAP include representing WA as a board director for six years and the presidency from 2000-2001.

STEPHEN SMITH (BJuris 1977; LLB 1978; BA 1980) retired last year from a 20-year career in Federal politics. He has since been appointed Professor of International Law at UWA, a board member of Perth USA/Asia Centre and a member of Lavan Legal’s advisory board. Last July, Stephen became the vice-patron of the Arthritis and Osteoporosis WA.

RAELENE FRANCES (née Davidson) (BA(Hons)1978; MA 1981) has been a Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Monash University since 2007.

1980s

PETER LEUNG (PhD 1985) writes that he started his academic career at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1960 and is now a Professor in the Department of Chemistry. Former classmates can contact him at keving.leung@cuhk.edu.hk.

CATHERINE HESSE-SWAIN (BA(Hons) 1987) is a social policy adviser with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet in Canberra. Catherine had previous experience in media liaison/public relations with the WA Government, journalism and in SE Asia and international development with AusAID. She completed her PhD studies in
271 years of wisdom

Edna Carruthers (left) Terry McCall and Jean Cecil are three foundation Graduate Volunteers at the UWA Visitors Information Centre, which was established in 1997 to enhance visitors contact with the University. As nonagenarians they collectively bring 271 years of wisdom and knowledge to the Centre and get great satisfaction from being able to return something back to their University.

EDNA CARRUTHERS (BA 1986) did nursing training at Royal Perth Hospital (1943–1946) and remained on the nursing staff for a year. She trained in obstetrics in Sydney and then spent one year country nursing in Cunderdin before getting married in 1949. In 1974, Edna travelled to Greece and was inspired to learn more.

TERRY MCCALL (BE 1953) an ex–WW2 RAAF Transport Pilot commenced studies in 1947 and on graduating began a career in Telecommunications with Telecom Australia, working in most Australian States, with overseas appointments in Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia. Terry celebrated his 80th birthday last January and is married with three children and eight grandchildren.

JEAN CECIL (née Johnston) (BSc 1945) worked at the Government Chemical Laboratories in 1944. This was seen as acceptable because men were still involved in the war. In 1947, she married and then raised her two sons and when they reached high school age, Jean accepted a position as Demonstrator in the Chemistry Department at UWA. This, she said, was most pleasant job and to be recommended. Jean turned 91 in September.

2000s

PETER PLAKIDIS (LLB & BCom 2001) is currently the Co-CEO of Plaman Group, a Sydney-based principal investment group that undertakes buyouts and debt restructurings across Australia and NZ.

PETER CHENG (LLB & BCom 2002) is counsel with David Park & Wardwell LLP, a global law firm. He is based in their Hong Kong Corporate Department and his practice focuses on equity capital market transactions, initial public offerings in Hong Kong, compliance with Hong Kong’s listing rules, mergers, acquisitions and private equity investments. He also advises major corporations and private equity clients on investments and strategic transactions.

DUNCAN ORD (GradCertMgt 2002; GradDipBA 2003; MBA 2005) was appointed Head of the WA Department of Culture and the Arts last July. He was previously Deputy Director-General of the WA Department of Culture and the Arts last July.

2010s

HADASSA LONDON (née Altman) (BA & LLB 2010) is currently on maternity leave from her position as Procurement Manager in the WA Department of Finance. Former classmates can contact her at hadassa.a@hotmail.com.

ABEL DA COSTA CONCEICAO (BSc 2012) works for the National Petroleum Authority of East Timor. This photo taken last year shows Abel on board the Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MDOU) Stena Clyde doing an inspection before embarking on operations in Kitano field located in the Joint Petroleum Development Area shared by Australia and East Timor in the Timor Sea.

SARAH HELDSINGER (BA(hons) 2013) works as a Project Officer for the DreamFit Foundation and is responsible for events and managing grant and sponsorship programs. Sarah recently returned from an adventure holiday through South America. Former classmates can contact her at sarah@dreamfit.com.au.

RENAE LIANG (BA & BSc 2012) writes that she spent the last couple of years of her UWA studies investigating and writing a Masters of International Relations at the University of Melbourne, and one year studying at the University College London (UCL). Renaie now works at the Commonwealth Treasury as a Graduate Recruit. Former classmates can contact her at renaeiang@gmail.com.

CARYN TAN (BCom 2014) has started her Master’s degree in Management at the London Business School. After graduating from UWA, she completed a year of study on a Chinese Government scholarship program at Shanghai’s Fudan University.

Queen’s Birthday Honours June 2014

Dr Megan Clark, AO
(BSc 1981; HonDSc 2006)
Mr Frank Cooper, AO
(BCom 1977)
Professor Barry Ninham,
AO (BSc 1957; MSc 1959; HDSc 2010)
Professor Terence Nolan, AO
(BMedSc 1974; MB BS 1977)
Professor Alan Rosen, AO
(MB BS 1971)
Dr Carl Vine, AO
(HonDMus 2010)
Associate Professor Nadia Badawi, AM
(PHD 1998)
Mr Frank Cronyn, AM
(BCom 1974)
Dr Margaret Henderson, AM
(BA 1986; PhD 1981)
Professor Bill Louden, AM
(BA 1976)
Mr Gregory Martin, AM
(BE 1965; BCom 1973)
Mr Murray Meaton, AM
(BSc(Agric) 1971; BE 1980)
Professor Harry Phillips, AM
(BA 1973)
Professor Michael Poole, AM
(BSc 1965)
Dr Peter McInnes, OAM
(PHD 1975)(dec 1/2/14)
Mr Ian Cosiew, OAM
(BA(Hons) 1983)
Mrs Jenny Shub, OAM
(BA 1948)
QUEEN’S BIRTHDAY HONOURS (UK)
JUNE 2014

Professor Fiona Bull, MBE
(PHD 1998)
Graduate’s contribution recognised

Earlier this year UWA graduate Jenny Shub received an Order of Australia Medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours for her ongoing work in Holocaust education and awareness. More than twenty years ago Jenny became involved with the Holocaust Institute of WA, believing time was running out for WA Holocaust survivors whose unrecorded stories were too valuable a part of history to be lost. Her daughter-in-law Alice Shub (née Nelson) says Jenny spent hundreds of hours visiting their homes and recording their stories.

“Her support and counselling led many who had never been able to speak about their wartime experiences to tell their stories. She also worked tirelessly to identify those ordinary citizens who risked their lives to rescue Jews during the Holocaust, coordinating the process for several individuals now living in Australia to be acknowledged at the Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem,” says Alice. [Alice studied creative writing at UWA and is the author of The Last Sky for the UWA Historical Society, and won the Brian Baty Award for best first book for her novel Jerusalem,] “I was so very lucky to be born in Australia,” says the graduate, “and have always felt that the Jews of Europe were extended family – indeed some of them were.” says Jenny.

Jenny’s grandfather came to Australia from Russia and hoped to create a better life for his children. Both of Jenny’s parents won scholarships to Perth Modern School and later studied at UWA, her father being among the early Irwin Street students.

After leaving Perth College at 16, Jenny worked for a year in the Zoology Department and it was there that she was encouraged to enrol. She studied Arts, was a Hockey Blue and secretary to the Arts Union while her brother David studied Law and played cricket and football for the University.

When Jenny and her brother graduated, they became further links in the family’s UWA chain, and since then additional links have been added by her sons Danny and David, and by grandchildren – one currently studying engineering while his brother graduated two years ago. So the family now has four generations of UWA graduates.

Jenny was on the Guild Council in 1947 and still has a framed photograph of the members of that year, some of whom became well-known identities. She studied philosophy and psychology at UWA, and had a 40-year career as an educational psychologist. Today, she is still drawn back to the campus for reunions. “I still have such affection for the place…” she says.

Seeking memorabilia

Dr Joan Pope, who regularly unearths invaluable information for the UWA Historical Society, would love to hear from anyone with memorabilia related to Dorothy Fleming. “Dorothy was a wonderful dance education teacher,” writes Dr Pope. “Graduating in 1935, she studied ballet with Linley Wilson but wanted to pursue a broader range of physical technique and folk dance for school children. UWA awarded her a travelling scholarship to study dance education in England and later she pioneered ABC schools broadcasts in Perth. Her Let’s Join in programs were an inventive mix of movement, story, poems and songs and were delivered nation-wide. Dorothy was a colleague of Jeana Bradley and they developed the Sunken Garden as a performance venue. Dorothy (who married Norman Hollingsworth and raised a family) was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to education and the arts.” If you have any memorabilia please contact Joan on popejoan@westnet.com.au

New book

DAVID WHISH-WILSON (MA 1999) had already produced two successful crime novels Line of Sight and Zero at the Bone, when commissioned to write the text for Perth, one of a series of ‘portraits’ of capital cities produced by NewSouth Publishing.

“Both of my novels provide a strong sense of place for what is, in fictional terms at least, a largely unrepresented city,” says the graduate. “I thought I knew quite a lot about the city when I embarked upon writing Perth, but of course I knew comparatively little, and so had to immerse myself very quickly in what is, thankfully, a great wealth of material about the city provided by local historians, writers and storytellers.

“It’s certainly altered my view of Perth forever, and for the better. It’s allowed me to see Perth in a new and nuanced light – it’s made me more ‘present’ in the city. Every view now is layered with historical images and stories, which makes for a more textured and richer experience. As well, writing the book has enabled me to see how much the city has shaped the person I’ve become. As someone who had a very mobile upbringing (we moved 21 times before I was 10), I don’t take the idea of having a hometown and a sense of belonging to a place called ‘home’ lightly at all.”

Dare Me!

Since 2000 John Burbidge has focussed on writing projects, including a biography of Australian author Gerald Glaskin published this year.

“My participation in the 2014 Perth Writers Festival at UWA felt like a homecoming after 44 years,” says the author who has lived in the United States for many years and currently lives with his partner in the San Juan Islands that have National Monument status. While relishing being part of this small community he remains connected to “the rest of the planet” through travels, from Tierra del Fuego to Indonesia.

“My next writing project is an anthology of stories from trips to more than 40 countries and encounters with many people who have inspired and enthralled me.”

The graduate’s biography of Glaskin, a 1950/60s novelist and short story writer, has earned plaudits from reviewers, with the Australian Book Review observing: “Never heard of Gerry Glaskin? With John Burbidge’s biography, you no longer have any excuses.”
Establishing a tradition of learning

Four generations of the Cullity family have graduated from UWA. Among the undergraduates of 1913, the year UWA opened its doors to students, were two brothers, Jack and Tom Cullity – indeed it is a family legend that Tom was the first student through the door at the Irwin Street campus.

Their parents had sailed to Australia from rural Kerry in 1888. Being the youngest of four sons on a small dairy farm, their father saw no prospect of future ownership, so at the age of 19 he sailed to Australia to better himself. He married and raised a family in Fremantle, and he and his wife (also from Kerry) were convinced the education they had been denied in Ireland would be vital to the success of their children.

When Jack and Tom enrolled, study conditions in the small East Street home were testing. A family history, Cullitys, authored by Maurice Cullity, recalls evening gatherings around a table, with children doing homework. Jack often went for a walk, returning when the house was quiet to study until midnight.

After being awarded a Masters degree in English and History, Jack studied Law at Melbourne University. Graduating with a Master of Laws, he joined the Melbourne Bar and had a distinguished career as a barrister mainly in criminal law. He was esteemed by his peers who wrote and spoke of him 'as an outstanding advocate in a particularly strong era of advocates'.

Tom qualified in civil engineering and became a successful timber merchant and plywood manufacturer. A method of rapidly seasoning timber in a kiln had been developed in the United States during World War I and when the School of Engineering was seeking a final year volunteer to supervise the construction and operation of a kiln (utilising Western Australian hardwoods) Tom volunteered. His research formed his final year Engineering thesis and he went on to found Cullity Timbers that became a major supplier of plywood. When he retired, his son Denis (also a UWA graduate) continued to expand the business.

A win for UWA hockey

Last year may have been UWA’s Centenary but the UWA Hockey Club isn’t far behind – this year one of the University’s oldest sporting clubs celebrated its 90th anniversary.

Guests at The University Club’s Banquet Hall included player groups from each decade from the 1960s to the present. More than 30 people had been awarded Full Blue or Half Blue awards. (Full and Half Blue awards from the UWA Sports Council go to currently enrolled students achieving outstanding success as a competitor and for service to their UWA sports club or team.)

Guest speaker at the 90th anniversary dinner was former Federal Foreign Minister, UWA law graduate and recently appointed Professor of Law, Stephen Smith, who gave an entertaining account of his association with the club, including his time as manager of the women’s first division team.

UWA Hockey Club encourages alumni to maintain or renew connections with UWA through the University Associates Hockey Club. Graduates can play together in friendship groups under the banner of University Associates, leaving students to play in teams of the like-minded. University Associates currently has seven women’s and five men’s teams, with the majority of players aged over 40.

Among guests at another recent reunion of former players in the women’s division of UWA were four 1960s alumni: Margaret Longson (née Heron), Judith Gauntlett (née Young), Lois Muhling and Jean Williams (née Walker).
The University of Western Australia.
Founder of the Perth International Arts Festival.

In 1953 UWA Professor Fred Alexander brought to life his vision of a ‘festival for the people’. And just like UWA’s involvement with the community, the arts festival has been growing ever since. From its humble beginnings as a community arts experiment to the extravaganza it's become, the Perth International Arts Festival has always been a pride and joy of our university.

To find out more about culture and the arts at UWA, visit culturalprecinct.uwa.edu.au

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