Twenty years ago, the Thean family pledged to help UWA research haematology and blood disorders in memory of their father, LT.

Now, UWA is a world leader in the area thanks to the generosity of donors like the Theans. Their gift continues to support UWA’s rising stars such as PhD student Sam Taylor who is making advances in leukaemia research.

Make a gift in memory and create a better future.

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IN FOCUS | Autumn 2015

UWA graduate Dr Angus Turner has already known several career landmarks: there was the Rhodes Scholarship that took him to Oxford to hone his skills as an eye surgeon and, in 2010, his founding of Lions Outback Vision that takes eye health services to regional and remote communities where vision loss is a devastating problem. Each year the service reaches 5,000 people in the Pilbara, Kimberley, Great Southern and Goldfields and it recently won him the recognition of the First Among Equals Award at the WA Business News 40Under40 Awards.

However, one suspects that for this graduate scholarships and awards are entirely trumped by the reward of restoring sight to a Jigalong grandmother who was able to see her 13-year-old granddaughter for the first time. Blind for many years, Mavis Arnott was among several eye patients who had boarded a chartered flight to Port Hedland for cataract surgery performed by Dr Turner. “It’s truly rewarding when vision can be restored,” says Dr Turner. “It’s also rewarding being part of the dynamic team that makes it happen. Eye health is all about teamwork; nothing happens in isolation. In Mavis’ case, it was telehealth and an optometrist who brought her to the attention of Lions Outback Vision.”

Dr Turner says gaps in visual care for remote patients have been recognised for a long time and many have tackled the problem over the last five decades. He sees himself as accepting the baton from indigenous eye health pioneers such as Father Frank Flynn and Professor Ida Mann who undertook the first survey of trachoma in the 1950s and 60s, and from the legendary Professor Fred Hollows and WA ophthalmologists Dr Philip House and Dr Peter Graham (a UWA graduate).

While preventable diseases such as trachoma continue to rob remote community residents of their sight, Dr Turner believes we are now better able to reduce the loss of sight caused by diabetes and macular degeneration. His long-term vision is optimistic. “The way we treat eye disease has changed a lot in the last decade, with more devices for investigating and treating common conditions. Mobile facilities can take care to people and close the gap that sees too many rural and remote residents suffering from preventable diseases,” says Dr Turner.

“Today we have Aboriginal health workers screening patients for diabetic changes in the eye and optometrists checking primary eye care. The main role of Lions Outback Vision is to help coordinate the teams of people required for areas with workforce shortages, so that the three areas of eye health are integrated. We’re all working to improve access so these patients have the same levels of care that city people enjoy.”

Dr Turner heads Indigenous Eye Health at UWA’s Centre of Ophthalmology and Visual Science and teaches in the Rural Clinical School of WA. He is also a Consultant Ophthalmologist at the UWA-affiliated Lions Eye Institute. You can see an interview with Dr Turner at: youtube.com/watch?v=pJzWPC9hUFw

Eye health is all about teamwork; nothing happens in isolation.
Another winner!

“Innovation distinguishes between a leader and a follower,” said Apple’s Steve Jobs, and UWA’s innovation track record is certainly underscoring this University’s leadership in science.

The annual WA Innovator of the Year Awards celebrate home-grown technologies making an impact globally – and that’s exactly what Resonance Health’s unique imaging has achieved for the diagnosis and monitoring of liver disease.

The Perth-based company’s latest revolutionary technology was recently recognised with the 2014 WA Innovator of the Year Overall Winner award and the man at the helm of Resonance Health’s research is Professor Tim St Pierre, who heads UWA’s BioMagnetics Research Group.

The team – Associate Professor Mike House and PhD graduate Dr Wenjie Pang (School of Physics) and scientists from Resonance Health – recently developed a technology for non-invasively measuring fat concentration in the liver.

The new award-winning technology, HepaFat-Scan®, being commercialised by Resonance Health has applications in liver cancer surgery and management of the common condition of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Previously, Professor St Pierre had consigned to history the invasive and often painful procedure of a liver biopsy that measured iron concentration in the liver. His team’s alternative technology easily piggy-backs onto the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) available in major hospitals and it is now used worldwide.

Twenty years ago, Professor St Pierre and his colleagues raised puzzled eyebrows with their study of magnetism in medicine. Last year the man who revolutionised liver investigations delivered 55 lectures over four continents when the global Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers named him their Magnetic Society’s Distinguished Lecturer.

Today, with colleague Associate Professor Rob Woodward, the UWA researcher is working on a simple and cheap diagnostic tool for two of the world’s most challenging tropical diseases: Malaria and Bilhazia.

Another innovative technology that collected an Innovator of the Year Award was the Microscope-in-a-Needle developed by UWA’s Optical + Biomedical Engineering Laboratory – see The world’s smallest microscope takes on a big challenge.

Graduates in award-winning comedy

Graduates with a talent for entertainment maintain their campus links through involvement with the Graduate Dramatic Society – and right now GRADS is busy rehearsing Tom Stoppard’s award winning comedy The Real Thing. This tour de force play about the nature and mystery of love is full of Stoppard’s signature wordplay, wit and insight. It’s directed by Barry Park and is presented in association with Stirling Players at the Stirling Theatre in Innaloo in June and early July. Law/Arts graduates Alex Ripper and Bree Stanway are among the cast and you can book at grads.org.au

UWA research showcased

The impact of UWA research on local and global communities will be showcased from September 7 – 11 and you’re invited! There will be a wide range of free activities and the opportunity to meet some of the University’s leading and emerging researchers. This is an event that will draw researchers, industry professionals, alumni, prospective students and their parents and the wider community. Look out for UWA Research Week news closer to the event and see how 21st century research is driving new possibilities.

Meanwhile, prospective students and researchers can get an insight into our research with global partners by visiting UWA Global Science, a new website that focuses on key areas: feeding the world; preventing, diagnosing and treating disease; advancing human knowledge and enhancing society; harnessing resources and energy for a sustainable future; and restoring the natural environment. Visit: scienceglobal.uwa.edu.au

Former President is Visiting Professor

Although unable to attend the May event, Indonesia’s former President, Professor Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, was the headline speaker at the In the Zone Leadership Forum in Perth, his keynote address being delivered via video technology. It was also announced that the former President would become a Senior Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre (see Bringing together ‘the best of the best’).

In the Zone, WA’s premier forum on questions of regional significance, is an initiative of UWA’s Energy and Minerals Institute (EMI). It is presented by UWA in partnership with Rio Tinto, the Perth USAsia Centre and the WA Government.

A recent In the Zone event in Singapore was an opportunity to launch EMI’s inaugural State of Mind publication, a data-journalism report that recasts WA’s narrative from a ‘state of mining’ to a ‘state of mind’. Arguing that a resources-based economy is also a knowledge-based economy, the report points out that 60 per cent of global mining software is produced in Perth.
“I’m not very ambitious, I’m just seeing where my music takes me,” School of Music graduate Shaun Lee-Chen told UNIVEW early in his career.

At the time, Shaun was more interested in paying tribute to his inspiring mentor and teacher, UWA’s virtuoso violinist Paul Wright: “When he plays the violin, he will turn a phrase in such a way that you wonder: where did that come from?”

The graduate went on to perform with WASO (where his sister Semra Lee is the Assistant Concertmaster), to become ABC Young Performer of the Year and more recently, to be soloist and guest concertmaster with the Brandenburg Orchestra.

Now the brilliant young violinist is returning to UWA to mentor the University’s outstanding young musicians and to work closely with Professor Wright, who will balance a return to performing with Australia’s leading orchestras with close involvement with the School.

“With the School enjoying unprecedented growth – and Shaun Lee-Chen as Artist in Residence – we’re in an enviable position to ensure our students the wealth and breadth of world-class musicians and scholars,” says Dr Alan Lourens, Head of Music.
Helping hand for a new generation

UWA's relationship with graduates extends well beyond graduation, with a recent alumni survey indicating more than half of responding graduates were happy to volunteer their time, including mentoring current students.

That was good news for Jo Hocking, Coordinator of UWA’s Career Mentor Link program. “It’s wonderful how willing alumni are to ‘give back’ and this program is a great way to help a new generation of students,” says Ms Hocking.

The mentoring program links students with industry professionals and more than 1,500 students have benefitted since its inception in 2003. Last year more than 400 students registered for it and UWA’s Women in Engineering mentoring.

“Feedback suggests it is mutually beneficial because while assisting our high-calibre students, mentors can work on their own leadership, communication and coaching skills,” says Ms Hocking, who last year won a national award from the Australian Awards for University Teaching.

For more information visit: careermentorlink.uwa.edu.au or telephone Jo Hocking on +61 8 6488 3799.

They were larger than life, and - like the Perth International Arts Festival itself - The Giants left an enduring legacy in learning that was fitting for a festival born on UWA’s campus and still run from this University.

Children among the 1.4 million who saw The Giants connected with the ANZAC narrative in a way few will forget; aspiring student performers witnessed what it takes to be counted among the very best in global theatre, music and dance; and seven Young Ambassadors - with sights set on careers in the arts - had a privileged behind-the-scenes learning experience through involvement in diverse PIAF events including the Perth Writers Festival that brought a record 44,000 to our campus.

Festival Ambassador Phoebe Sullivan assisted with The Giants and developed puppetry skills at a Handspring Puppet Company workshop. Bailey Field from Albany was involved in the technical set up for Great Southern Festival productions, while Aashna Grewal gained insights into film distribution with Lotterywest Festival Films.

“Having watched and worked alongside world renowned artists, the program opened a gateway of opportunities,” recalls Phoebe. “I would highly recommend it and, given the chance, would do it all over again, and again, and again!”

As Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway prepared his final festival, he observed: “The relationship with UWA is in the DNA of this Festival – designing a festival is like embarking on research, not knowing what you’ll discover…”

The UWA/PIAF partnership has successfully spanned six decades – engaging with big ideas, pushing boundaries, and reaching for those far horizons of learning, experience and discovery. Just as bringing The Giants to Perth called for the combined support of government, corporations, institutions and generous individuals, so UWA’s research, its establishment of new chairs and its adoption of innovative ways of learning benefits from the generosity of all of the above. Such invaluable community support is reflected in many articles in this issue.

As he farewelled the city he had taken on a four-year journey, Jonathan Holloway seemed well satisfied with a festival that began with the largest ever Noongar Welcome to Country. “Western Australia is intensely creative, let’s stop being nervous about admitting it,” he urged.

“You created the first city arts festival in Australia and I’ve absolutely loved going on this adventure with you…”

PIAF General Manager Julian Donaldson spoke for many when observing that Jonathan’s festivals will be remembered for their ambition, scale and public participation. And as one Artistic Director moved on to his next adventure – running the Melbourne Festival – another was waiting in the wings.

Wendy Martin, who has been head of performance and dance at the Southbank Centre in London, takes the artistic helm for the 2016 – 2019 festivals.
UWA vies for Guggenheim award

In the realms of art museums and architectural excellence, the Guggenheim brand is hard to match, with a string of landmark museums designed by legendary architects. Frank Lloyd Wright designed the Solomon R. Guggenheim in New York; then Frank Gehry added the Guggenheim museum Bilbao in Spain that turned a little known Spanish town into a mecca for travellers and art lovers. The most recent Guggenheim in Abu Dhabi was also designed by Gehry and all three were commissioned by the Solomon R. Guggenheim Foundation. However, when the Foundation was planning the Helsinki Guggenheim, it decided to stage an international design contest. The design brief for the $200 million museum on Helsinki harbour inevitably stirred interest throughout the world, attracting a record-breaking 1,715 entries.

While identities have been kept secret, contestants are said to include both eminent ‘big name’ architects and university faculties. We know the latter, because when the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition’s six finalists were announced last December, a team from UWA’s Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts (ALVA) was among them. We can’t show you their design, but it’s one of the above finalist designs, and the winner will be announced in June. Says ALVA Dean Simon Anderson: “This is a prestigious achievement, given the Guggenheim Foundation has only ever involved architects of the calibre of Frank Lloyd Wright and Frank Gehry.”

From the outset, the ALVA team has been led by Associate Professor Dr Fernando Jerez (who is also Director of SMAR Architects) and his partner in life and business Belen Perez de Juan, a teaching assistant at ALVA. Both have won several architectural awards in Europe. Dr Jerez points out that there were extraordinary elements to this challenge, including the fact that ALVA’s design was produced without the team being able to visit the Helsinki site. “We had to do a lot of research to get a feel for the site, and the judges were clearly delighted that we had taken into account the public space dimensions of the building,” says Dr Jerez. “In summer, Helsinki lives on the street but during its dark, hard winter, it retreats indoors. We tried to create a space that worked all year round, that gave the city a public space not just a building.”

The Spanish architects, who took up UWA appointments last year, involved ALVA students from Stage 1. “They loved that it was a real life project as well as an exceptional learning opportunity,” says Dr Jerez. “Being involved in something like this places the student between the academy and the firm. All our students do internships with companies for work integrated learning, and this project saw them working on all aspects of the design brief including drawings, models, preparing the 50-page folio we had to submit – as well as debating the merits of the design.”

“The Guggenheim is probably the biggest art brand in the world and because of the number of submissions, it is the biggest contest of its kind in the last century. So it’s been a great experience for us to be there and for our students to have been involved.”

‘Real life’ learning

This issue of UNIVIEW illustrates just some of the extraordinary learning opportunities that UWA students enjoy. We write about Service Learning, an experiential form of learning that benefits students and the community, about the students and academics involved in UWA’s entry into the Guggenheim Helsinki Design Competition (see above) and the Shipwrecks of the Roaring Forties project on Beacon Island.

A researcher (and graduate) from the Centre for Forensic Science began her career on Beacon and went on to study a Masters in Forensic Archaeology in the UK. Research Associate Ambika Flavel is about to lead a group of postgraduates interested in archaeological excavation and physical anthropology on a field trip to an Italian island that was once a quarantine post for ships suspected of carrying the plague.

“The study of mass graves requires a holistic approach, but with exhumations being rare it’s invaluable for our postgraduate researchers to be afforded access to a 17th century plague grave containing the remains of an estimated 2,000 individuals,” says Ms Flavel. “We’ve already filled the quota for Forensic Anthropology Group students for this field season and they’re so enthusiastic about this opportunity to visit Lazzaretto Nuovo, northeast of Venice.”

The UWA researcher has wide experience in working with international teams on the exhumation of mass graves.
From ochre to nail polish

“Painting has been declared dead and resurrected so many times over the history of modern art,” observes Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery Curator Gemma Watson. “It tends to survive as a relevant medium no matter how technology evolves, and I think that’s because of, rather in spite of the historical ‘weight’ of the medium. There’s the possibility of infinite variety and experimentation but also a sense of an ongoing framework and continuum.”

That’s a good introduction to OBJECT LESSON I, the first of three exhibitions at the gallery, with each discrete ‘chapter’ presenting contemporary art from the Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art.

The first exhibition focuses on paintings that run the gamut of ochre works from the far North West of Australia to nail polish paintings. Rather than defining what is or isn’t a painting, the exhibition offers a range of perspectives on painting and painters that shed light on the medium’s enduring significance. The exhibition runs to June 27. For more information, visit: hrgallery.uwa.edu.au

As Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, mentions in his column, UWA is marking the Great War with August events commemorating Gallipoli’s August Offensive and the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII.

“This confluence of dates provides the opportunity to deliver a program containing commemorations and celebrations, the dark and the light, that encompass both wars,” says Professor Johnson.

The highlights of UWA’s August include a symposium War and Emotions and Annette Thas’ MUD, BLOOD & GAS: Visions of Hell on the Western Front. Free School of Music concerts will open and close the program. Full details visit: culturalprecinct.uwa.edu.au

Graduates chronicle the Great War

UWA graduates have been busy producing books to mark the Great War, and local politicians have been generous with their time in launching their publications.

WA Premier Colin Barnett launched John Dowson’s Off to War (see Grad Briefs) while Federal MP Alannah MacTiernan returned to campus for the launch of Carolyn Holbrook’s Anzac, The Unauthorised Biography at the UWA Co-Op Bookshop. In her book published by NewSouth, Carolyn Holbrook chronicles how Australia’s memory of the Great War has declined and surged, reflecting the varied and complex history of the nation itself. She asks why so many Australians persist with what she sees as the fiction that the nation was born on 25 April.

For more on books published by graduates, see Grad Briefs.

Aspiring to study at UWA

When more than 50 Indigenous final year secondary students from across the State recently visited UWA for a leadership seminar organised by the School of Indigenous Studies (SIS), many were already familiar with residential camps at UWA having attended them since Year 8. Aimed at encouraging Year 12s to aspire to a tertiary education, the visitors discovered the study options available and met current Indigenous students and high profile Law graduate Tammy Solomon (UNVIEW Autumn 2014), along with Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, respected Aboriginal leaders and SIS staff.

Since 1988, nearly 300 Indigenous students have graduated, and recently family and friends gathered to see 38 undergraduate and postgraduate students – the largest cohort yet – graduating, including five who were the first to complete the School’s Indigenous Knowledge, History and Heritage major. The numbers represent an 80 per cent increase compared to the previous year.

Join us on campus!

The July School holidays always draw a young cohort to our campus to participate in fun activities in the UWA Kids Sports program – and to check out University Theatre’s programs designed for children. And forthcoming productions at the Octagon and Dolphin are likely to find ready audiences.

Patch Theatre Company will present two performances of their rollicking new show Cranky Bear on July 18, and on August 1 there’s Barking Gecko Theatre/Windmill Theatre’s The Ballad of Pondlife McGurk. Directed by Gill Robertson, the play examines the fragile nature of schoolyard friendship and it has been hailed as “a masterpiece for children and adults alike”.

Bookings for all of the above at ticketsWA.com, an online booking service with no booking charges. Enquiry Line: +61 8 6488 2440 (noon-4pm weekdays).
New UWA chair offers hope for rheumatic treatments

We want medical students – our future GPs and physicians – to understand the impact of these conditions on patients

People tend to associate arthritis with the wear-and-tear of age, whereas its disabling conditions can affect all age groups including children who – like others battling the chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease – often face delays in diagnosis.

Recognising the need to raise the profile of these conditions, Arthritis and Osteoporosis WA mounted a four-year campaign to establish a Chair of Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Medicine – and was delighted to welcome Dutch rheumatologist Johannes “Hans” Nossent to the inaugural chair at UWA.

Recruited after a worldwide search, Professor Nossent points to a regrettable lack of services for patients with rheumatic conditions, some being as frequent and preventable as diseases such as diabetes.

“Without a cure, these are chronic conditions patients have to deal with for the rest of their lives,” stresses Professor Nossent. “However, much can be done to improve their quality of life.

“My priority will be reviewing the medical curriculum and placing more emphasis on rheumatic diseases. We want medical students – our future GPs and physicians – to understand the impact of these conditions on patients and society, and on direct medical costs and loss of productivity. We also view early and correct diagnosis as the key to improving outcomes.”

Musculoskeletal conditions affect more than six million Australians – 28 per cent of the population – with the most severe rheumatoid arthritis affecting 2 per cent.

The inaugural professorship is the result of a $2.4 million collaboration between UWA, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Arthritis and Osteoporosis WA. The association’s executive director Ric Forlano, who helped recruit Professor Nossent, hopes the new role will shine a much-needed spotlight on long overlooked conditions that deserve the same awareness, research and support services as cancer, heart disease and diabetes.

Professor Nossent studied Medicine in the Netherlands, completing his Rheumatology training at the University Hospital of Leiden. After several international appointments he became staff rheumatologist at Royal Darwin Hospital in 2012, setting up telehealth clinics for remote patients.

The rheumatology expert has co-authored more than 120 scientific publications and several rheumatology text books. He has also served on the board of research, professional and patient advocacy organisations in Europe.

Explaining The Theory of Everything

Theoretical physics, quantum field theory, string theory – they’re a world away from the glitzy world of the movies, but when the movie is The Theory of Everything and there’s a need to explain the science behind Stephen Hawking’s brilliant career, the gulf needed to be bridged.

Enter Jerome Gauntlett, Professor of Theoretical Physics at London’s Imperial College who became the film’s Theoretical Physics consultant, meeting with actor Eddie Redmayne for a crash course in black hole physics, writing relevant equations on the blackboard, and providing script advice on the science and pre-screening talks.

The UWA graduate became part of Stephen Hawking’s group in the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics at Cambridge after completing his UWA degree in physics and maths. He still recalls with pleasure his time on campus and “the inspirational lecturers as well as lecturers who were very generous with their time”.

“Solving the fundamental physics of nature is one of humanity’s greatest cultural triumphs and everyone should have access to this knowledge. Doing outreach is one way to facilitate this.”

Correction

In a recent issue of UNIVIEW (Autumn 2014, Partnerships in Learning) we attributed the establishment of the BalEye program to the Lions Eye Institute. Dr Peter Graham, Senior Ophthalmic Consultant to the John Fawcett Foundation, has pointed out that BalEye was born in 1989 as a Rotary project when John Hollingshead (then a District Governor at West Perth) and John Fawcett of Bali discussed the possibilities of a cataract service for the poor.

“Through his vision and hard work, Mr Hollingshead mobilised local clubs and international grants from the Rotary Headquarters in the United States, while Mr Fawcett became the full-time volunteer liaison officer for the work in Bali. Following Rotary protocol, once well established, it was formally handed over to the new NGO, the John Fawcett Foundation (and Yayasan Kemanusian Indonesia, its national functionary) in 1998.

“In recent years, the Indonesian Armed Forces have provided transport, accommodation and logistics to enable BalEye staff to extend their services to previously unreached communities throughout the archipelago... and we are grateful that staff from the Lions Eye Institute have been amongst the multiple eye health and IT volunteers who have helped the JF achieve its current effectiveness.”

We thank Dr Graham for putting us right.
In March this year the University was proud to once again deliver the Perth International Arts Festival (PIAF) to the people of WA. This stunning and unique series of cultural events has been an annual standing item in the social calendar of West Australians since its foundation.

I have no doubt that the 2015 festival will be remembered as the year that The Giants roamed the streets of Perth. For what was a spectacular and first time occurrence for our city, we met two very special giants who greeted more than 1.4 million people and mesmerised us with their love of music, affection for each other and of course, their need for sleep. Whilst The Giants was our signature event for 2015, UWA’s PIAF also brought many other outstanding events featuring musicians, artists, dancers and of course the annual writers’ festival and festival films based on campus.

PIAF was founded by the University in 1953 and since then it has transformed into one of the largest festivals in the southern hemisphere. This festival is just one aspect of the University’s community and engagement initiative. UWA recognises that, as a key public asset of the WA community, it is our responsibility to give back to this great State, something that is reflected in our mission. Events such as PIAF allow members of UWA’s large network of alumni to continue to benefit from our cultural and creative vision and involve themselves in our quest for strengthening our State’s innovative, creative and unique talents.

The PIAF team here at UWA look forward to bringing you further entertaining and exciting events in the coming years.

This year is of particular importance for our country as we commemorate and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the fallen Anzacs in Gallipoli. I am proud that UWA is making a great effort to ensure that we contribute to the recognition of the tremendous bravery of our Aussie diggers, which included UWA students and members of staff and Convocation. While most commemorative events will rightly take place in April, the University has decided to run its own events later in the year to give people ample opportunity for remembrance. In August, through UWA’s Cultural Precinct, the University will host a three week program to mark both the centenary of the August Offensive at Gallipoli and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This rare confluence of dates allows for both commemoration and celebration. A program of concerts, exhibitions, public talks and a celebratory dinner has been developed and will form the central theme of the University’s annual WINTERArts festival culturalprecinct.uwa.edu.au

I invite alumni and friends of UWA to join us in these very important events as we give thanks and pay respect to the brave men and women who gave their lives in defending our freedoms here and across the world.

Professor Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor
Can two words — Pursue Impossible — distill a core UWA commitment; become a daily mission statement for our University? Will a young brand-savvy audience respond to this two-word challenge at a time when higher education has become a player in a highly competitive global arena that sees targeted marketing as an important element of 21st century universities?

“We think the clarion call of Pursue Impossible will be taken up not just by prospective students, but by the entire UWA community, because it says so much about our University — who we are, what we do and how, every single day, our researchers, students and academics are working to shape a better world,” predicts UWA Deputy Vice-Chancellor Kent Anderson.

“When UWA celebrated its centenary, sending our 100,000th graduate out into the world and being counted in the ranks of the world’s best 100 universities, the UWA community celebrated — but at the same time we were viewing the changing higher education landscape as both an exciting opportunity and a major second century challenge.

“Calling on critical thinkers and marketing gurus we asked how we could distill all that UWA offers in a simple, unforgettable message. “We knew that, underlying any message, was UWA’s abiding commitment to delivering world-class education, research and community engagement to advance the prosperity and welfare of our community. That commitment is unchanged since this University opened its doors in 1913, but what has changed is the fact that ‘our community’ is now global, because our advances in soil science, medicine, mining exploration and other fields create a better world far beyond our borders, and because students from around the world want to work with our thought leaders.

“Another unchanged factor is our University’s ambition: we’ve made the top 100, now the goal is to be counted among the top 50 by 2050.”

In charting the way forward in terms of marketing UWA in a digital era, the University conferred with its brand-savvy students, its academics,
researchers, and business and community partners. The message came back strong and consistent: in 2015 the UWA ‘brand’ is strong and worth protecting, but it must meet the needs of contemporary communication channels, and it needed to sharpen key messaging.

“One of our core messages to students is: if you come to UWA prepare to be stretched beyond your discipline, to gain a deeper understanding of yourself and of the world at large,” says Professor Anderson.

“Gaining knowledge will be your starting point but true gains will come from being part of a community of people determined to explore the unknown, challenge convention, and make things happen.”

From this recognition, the statement: Pursue Impossible emerged as a call to arms that UWA wants to convey to the world in its second century.

“Our University firmly believes that everyone on this campus should stretch to achieve what at first may seem impossible — as ‘impossible’, say, as revolutionising the way ulcers are treated (research that met huge initial opposition, but that won our Professor Barry Marshall his Nobel Prize); as ‘impossible’, say, as restoring the sight of a venerable grandmother in outback Australia must have seemed to pioneering ophthalmologists who have passed the baton to our First Among Equals award-winner Dr Angus Turner, seen on the cover of this issue," says the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Earlier this month, Pursue Impossible went out to the world through a TV commercial, an integrated digital campaign, social media, media coverage and on campus activities — all orchestrated to consistently present a strong, student-focused voice.

For the university community it was gratifying to see the reaction of young visually literate, brand-savvy viewers well used to high quality film production. It rapidly became clear that Pursue Impossible was being embraced by a target audience that readily identifies with the fast-paced commercial that follows a young student in determined pursuit of something against a backdrop of differing scenes. When she stops, the world stops, making the dramatic point that we all need to keep advancing. The distinctive and emotional soundtrack was created and performed by UWA School of Music students.

Readers of UNIVIEW will have noticed that, as part of the brand review, there have been minor changes to the UWA crest and typography for better online reproduction, however the ‘Seek Wisdom’ motto remains unchanged.

As the Pursue Impossible campaign goes live across digital media and other advertising channels, UWA looks forward to the community conversations it generates.

Evocative soundtrack created at UWA

The emotionally-charged and stirring drum rhythms that create such a distinctive soundtrack for the Pursue Impossible television commercial were created and performed by UWA School of Music students. The student drummers are all members of Piñata Percussion, a group that performs regularly.

When the commercial’s creative agency was searching for high-energy music to drive the editing and to complement the imagery, they found the talent they needed on campus.

Assistant Professor Ashley William Smith at the School of Music explains: Piñata Percussion represents some of the most innovative and technically electrifying performing to come out of the School. This made the group perfect for a project such as this.

For the students involved it became an extraordinary learning experience, an opportunity to engage with the process of scoring and recording musical soundtracks for film.

“Creating music and improvising sits at the centre of the contemporary performance program at UWA," says Ashley William Smith.

When Piñata Percussion performed the musical piece live at the Pursue Impossible launch event in Winthrop Hall, the audience was thrilled.

You can also check out the School of Music’s 2015 concert program by visiting: music.uwa.edu.au/concerts

Uniview The University of Western Australia | 11
Unearthing Mutiny, Murder and Mayhem

“Western Australia has become an epicentre for maritime archaeology,” says Associate Professor Alistair Paterson, who heads a major international research project that sees UWA partnering with the WA Museum and international and national partners to unearth archaeological evidence that is the legacy of the wreck of the Batavia.

The grim scenario that was played out on Beacon Island four centuries ago following the shipwreck of the Dutch vessel Batavia has fascinated archaeologists, historians, film-makers, poets and novelists – along with countless visitors to the WA Maritime Museum’s Batavia Gallery.

Now UWA has teamed with the WA Museum and the University of Amsterdam to unlock a new chapter of the saga. The partners are applying 21st Century expertise and technology to unearth the remains of victims and to piece together the background of those who died on this arid island off an inhospitable stretch of WA’s coastline.

Shipwrecks of the Roaring Forties, a major research project spanning several years, is funded by the Australian Research Council. The project is led by UWA maritime archaeologist Associate Professor Alistair Paterson, whose expertise encompasses both historical archaeology and rock art research.

Few shipwreck stories are as dramatic as that of the Batavia. The Dutch East India Company vessel, on its maiden voyage for the charter company, was wrecked in June 1629 on a waterless island off the island continent that Dutch cartographers had labelled ‘New Holland’ and that others dubbed ‘the Great Southland’.

The vessel had been bound for Batavia, the Company’s far-flung outpost built on the spice trade with what is today’s Indonesian archipelago. However, mutineers had been plotting well before the Batavia came to grief, drowning some and marooning others on the Abrolhos Islands.

After many were transported to nearby islands, the commander and senior officers began a fruitless search for water in the ship’s...
longboat. Failing to find any, they eventually set out for Batavia to seek help. Few expected them to survive the epic voyage in the longboat and their departure unleashed a reign of terror mounted by the mutineers. However, a rescue vessel finally arrived and the culprits were strung up to die on gallows erected on neighbouring Seal (now Long) Island.

But the tale was far from over. A 20th Century chapter was added with the dramatic discovery of the wreck by divers, and the protracted and painstaking retrieval and restoration of relics ranging from cast-iron cannon to delicate drinking vessels.

During this chapter, UWA graduate Dr Ian Godfry of the WA Museum put his organic chemistry degree to good use, assessing the deterioration of the waterlogged timbers and formulating a conservation plan (UNIVIEW Spring 2012). Graduate Graeme Henderson discovered another Dutch wreck, the treasure-laden Vergulde Draeck, while spearfishing with friends as a teenager and went on to study history at UWA. He became the first Director of the WA Maritime Museum where the hull of Batavia and its relics are displayed and lobbied passionately for the protection of this State’s underwater heritage. The resulting WA legislation was a world first.

UWA graduate and forensic anthropologist Daniel Franklin then added to the 21st Century story. His Honours thesis involved the analysis of the skeletons unearthed on Beacon Island and the archaeological context of their burial – for even after 400 years bones reveal much about their life history and how they met their untimely demise (UNIVIEW Winter 2007).

Associate Professor Franklin has since joined UWA’s Centre for Forensic Science, and was one of the UWA scientists involved in recent finds of skeletons on Beacon Island. Many of the skeletons he has analysed to-date have been male, for the mutineers saw them as more of a challenge to their reign of terror, although women and children have also been discovered.

Shipwrecks of the Roaring Forties will run until 2017 and will possibly include a second trip to the graveyard island. The Museum’s team is led by Jeremy Green who arrived in WA in the early 1970s. The young Oxford graduate had been appointed to work on the Batavia site and he spearheaded the WA Museum team lobbying for protection of shipwreck sites that were magnets for treasure hunting divers.

An agreement between Australia and The Netherland has resulted in a collection rich in artefacts including bullion, building materials, navigational equipment, arms and armament, medical supplies, personal possessions and human remains. In 2011, the ANCODS collection was consolidated into one at the WA Museum. Jeremy Green is an Honorary Research Fellow in the School of Social Sciences at UWA.

The State Government appreciates the heritage value of Beacon and the island is now a site protected under the Maritime Archaeology Act 1973. It is also included on Australia’s National Heritage List. Initially most of the island’s archaeological finds
were accidental, by fishermen who lived there during the rock lobster season, however with the last of the fishermen's huts removed, the island has become an amazing laboratory for researchers – and for archaeologists getting field experience on a site stirring interest around the world.

On Beacon, local teams were joined by a forensic archaeologist Dr Liesbeth Smits from the University of Amsterdam. Researchers in The Netherlands remain very interested in Dutch wrecks in WA and have built a comprehensive database of information relating to those who sailed on the vessels, as well as becoming available that will come into play with our research,” says A/Professor Alistair Paterson.

“This is the first time anyone has done a research program on Beacon based on an archaeological research plan rather than as a reaction to disturbed sites. It has proved hugely valuable – and exciting – for the large UWA team of geophysicists from engineering, forensic and maritime archaeologists and postdoctoral students. Our teams were able to use techniques like remote sensing to figure out the location of archaeological remains and this material – bones, musket balls, and Dutch earthenware – is now being analysed in laboratories at UWA.”

“We conducted excavations on Beacon and Long Islands where the culprits were hanged. Finding the rivets and fastenings from the gallows was a reminder that, in the 17th Century, it was customary to see the bodies of criminals strung up and left to die on the outskirts of major cities in Europe.”

If you would like to know more about studying Archaeology at UWA visit: ss.arts.uwa.edu.au/home/archaeology

And follow their work on facebook at: facebook.com/ArchaeologyAtUwa and the Roaring 40s project at: facebook.com/shipwrecksoftheR40s


(see ahspp.org.au) on which all maritime museums and heritage authorities from the States and Territories are represented. He also holds the Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art in the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management.

Says A/Professor Paterson: “Like me, Peter divides his time between maritime archaeology, land-based archaeology and rock art work, so we have these distinct strands of archaeology thriving at UWA and centred on sites that are recognised as great State assets.”

“With support from the Vice-Chancellor and philanthropy, we’ve built this University’s expertise and attracted a large number of postgraduate students nationally and internationally.”

“We’ve also attracted sizable ARC grants – archaeology tends to be expensive, so grants need to be big! We present a very good case for funding, and we’re grateful for the significant corporate support we’ve also secured.”

Additional appointments and courses – Professor Jo McDonald to the Rio Tinto Chair in Rock Art Studies, Professor Jane Lydon to the Wesfarmers Chair in Rock Art and Management.

Associate Professor Alistair Paterson
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When UWA Professor Kim Beazley was appointed Australia’s Ambassador in Washington DC it was an appointment hailed across the political spectrum. The former Defence Minister’s grasp of US history and politics, and the respect, high regard and affection in which ‘Bomber Beazley’ was held internationally, especially in the US, underscored this approval.

When visiting Washington, Prime Minister Abbott noted his pleasure at “spending time with our Ambassador Kim Beazley who is certainly the kind of representative Australia needs in a capital where personality counts.”

The former political opponents share a firm commitment to the US/Australian alliance at a time when maritime boundary disputes in the Asia-Pacific are driving regional tensions. The US clearly values the good relations Australia has with its neighbours, along with its role in providing strategic and political stability in a region in which it intends to reinforce its own presence and influence.

When he left Federal Parliament, the former Member for Brand told colleagues: “My passion to serve this nation burns stronger...” and when his appointment was announced in 2009, Professor Beazley said: “I can’t think of anything I would rather do at this point in time.”

Today, ‘home’ to the Ambassador and his wife Susie Annus is an impressive refurbished residence that once served as the embassy when the diplomatic post was established.
70 years ago. Situated in a leafy Washington suburb, it accommodates one of the world’s finest collections of Indigenous art – along with Aussie icons like a ‘baggy green’ and cricket bat that caught the eye of visiting captain Michael Clark.

The Ambassador’s knowledge of US history, politics and military hardware began during his studies at UWA and as a Rhodes Scholar. His Master’s thesis was on the Australia-US Alliance. A scholarship that took him to the US saw him joining a Vietnam protest to the Washington memorial and observing a 1969 civil rights siege at Columbia University.

Later, he followed in his father’s footsteps, entering parliament and swiftly rose through the ranks, becoming the nation’s youngest ever Defence Minister in the government of fellow graduate Bob Hawke. When he emerged from the political turmoil of his long political career, many echoed the sentiment (reiterated more recently by Tony Abbot) that they were farewelling ‘the best Prime Minister we never had…”.

Given his exceptional credentials and international experience, the UWA graduate admits that on arrival in Washington he assumed there would be little to surprise him.

“I thought I knew it all but found I needed to learn a lot!” he muses. “I was surprised to discover we were closer to the US than when I was Defence Minister – because, as the geopolitics of our zone has changed, the US has become more vital to our defence.

“Another factor strengthening the relationship is that we’re now huge investors, directly and indirectly, in the US – to the tune of $470 billion, 20 times what we invest in China.

“For instance, there are nine Australian companies contributing to the make-up of the F35 strike bomber – and, in addition, they’re supplying another 10 Australian companies.”

The Ambassador cites a string of similar success stories: the presence of Australian medical equipment companies such as ResMed (a global manufacturer operating in 100 countries); the Port Macquarie marine engineering company, Birdon, winning a US Army contract to supply vessels; and marine design and construction company Austal (based in his former electorate of Brand) becoming the largest employer in Mobile, Alabama, where one of its two overseas production facilities are located.

“We have this mindset in Australia that manufacturing has moved offshore because we lost car and textile manufacturing but a lot of Aussie manufacturers have moved on, turning themselves into niche manufacturers that employ hundreds rather than thousands. It’s also interesting that a major employer like Boeing counts among its workforce more Australians than either Brits or Germans.

“All of this puts in perspective that misplaced pessimism about manufacturing in Australia – a pessimism not based on contemporary analysis.”

Trade promotion and the push to extend exports being high on the Federal Government’s agenda, the embassy plays an effective behind-the-scenes role unless trade matters come before Congress “in which case we will go in and bat”. Since taking up office, the embassy has hosted more than 500 events including Prime Ministerial visits, dinners, lunches, breakfasts, receptions, garden parties and conferences.

“The high points in an ambassador’s life are cumulative,” observes the Ambassador who counts among highlights attending the Second Inauguration of the President, Republican and Democrat conventions, the State of the Union addresses and addresses to Congress by Australian Prime Ministers.

“A single day might involve a talk to a think-tank, education institution or the Administration. It almost certainly will involve going to the headquarters of one of the intelligence services, Congress, the White House, the State Department or the Pentagon to pursue either an instruction delivered from Canberra or to seek information for Canberra.

“It may also involve joint activities with other embassies such as the pursuit of the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. When I arrived, the Defence Trade Cooperation Treaty had been languishing since it was signed by Prime Minister Howard and President Bush. We had to winkle it out of congressional committees and on to the floor of the Congress for ratification. The embassy played a big role in that and it was a good introduction to Congress. Observing how the Democrats and Republicans function in Congress was fascinating.
Most satisfaction comes from the effective pursuit of Australian objectives – getting America to engage more effectively in the Asia-Pacific region has been a major component of our activity here. When I arrived, there was considerable resistance, but that has changed. While not claiming credit for it – that is due to ministers and governments – it has been good to play a role.

For the scholar of American history, his appointment has offered a degree of enrichment to this personal passion. “While duties of office have meant only limited time to pursue historic interests, merely going into Congress, the State Department, the White House and the Pentagon takes you down a museum-standard historical track. This is particularly so at the Pentagon where there are wonderful displays lining the walls, including an excellent ANZUS corridor,” he says. While attending a Republican debate, he was also able to visit Fort Sumter and to walk the Wilson Creek Battlefield with Senator Blunt of Missouri.

The Ambassador likes to joke that if you drilled a hole through the core of the Earth from the Washington embassy to WA, it would emerge just south of Rottnest. “We are as far from the United States as it is possible to be as a country pair…”

That also means he is far from family and friends. When he made his farewell speech to parliament, the Member for Brand told his colleagues: “The hard, hard secret of our lives is that our families come second.”

Today he acknowledges that the demands of his posting continue to impact on his family. “A lot of my family are not here and are not enjoying the posting at all, and the family that is here would have mixed views because family life is subordinated to representational duties,” he says.

“My youngest daughter Rachel was at university here but has returned to Sydney seeking acting training. Studying at an overseas university is something I did as a graduate student but taking it on as an undergraduate was a big challenge for her.

“My wife Susie is enormously creative and has had a big influence in enhancing the representational value of the Residence. She has a talented eye for gardens, interior design and outside structures. She has also done a noble work convincing various embassy sections to engage, always in the knowledge that it will be our successors that benefit primarily.”

The Ambassador still vividly recalls his time on UWA’s campus and his term as Guild President during the heady days of anti-Vietnam marches and the pursuit of student appointment to a variety of boards and particularly to Senate.

“Being Guild President was a good training for life in politics,” says the distinguished graduate. “You had to campaign hard on the basis of a believable, achievable platform and build consensus around your candidacy.”

These were times he recalled with pleasure when he retired from politics in 2007 and returned to UWA to take up an appointment as Professorial Fellow, focusing on research and the study of politics, public policy and international relations. In 2009 he was appointed a Companion in the Order of Australia for his service to the Australian Parliament.

Mr Beazley also served as Chancellor of the Australian National University and is a member of the Council of Advisors to the US Study Centre at the University of Sydney. He has returned to campus several times since his appointment as Ambassador, delivering several lectures at the Perth USAsia Centre (see: Bringing together ‘the best of the best’).
UWA Law graduates and McCusker Foundation Trustees Malcolm McCusker, Tonya McCusker, Carolyn McCusker and Justice James Edelman (far right) Aden Date (far left) and UWA student Jasmin Sekhon, who completed a service learning unit last year. (Photo: The West Australian)

Shaping good citizens, good skills

When US President John Kennedy famously asked Americans what they could do for their country, he tapped into an impulse in students to serve – and the Peace Corps was born. Across the world’s great University campuses a new form of experiential education, service learning, is now gaining momentum, blending the vision of creating better communities with the aim of advancing students’ skills. UWA has embedded service learning in the curriculum and the proposed McCusker Centre for Citizenship will coordinate, sustain and expand it.

UWA students and graduates have long been encouraged to help shape a better world, with the impulse to ‘give-back’ taking root early: the annual University Camp for Kids is one of Perth’s longest-running charities, and student volunteers continue to contribute to our community in areas as diverse as legal advice and endangered species protection.

The December announcement that the McCusker Charitable Foundation will contribute $5 million to establish the McCusker Centre for Citizenship will significantly advance opportunities for students to contribute through service learning at this University.

The Centre will be the first of its kind in Australia and will be modelled on the Haas Centre for Public Service at Stanford University. All four Trustees of the Foundation – former WA Governor Malcolm McCusker, his sister Carolyn McCusker, wife Tonya McCusker, and Justice James Edelman – are UWA Law graduates who wish to ‘give back’ to the University and who support the notion that community service should be counted among a student’s commitments.

Mrs Tonya McCusker says the Trustees felt that contributing to the UWA New Century Campaign was a ‘thank you’ to UWA for their world-class education. “The proposed centre will build on existing philanthropic and volunteering programs to ensure that students leave their tertiary studies with more than just an academic transcript, but with a sense of responsibility to give back to our community and those in need,” she adds.

As this University commits to service learning, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson observes that in being counted among the world’s top 100 universities, UWA had a responsibility to give back to the community that has supported it for more than a century. He expresses the hope that, through the McCusker Centre, citizenship will be a defining characteristic of UWA graduates.

“Service learning provides students with the opportunity to put their skills and knowledge into practice, to become community champions throughout their lives. In this way we are building social responsibility into the fabric of the State,” he says.

Professor Grady Venville, Dean of Coursework Studies, sees reciprocity as the key to service learning. “The proposed centre will support the growing global trend towards social responsibility and social entrepreneurship by providing students with practical educational opportunities and collaborations with community organisations. It also seeds an appreciation of the social benefits and personal rewards of involvement with not-for-profit (NFP) programs,” she says.
Having orchestrated a range of student volunteering opportunities through Guild Volunteering, UWA graduate Aden Date was the obvious choice for taking on the job of Project Officer for Service Learning. “The service learning program operates within the framework of civic responsibility,” explains the graduate. “For instance one unit sees students working with Department of Parks and Wildlife’s scientists in saving endangered species while another sees population health students travelling to Karnataka, India, to undertake a project to improve the health of rural communities.”

The Faculty of Medicine is in the process of establishing service learning as a core offering within the MD’s Scholarly Activity stream. Associate Professor of Medical Education Denese Playford says: “As doctors, graduates will be well placed to offer service to not-for-profits and to set up their own ventures.”

That’s already happening: Fair Game was established by 2014 Young Australian of the Year Dr John van Bockxmeer (UNIVIEW Spring 2014) and True Blue Dreaming by 2001 Young Australian of the Year James Fitzpatrick, now a researcher at the UWA affiliated Telethon Kids Institute.

Both of these NFPs are working to create healthier remote communities and they were established when the two graduates were medical students – so it’s good to know the McCusker Centre is promising support for student start-ups. Dr von Bockxmeer also launched the Global Shapers Hub with the UWA Business School, an initiative that saw Business School students paired with Deloitte mentors to provide business services to NFPs in Perth.

“We’ve already approached more than 100 organisations and the faculty welcomes discussion with any health-related organisations interested in engaging with our students.”

Professor Playford says NFPs have been overwhelmingly positive about having medical students working with them.

“We’ve already approached more than 100 organisations and the faculty welcomes discussion with any health-related organisations interested in engaging with our students,” she says. “We’re also looking for portfolio advisors/assessors to mentor students to develop their understanding of working with NFPs – and they will become a valued part of a student’s educational experience.”

Aden Date, a graduate of the Centre for Social Impact in UWA’s Business School, says UWA is establishing best practice standards by having a single point of contact for community partners and establishing groundwork policies to ensure the program has the academic rigour that characterises the best units in the US.

“At present we’re engaged with more than 100 not-for-profits and have a network of supporters that includes State Government departments such as the Department of Sport and Recreation,” he says.

This University currently offers 31 service learning units, with more in the pipeline as faculties modify existing units to encompass this element of student engagement.

Already the benefits are clear to students. Fogarty scholar Jasmin Sekhon completed a service learning unit last year, working with The Hunger Project, a global NFP, in India. She witnessed the empowerment of a young Indian woman who, with the Project’s training, went on to open three schools and mount an education program to stop child marriages. “This unit inspired me, it changed my life,” she says.

That’s just what those delivering service learning – and McCusker Centre trustees – want to hear. Future initiatives through the Centre will include a leadership program, travel scholarships and internships, a faculty fellows program and a faculty professional development fund.

“You’re seeing pockets of Service Learning develop all over campus,” says the enthusiastic Aden Date. “The momentum is all in the right direction. Build it, and they will come.”

You can watch a video on Service learning produced by UWA’s Centre for Education Futures at: http://ow.ly/LkhW2

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Uniview The University of Western Australia | 19
UWA graduate Diane Smith-Gander believes passionately that women leaders make a difference. “The battle for the boardroom is won,” she says. “It will take a long while to get mirror representation (50 per cent women on boards) but the momentum is unstoppable. The battle now needs to move to the C-suite so women get the right experiences to move into CEO roles.”

The Chair of Transfield Services Limited and the elected President of Chief Executive Women, Diane Smith-Gander is one of 10 women who chair an ASX 200 listed company. Previously a senior executive at Westpac Banking Corporation and a partner at McKinsey & Company in the USA, the graduate has travelled the globe to build her career, spending more than 20 years outside her hometown. An Adjunct Professor in UWA’s Business School, the graduate was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Economics at UWA. She is a non-executive director of Wesfarmers Limited, a commissioner of Tourism WA, board member of the Committee for Perth, CEDA trustee and Councillor of Methodist Ladies College Perth.

As a secondary student, did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?
I had a wonderful chemistry teacher and the inspiration I gained from him made sciences my best subjects. My expectation was that I would complete a year in the Chemistry Faculty at UWA in 1975, get strong results and head off to complete a law degree.

I didn’t execute this plan particularly well. I enjoyed chemistry so much I signed up for a second year but, sadly, soon regretted it. On advice I dropped out without penalty, memorably being told to work out what I wanted to do and not come back until then. There would be no second get out of jail free card.

I eventually came back to UWA in 1981 and enrolled part time in Economics. I was fortunate enough to study with Ken Clements in my third year. I was so pleased to reconnect with Ken when I joined the UWA Business School Advisory board in May 2011.

How did you view your future career when studying at UWA and what were the ‘landmarks’ that helped to shape your career?
I had the impression that I would work without interruption and that I should aspire to be a ‘manager’ but I wasn’t sure that I would have a ‘career’. My parents had both been educators and moved into administration while they continued to teach. Many graduates of Santa Maria College will remember my mother Betty who spent more than 20 years there and was Deputy Principal. My Mum and Dad always looked for the next opportunity and certainly gave it their best but I am not sure I would describe their mode as active career management.

During my second try at UWA I had a couple of landmarks when I met people who became mentors and encouraged me to aspire to a really meaningful, and so more actively managed, career.

Ken Clements was one of those who stretched me academically but always had a practical bent – he made it clear economics was a useful discipline that could be a springboard to many things.
“I dropped out without penalty – memorably being told to work out what I wanted to do and not come back until then. There would be no second ‘get out of jail free’ card.”

Phil Glew (of Glew Corporate Communications) employed me as a temporary receptionist – I was working as a temp to give maximum flexibility for my studies – and he encouraged me to consider consulting as a career and gave me a start in the company he led. Phil became more than a mentor, he actively supported me and was my advocate when I sought roles in the company “over east”.

Moving then became the way I built my landmarks. I have worked for eight organisations in more than 15 different roles, lived in five countries and worked in more than 20. I have moved house 15 times. And often when I moved my timing was a little poor so what I arrived to do did not end up being what I actually did. I moved to Westpac in the early 90s when the bank recorded the then biggest corporate loss in Australia, moved to the US when the dot com bubble burst and back to Australia in the teeth of the GFC. Those experiences certainly built resilience and a portfolio of experiences that built the foundation of my current work as a non-executive director.

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

My ‘role’ is a portfolio of roles so the challenges are really around balancing the demands of the portfolio knowing that what my Dad called “sod’s law” will always operate to ensure when there is a busy moment in Wesfarmers there will be a simultaneous busy moment at Transfield. So it is good that I am a skilled project manager and very organised and have a flexible idea of what work hours comprise.

As President of Chief Executive Women (CEW) I have the challenge to support the push for gender diversity without being seen as a strident feminist. I hope I am getting that balance right. CEW is an Australian organisation of 300 women leaders with the mission to enable other women leaders. We have our 30th anniversary this year and I feel a great sense of accountability to do a great job as President given it seems we are poised to make great strides on gender diversity in the next few years. I know my former economics professor would applaud my attempts to position diversity as an economic imperative – increasing female workforce participation and retaining women leaders in our corporations is the best productivity improvement lever we have available – best because it’s big and it’s immediate.

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

Every day is different. I relax by walking my dogs, getting much needed exercise and catching up with family and friends. I gain a lot of energy from my family and my friends of long standing – people I have known since my days as a junior State basketballer. They know me better than anyone and are uniformly supportive.

I really enjoy that I can maintain my networks built over 24 years outside of Perth through Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter (@DianeSmithG). You’ll find me on all of those and I’d love to hear from my fellow UWA graduates.

What does the future hold?

For all my comments about an actively managed career I am a logical incrementalist who is always prepared to consider the next thing that is placed in front of me. Over the years I have got better at knowing what I aspire to do and leaving space in my portfolio for the very right thing. I have the patience to know that the right opportunity will turn up. It always has before.

So I am looking forward to more leadership opportunities with listed companies, in government enterprises contributing to our economy, in education and gender diversity. These four places are where I think I can best play and where I am happiest.

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Uniview The University of Western Australia | 21
Whose university is it?

UWA’s campus has always been embedded in the community. Born of a collective desire by Western Australians for a university to call their own, UWA was widely embraced as a place where careers could be shaped and the impossible achieved. A century on, it remains a source of great community pride, in a setting and location that is unmatched. Building on these natural advantages and engaging the community in shaping the vision for the 21st century is the challenge for Professor Kent Anderson, UWA’s new Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Community and Engagement).

When Kent Anderson talks about his career, it’s easy to see this is a man who seizes the moment. To date, this momentum has taken him from America’s last ‘frontier’ state, Alaska (where he grew up), to studies in Law, Politics, Economics and Asian Studies in the US, the UK and Japan (where he married Hiroko), to working for an airline in Alaska, as a commercial lawyer in Hawaii (where son Ty was born), and as a law professor and university leader in Japan and Australia.

Each move has been impelled by an appetite for challenge and change, so when UWA Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson set before him the testing portfolio attached to a newly created UWA post it proved irresistible. And there were added attractions: a place in the sun — he never quite got over those -45C temperatures in Alaska — and the appealing WA parallels with his birth place: wide open spaces, fierce independence, deep indigenous knowledge and a resource-rich economy.

In fact Kent Anderson had started thinking seriously about Australia while coming to the end of a stint in Japan in 2000. “I’d been in snow-bound northern Japan and was debating my future, when a college friend described her family life in far north Queensland. Life in Australia while coming to the end of a 12-year-old, I would take off on a bike with a mate for a week of climbing mountains, camping and fishing. It was appealing because the US has become very risk-averse and I wanted those sorts of experiences for my son who was about to start school. At the time I was considering three job offers in New York, Tokyo and Canberra, so I opted for Australia.”

The senior academic posts at the Australian National University and the University of Adelaide that followed saw him transition from academic to senior executive roles.

Then there was that conversation with UWA’s VC, and a subsequent conversation with Paul Holmes á Court (whose brother Peter had been a college mate in the US). When he asked the head of Heytesbury what the West had to offer him, Paul, like a true West Australian, turned the question around to query whether Kent Anderson had enough to offer the West. The former Alaskan instantly liked the chutzpah of a place that has always defined itself as Australia’s powerhouse frontier.

However, it was the UWA challenge that saw him persuading Hiroko and Ty to consider yet another move. In Australia, which he insists is the family’s ‘final stop’ rather than a staging post, Professor Anderson has already been a law professor, a Dean of the ANU Faculty of Asian Studies and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at the University of Adelaide.

“In transitioning from academic to executive roles, I discovered a different sort of job satisfaction from contributing to other people’s success. I love being able to create a platform from which people can jump higher than might otherwise be possible. So I said to myself: ‘OK let’s do it!’ I have a track record of going for the harder batting wickets — like the WACA pitch — and because I knew the UWA job was going to be challenging I went for it. “The decider was talking to Paul Johnson about his team’s vision for UWA and where this broad new portfolio sat in terms of this University’s relationship with the wider community because there are such exciting opportunities to build on our already substantial successes – like UWA taking its place among the world’s top 50 universities.

“This newly-created job is all about asking questions about UWA’s place in the community. Whose university is it? It’s not the Vice-Chancellor’s. Not even the students’ or the researchers’. UWA belongs to the people of Western Australia and that’s reinforced whenever you talk to people about this place.

“People love the campus — and take look at it! It’s just ridiculously beautiful and the location is amazing. I live next door, so when I’m out running in the morning I have the choice of Kings Park, Riverside Drive and these National Estate registered grounds. Last weekend there were five wedding groups on campus and a week earlier I didn’t even attempt a run – there were thousands of people here on campus for the Perth Writers Festival.

“People see this as an important place that is significant to them.

“Another given is that people love the Perth International Arts Festival, the only festival of its kind in the world that was born on and is still run out.
of a university campus. If anyone suggested the festival should be held over for more prosperous times, they’d be run out of town, lynched on the way to the airport.

“Times are tight — and will continue to be throughout 2015 — so the festival staged The Giants, the only city in Australia to do so. That’s the sort of thinking that turned an adult education outreach initiative into the biggest city-based multi-arts festival in Australia.

“At UWA we know some of the things we do well, but we need to better leverage the uniqueness of this city, this State, this University, this festival, our campus concerts, theatres, art gallery, museums, public lectures – the full spectrum of what we offer.

“Then we need to ask the community what its priorities are, what it would like to see us offering.

“I love being able to create a platform from which people can jump higher than might otherwise be possible.”

Having that conversation with the community is my first job, which is why I’ve spent my first six months getting to know locals.

“I’m a good listener and have huge respect for the knowledge already here — in institutions, with our community partners and alumni and within this university. I am learning from all these sources, and I began that process meeting with Richard Walley on the banks of the Swan or Derbarl Yerrigan River and being accepted onto the land of the Whadjuk Boodjar people.”

Kent Anderson’s expertise is already being sought on boards beyond campus, such as the New Colombo Plan Advisory Board, along with a variety of academic and community boards including the International Education Association of Australia, Mongolia Institute, ANU’s Australian Centre on China in the World and the Languages and Culture Network for Australian Universities.

“When you talk to Western Australians about this University, you generally get agreement that we provide an excellent education and our research expertise has incredible impact – think of our Rock Art and Oceans Centres, the SKA and so much more,” says Professor Anderson. “However, universities have always had missions beyond those core roles and it’s the challenge of exploring those opportunities — that uncharted territory — that made me want to get on that plane and fly here.”

Left: Professor Kent Anderson meets his neighbours, the students of St Catherine’s College.

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We all love success stories and UWA’s Microscope-in-a-Needle technology is a fine example of a once unfunded development program – engaging the expertise of researchers and the enthusiasm of PhD students – that is now garnering both substantial funding and the acknowledgement of national awards.

Patents have been awarded, publications have appeared in prestigious international journals and this home-grown technology is poised for commercial success. However, those involved in the development team from UWA’s Optical + Biomedical Engineering Laboratory (OBEL) would undoubtedly rate “better patient outcomes” as their overriding goal.

Breast tumours are complex, their hard-to-detect tentacles sometimes proving elusive, so a suite of precision instruments able to detect them promises better patient outcomes. UWA researchers have created the world’s smallest microscope to find these microscopic extensions and their technology is stirring interest around the world.

“We started developing the technology in 2006 with UWA funding for a visiting intern from the United States and some final year students,” recalls Professor David Sampson. “However the real launch pad came in 2007 when we were awarded funding through the Centre of Excellence in eMedicine. “With $200,000 per annum from the WA State Government and nearly matching funding from UWA for five years, we were able to build an exceptional engineering team led by Research Associate Professor Robert McLaughlin who joined the group in 2007. He became the first engineer to receive a Cancer Council WA Fellowship. “Support from Cancer Council WA, National Breast Cancer Foundation and the Raine Medical Research Foundation have really been key to pushing this project forward.”

Associate Professor McLaughlin says the original target of having a positive impact on patient outcomes in breast cancer is within reach. “We’re now looking into new opportunities in brain and lung biopsy guidance. And this year we hope to spin out a company to commercialise the Microscope-in-a-Needle.”

To date the world’s smallest microscope has stirred wide interest and a US patent now licensed to start-up company Diagnostic Photonics Inc in the US. The technology has also been a regular at award ceremonies.
BreastScreen WA increases annual visits in 2015

Due to popular demand BreastScreen WA is now visiting the following towns every year.

- Armadale
- Broome
- Esperance
- Geraldton
- Kalgoorlie
- Karratha
- Narrogin
- South Hedland
- Albany and Mandurah continue with their annual visits.
- Bunbury has a permanent screening and assessment clinic.

Now more women are able to have FREE screening mammograms closer to home.

BreastScreen WA has extended its target age range to include women aged 50-74 years.

All women aged 40 years and over may attend.

Have a free screening mammogram every two years. Once is not enough.

Contact your local media or the website for mobile screening unit visit dates.

www.breastscreen.health.wa.gov.au

Phone 13 20 50 for an appointment

Across Australia, including a 2014 win for A/Professor McLaughlin, Professor Christobel Saunders and Professor David Sampson in the Emerging Category of the WA Innovator of the Year Award.

There has also been acknowledgement for students involved who are clearly delighted to have such affirmation during their PhD studies. UWA student Loretta Scolaro won the 2014 Canon Extreme Imaging completion while Kelsey Kennedy was both Overall and People’s Choice Winner at the Trans-Tasman Three Minute Thesis Awards in 2013. You can see Kelsey in action at the following link: http://ow.ly/LpYq5

The OBEL team also won the 2014 Vice-Chancellor’s Award in Impact and Innovation, while Associate Professor McLaughlin won the Vice-Chancellor’s Mid-career Researcher Award.

Where to from here?

Professor Sampson says it has been inspirational to work with such a great team who are all so focussed on making a difference. “But we will all only be ultimately inspired when we see our tool in widespread use. That requires a product to be the outcome of our research and we’re now on the path to realising just that.”

If you’d like to know more about this success story, visit http://obel.ee.uwa.edu.au

Winners of the WA Innovator of the Year (Emerging Category).
L – R: Christobel Saunders, David Sampson, Robert McLaughlin, Sam South, WA Innovator of the Year Program Patron Professor Fiona Wood, Hon. Michael Mischin, Minister for Commerce, and Mr Yasuo (Wally) Yamanaka from Mitsubishi Australia Ltd, representing Principal Sponsor Mitsubishi Corporation.
Bringing together ‘the best of the best’

Addressing the Australian Parliament, India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the world sees Australia at the cross-currents of the dynamic Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean region, and he welcomes our nation’s growing role “in driving this region’s prosperity and shaping its security”.

The US ‘pivot’ to Asia adds an extra dimension to the potential for forging mutually beneficial relationships, and the UWA-based Perth USAsia Centre is working to advance this confluence of interests. “The stars are aligned,” says the Centre’s CEO Gordon Flake, a phenomenal networker who is bringing together “the best of the best” from governments in the region, the private sector and academia.

Gordon Flake was raised on the isolated Navajo Indian reservation in Arizona where his father was a school teacher, but he always set his sights on the world beyond the desert and beyond the United States. As a 19-year-old completing his freshman year at college, his future career began to be shaped by two years spent as a missionary in South Korea. It was 1986 and South Korea’s dramatic democratisation movement was gathering force.

“I was exposed to the amazing demonstrations on campuses and in the streets across Korea – inhaling enough tear gas to last a lifetime!” recalls the CEO. “There was this surge of people power plus international pressure – even threats to withdraw the ’88 Seoul Olympics – so I witnessed the transition from military to democratic rule and a country on the cusp of becoming one of the ‘tiger’ economies.

“I learned the language rapidly because I was speaking it night and day on the streets – the best language program in the world. I came away with a deep love of the language and culture, and a determination to become a Korea specialist.”

Returning to Utah’s Brigham Young University to complete his Masters at the David M. Kennedy Centre for International Studies, he then headed to Washington DC with his wife and baby daughter.

“I pounded the pavements for two months, getting to know everyone who had anything to do with Korea – so they knew I was good at networking and I was hungry!” he recalls. “The result was three job offers, and the one I took was with a Washington think tank, the Korea Economic Institute. Today I joke that after 23 years in Washington and jobs at two other institutions I’ve never had a ‘real’ job – I’m a professional think tanker! While think tanks aren’t academic, government, military or...
private sector institutions, they interact at the intersection of all of the above. Essentially, their role is to inform and enhance relationships, to bring sectors together in synergistic programs, so one plus one is more than two.

“To do this well you need issue expertise, a wide knowledge of global economies and geopolitics – plus those networking skills. Fundamentally, you’re building and maintaining networks of key players, bringing them together for mutually beneficial projects and programs that move an issue forward.”

While the United States has a plethora of think tanks and study centres, Australia is less versed in the way they operate. However, judging by the response to the US Study Centre at the University of Sydney in 2006 and the 2013 launch of the Perth USAsia Centre, their value is now widely appreciated.

"One of the core requirements for establishing a global think tank like this is a critical mass of strategic, global thinkers ... and this State is blessed with strategic thinkers in spades...”

Gordon Flake, CEO Perth USAsia Centre

The US Study Centre in Sydney was born out of concern that, while Africa, Asia and China study centres existed in Australia, no such establishment enhanced the close US/Australia relationship. The American Australian Association took the initiative, working with the Howard Government to create a centre with academic rigour.

Following a strategic review in 2011, a second centre was planned based on the same model but focussed on US/Australia/Asia economic and security links. Clearly the out-dated notion of our capital city’s ‘isolation’ didn’t rate a second thought when determining the centre’s location.

“The most obvious location was Perth – Australia’s Indo-Pacific Capital – and when this University took the initiative of hosting the centre, it happened,” says Mr Flake.

With the fanfare and media generated by a visit from then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the concept of the Perth USAsia Centre was launched at UWA in November 2012 and the following year Gordon Flake was appointed after a global search for a CEO.

“One of the core requirements for establishing a global think tank like this is a critical mass of strategic, global thinkers,” explains Mr Flake. “Given WA’s strong international links, vibrant corporate sector and orientation toward Asia, it quickly became clear to me that this State is blessed with strategic thinkers in spades – in government, academia and leading resource companies – and they’re deeply integrated with..."
Bringing together
‘the best of the best’

Asia and led by professionals who are
the best of the best.

“I’m delighted these amazing
people are already involved in our
programs, taking advantage of
what we do. For instance, with the
leadership of Foreign Minister Julie
Bishop we sought to contribute to
understanding the informal grouping
of Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea,
Turkey and Australia (MIKTA), and
the Centre published a second report
by Elena Douglas entitled Smart
Power – MIKTA narratives, prosperity,
persuasion and projection and went
on to host MIKTA workshops in
Seoul, Washington and Jakarta.”

The centre’s CEO finds it hard
to believe that a year ago, with his
current office under construction,
the Perth USAsia Centre was, in his
words, a blank slate (“no mailing list,
database, program template and
nothing on the calendar”). It says
a lot about his can-do attitude and
the enthusiasm of his staff that in
2014 the centre held 58 events and
published four major publications.

Former Indonesian President, Doctor Susilo
Bambang Yudhoyono, who has become
a Visiting Fellow at the Perth USAsia Centre
as well as a Visiting Professor at UWA, with
Gordon Flake, CEO of the Perth USAsia Centre

And at the start of 2015 the
calendar already has over 60 planned
events. A recent highlight was the
May In the Zone conference and the
announcement that distinguished
guest Indonesia’s former President,
Doctor Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,
has become a Visiting Fellow at the
Centre as well as a Visiting Professor
at UWA.

The 2015 program brings to
UWA ambassadors, politicians and
business leaders for events from
the popular Big Think Breakasts
and Ambassadors’ Dialogue
Series to an Australia-Singapore
Leadership Dialogue.

The Perth USAsia Centre is
funded by UWA and the State and
Federal Governments and key
corporate partners such as Rio Tinto.
It selects 50 students each year to
participate in exchanges with UCLA
in California and in internships in Los
Angeles and Washington. The centre
plans to extend its scholarships to
comeback Indonesia and China.

For details of its 2015 program
visit: perthusasia.edu.au

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Cleansing a poisoned planet

By Julian Cribb

Humanity currently produces more than 144,000 different synthetic chemicals, around a third of which are suspected of links to cancer, mutations and birth defects or are toxic in some way. Global output of these substances is around 30 million tonnes a year, which the UN Environment Program (UNEP) expects to triple by mid-century.

But these industrial chemicals are the tip of the iceberg. Each year we humans also emit more than 250 billion tonnes of carbon, minerals and materials, hazardous wastes, fossil fuels, nitrogen, phosphorus – along with about 9 trillion tonnes of very polluted water. That’s our real footprint on the Earth.

An avalanche of scientific studies now documents the movement of these substances around the Earth in water, air, soil, animals, fish, food, trade, in people and in our very genes. Man-made chemicals are found from the stratosphere to the deep oceans, from the peak of Mt Everest (where freshly-fallen snow is too polluted to drink) to remote Pacific atolls, from the Arctic to the Antarctic. They are routinely found in birds, fish, mammals and other life-forms which have never had contact with humans. They occur throughout our food chains.

The US Centre for Disease Control’s regular surveys find particular ‘chemicals of concern’ in the blood of 90-100 per cent of Americans. The Environmental Working Group in independent tests reports finding 414 industrial toxins in 186 people ranging in age from newborns to grandparents.

Every year, says the US National Institutes of Health, around 2000 new chemicals are released onto markets worldwide. Most of these have not been tested for health or environmental safety, warns UNEP. So far just 21 chemicals (out of 144,000) have been banned, in a handful of countries. Furthermore, the global chemical industry is rapidly relocated to developing countries where it is largely outside the reach of the law. Its toxic emissions are already returning to citizens in well-regulated countries in air, water, food, wildlife, trade goods and people – and local regulation is powerless to prevent this. Since Rachel Carson published Silent Spring in 1962, world use of pesticides alone has increased thirtyfold.

Chemicals and minerals are valuable and extremely useful. They do great good, save many lives and much money. Nobody is saying they should all be banned. But something must be done about the current uncontrolled, unmonitored, unregulated and unconscionable mass release and planetary saturation.

If governments cannot stem the toxic flood, the task falls to millions of individual citizens, acting in their own best interests and those of their grandchildren. In a globalised world only we, the people, have the power, as consumers, to send the market signals to industry to cease poisonous emissions – and to reward it for producing clean, safe, healthy products or services.

For the first time in history, we have the means to share a universal understanding of a common threat and what we can each do to mitigate it – through the internet and social media. It is already starting to happen, with organisations and websites representing some 50 million concerned citizens, parents and consumers sharing information, ideas and advice at lightspeed around the planet. Scientists are working on promising technologies like green chemistry, zero waste, industrial ecology, product stewardship and risk-based remediation, to clean up the mess – but they need citizens to drive both industry and governments to change.

This new form of human self-awareness crosses all the old boundaries that formerly divided us – gender, nationality, language, religion, ethnicity, age, socioeconomic status, geographic location. Given time, it can become an expression of people power and global democracy like none before. We are starting to think as a species – and this is a very exciting and hopeful moment in the human ascent.

Finally, as I argue in the book Poisoned Planet, we also need a new human right: a right not to be poisoned. Without such a right, there will probably never again be a day in our history when we and our children are not.

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Julian Cribb, an author and science communicator with 32 journalism awards to his credit, provides specialist consultancy in the communication of science, agriculture, food, mining, energy and the environment. His internationally-acclaimed The Coming Famine (2010) explored how to feed 10 billion humans this century. His recent Poisoned Planet (Allen and Unwin) looks at chemical contamination. The book has been hailed by environmentalist David Suzuki and Stanford University’s Paul Ehrlich. The UWA classics graduate is currently working on a new book commissioned by a leading US academic publisher that looks at ten great existential challenges in the 21st century.
In Western Australian science, the name Bradshaw is synonymous with honey possum research in Western Australia’s scenic Scott National Park. While Emeritus Professor Don Bradshaw and Honorary Research Associate Felicity Bradshaw are semi-retired, their joint research is now turning local school students into ‘bush scientists’.

As part of the Scientist and Mathematicians-in-Schools national initiative, Felicity Bradshaw says that, after a career spent doing what she loved, it is her responsibility to ‘give back’ to the community. And she’s doing so in a way that benefits students and the environment.

“As environmental biologists, Don and I had the privilege of studying the honey possum for 20 years and we’ve learnt so much about this State’s unique natural environment,” says the Honorary Research Associate in the School of Animal Biology.

“Our research reflects how vital it is to preserve our natural environment for creatures like the honey possum, and, as a Scientist-in-Schools, I am taking that message to children, so we nurture a new generation of conservationists.

“To me, the State’s remnant bushland is an incomparable outdoor classroom where children can learn how our ecosystem works. And if there’s no natural bush nearby, the program works well in a semi-natural corner of the school yard.”

With this in mind, and with the help of Associate Professor Christine Howitt, in the Graduate School of Education, Felicity developed an environmental science pilot program for the primary school science curriculum. Be a Bush Scientist has now been endorsed by the WA Department of Education and is up-and-running in several schools.

Developed with primary school teachers and published by UWA’s Centre for Learning Technology’s science enrichment initiative (SPICE), the program is written for the Year 4 national curriculum in Biological Sciences, but is effective from Year 1 and there are plans to adapt it to Years 5 and 6. A specially-tailored version is being considered for the north-west region where, with support from Shell, SPICE is already taking science into local schools.

The Centre’s Associate Professor Jan Dook says that SPICE has been thrilled to work with Felicity to bring her knowledge and expertise to schools in Western Australia. “Not only does Bush Science address key Australian curricula, it provides practical opportunities for students as well as bringing UWA science to life. A winner on all levels,” she says.

Little wonder Be a Bush Scientist is embraced by students who get to investigate nearby natural bush, or a swath of semi-natural bush in their school-yard. Using the fundamentals of science, they investigate different sites, measuring, analysing and recording in their notebooks. They also set pit-traps to catch invertebrates and note the predominant plants, considering the links between fauna and flora.

The major thrust of the program is the re-creation of the bush in the classroom. Trees are drawn, litter is collected, analysed and placed under appropriate trees. Invertebrates and birds spotted in the bush are identified, drawn and added.

“Children study pollination and the production of food energy by plants,” explains Felicity. “They have the information to make connections between every element in their ‘bush’ (or ecosystem) represented as an ‘ecogram’ – and they do exactly that with coloured tape. The climax is de-constructing their ecogram. The children remove the pollinators and, step-wise, they see the impact. By removing each item in turn, their ecogram cascades into a blank wall.

“I designed the program to be very hands-on, and to go beyond the static activities of watching tadpoles grow legs or a plant germinating on a window sill,” says Felicity.
“I designed the program to be very hands-on, and to go beyond the static activities of watching tadpoles grow legs or a plant germinating on a window sill,” says Felicity.

“I want the children to learn their science in the bush, appreciating the interconnected elements of an ecosystem.”

Felicity wrote the extended program with Woodland Primary School’s Year 1 teacher Jenny Russell and the two took the first students through it together. A delighted Jenny Russell later described this experience to Scientists-in-Schools as “probably the easiest, most productive collaborative partnership I’ve been lucky enough to be part of in the classroom setting”.

“Having Felicity’s understanding and knowledge of the biological sciences combined with my understanding of comprehension levels made us an amazing team,” reported Jenny. “She was able to help my students understand concepts normally considered to be beyond them. The program we developed is expanding the science program we have in our schools – the depth that all curriculum bodies want to see happening in the primary education sector. I feel very, very blessed to have been linked up with this amazing scientist.”

Certainly a ringing endorsement for a program that is giving back in many different ways and could be destined to enrich science education across the State. To date 11 schools are involved in the program.

The author of many scientific papers, Felicity Bradshaw’s first venture in sharing her knowledge with the wider public was writing/illustrating A Tale of Two Honey Possums, published in 2008 (honeypossum.com.au).

Be a Bush Scientist is available at spice.wa.edu.au

The marsupial that started it all...

When, in the 1980s, UWA’s Don and Felicity Bradshaw began studying the Honey Possum (Tarsipes rostratus) that is only found in Australia’s south-west corner – and is a totem animal for some Noongar people – they could not have chosen a more photogenic or fascinating subject.

Smaller than a mouse, the nocturnal marsupial is possibly the sole survivor of an otherwise long-extinct ancestor that migrated to Australia when it was part of the ancient supercontinent of Gondwana. While not yet endangered, the possum’s restricted habitat and its dependence on a year-round supply of nectar from a suite of mature flowering eucalypts and banksias make those who study it fear for the future – particularly given climate change predictions of increased bushfires.

To date, successful environmental adaptations have ensured the honey possum’s survival as surely as its prehensile tail secures it to a branch while its nectar-collecting tongue flicks in and out (at the rate of four times a second).

In a single day the diminutive creature consumes almost its body weight in nectar and pollen and this fuels its high metabolic rate. However, when food is scarce or in cold weather, the possum can wind down its system, conserve energy and become torpid. It can also time the development of its embryos until favourable conditions exist – perhaps when summer heat abates and days shorten (making more time for nocturnal foraging), or when the warmth of spring brings out the blossoms.

Other survival tricks include females mating with a large number of males – competition that has resulted in males with extremely large testes and the longest sperm in the mammal world.

At birth, offspring ranking as the world’s smallest new-born mammals – no bigger than a grain of rice – negotiate their way to the mother’s pouch and nipple. As soon as they weigh more than 2.5 grams they leave the shelter of the pouch and are independent in the bush.
In the 18th century, the golden age of baroque music, a French composer observed that if God wished to listen to music he would choose Boccherini. It’s a quote that international cellist Catherine Jones includes in notes for her Sony recording: *Boccherini and Cirri: Cello Sonatas* that is another career landmark for the graduate.
School of Music graduate Catherine Jones lives in a village on Italy’s peerless Lake Como and has performed as principal cellist with leading baroque orchestras around the world.

Earlier this year, she spoke to Unview while touring Australia, recalling that her career was launched with UWA studies and a postgraduate scholarship that enabled her to study further in The Hague, home of some of the world’s best baroque orchestras.

The scholarship came after graduating with First Class Honours having studied with the School of Music’s Paul Wright and Early Music specialist Suzanne Wijisman, and winning a string of prestigious prizes.

For Catherine, it is the rich palette of Boccherini’s music “where depth of expression and lightness of spirit unite” that appeals, along with the challenges of making music that pushes her instrument to its technical limits.

“Boccherini’s style, coupled with the virtuoso nature of the writing, creates an attractive juxtaposition for me,” says cellist Catherine Jones.

“Famous instruments like the Gagliano are generally owned by banks or foundations. Foundation people want to invest in talent, and the instrument itself is an excellent investment. Cellist Yo-Yo Ma’s instrument, the Duport Stradivarius, has an amazing history. We know practically every musician who has performed on it, so when it was briefly lost – he left it in a New York cab – it made headlines around the world!”

Today Catherine, who lives with her partner and son Luca (4) in Italy, says that having performed with The Academy of Ancient Music, The English Concert, Concerto Copenhagen, and the European Brandenburg Ensemble, she is now focusing on solo performances and recording.

In 2015 she will give a recital in the prestigious Quirinale concert series in Rome which is broadcast live nationwide. She has recently been featured on Italy’s Radio 3 and her recital performances this year include the Concerti delle Camerelle series, and Long Lake Festival in Switzerland. She will also give master classes at the Conservatorium in Verona.

Having performed in UWA’s Baroque concert series and ABC Classics, Catherine also looks forward to visiting Australia annually – and maintaining her links with UWA. Earlier this year, she gave four recitals in Australia, including one recorded live for the ABC at the Melbourne Peninsula Festival.

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jumpstartjr.org/catherine-jones

“Really fine Baroque instruments generally come from 18th century Italy, the country that gave birth to the cello we know today,” she explains. “Famous artisans like Stradivarius and Gagliano made such good cellos that they really helped the instrument emerge from bass line to solo instrument.”

Unview The University of Western Australia | 33
Building our community

2014 Alumni Survey

Our graduates are vital to the life and future of UWA. In 2014, to find out how to better engage with you, we conducted a large-scale survey evaluating our relationship with our graduates and identifying opportunities to enhance them.

Thank you for taking the time to let us know how you feel about your University and how you would like to be involved in future. This is what you said.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT UWA

YOUR TIME AS A STUDENT
- 91% satisfied

FEELINGS ABOUT UWA
- 82% positive

PRIDE IN YOUR UWA DEGREE
- 90%

UWA VALUES OUR ALUMNI
- 70%

FEEL EMOTIONALLY CONNECTED TO UWA

74% INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI

62% DOMESTIC ALUMNI

IDENTIFY MOST WITH THE UNIVERSITY OVERALL
- 47%

IDENTIFY MOST CLOSELY WITH THEIR FACULTY
- 22%

STAYING CONNECTED

UWA is: PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES
- 49%

RESPONDENTS VISITED CAMPUS LAST YEAR
- 42%

UWA’S MOST IMPORTANT STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

67% TRANSFORMATIVE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

45% INTERNATIONAL HUB OF KNOWLEDGE

35% GROUND-BREAKING RESEARCH
Access is key to a mutually beneficial relationship. The most important benefits to alumni are:

- Journal Databases: 53%
- Library Borrowing: 37%
- University Club Membership: 31%
- UWA Email Address: 25%
- Perth International Arts Festival: 23%

Main Sources of News and Information:

- Uniview: 60% have read Uniview in the last year or so.
- Alumni News: 38% have read Alumni News in the last year or so.

What you want to hear from most:

- Faculty News: 87%
- Research: 29%
- UWA News: 27%
- Other Alumni: 23%

Who you want to hear from most:

- Faculty News: 65%
- Research: 35%
- UWA News: 25%
- Other Alumni: 15%

What you want to hear about:

- Faculty News: 87%
- Research: 29%
- UWA News: 27%
- Other Alumni: 23%

How you would like to be involved:

- Mentoring: 50%
- Career Advice: 35%

How you want to be engaged:

- Intellectually: 80%
- Networking: 73%
- Career Services: 53%
The Chancellor and the Caretaker; telling our stories

Some of the earliest members of Convocation — along with UWA’s staff and students — served in World War I. Some died on battlefields and are buried far from home; some tended the wounded on troopships, looked after the horses in the 10th Light Horse, organised water supplies for advance troops and served as the chaplains who moved among the troops before and after battles.

Two current Convocation members are trawling archives to gather their stories and are appealing to graduates to help them honour this service and sacrifice. Convocation member Dr Joan Pope OAM, a former Warden of Convocation, gives readers an insight into some of these stories.

The University’s Great War Honour Board in the Visitors’ Information Centre was created for UWA’s Irwin Street buildings in the 1920s, and was brought to the new Crawley campus in 1930.

The first two names on the board were both Senate members and Wardens of Convocation — and they served as Chancellors: inaugural Warden Archbishop C. O. L. Riley (1913-1916) was succeeded by Dr (later Sir) A. J. H. Saw (1916-17). Riley (the first Warden of Convocation) had been appointed Chancellor on the death of Sir John Winthrop Hackett and Saw became Chancellor in 1922.

As Chaplain-General for the AIF, Riley was involved with the administration of the Chaplains’ Units here and overseas.

Saw, a surgeon, made many voyages on troop transports. The family nickname ‘Saw-bones and Jaw-bones’ reflected both his profession and his position as an MP in Western Australia.

One of Riley’s sons, C.L. Riley, was a Chaplain in the field, and he too was later elected Warden of Convocation. The Rev. David Freedman, a founding member of Convocation, was a serving Chaplain from 1915–1918, later becoming Rabbi of Perth. Hugh Fowler, a founding student in 1913, was Warden of Convocation in the 1930s and 40s.

Only staff who volunteered for Active Service are listed on the Board. Of the eight Professors, Hubert Whitfield and Norman Wilsmore were granted leave by the Senate to pursue munitions and related research overseas. Professor Edward Shann enlisted and was at Blackboy Hill camp when the Senate decided it could not afford to lose another staff member and arranged his honorable discharge.

The first Graduation Ceremony in July 1914 was organised by the inaugural Registrar, Captain Samuel Townshend, a Sydney University Law graduate. He was killed at Gallipoli on 9 May, and having no known grave, is commemorated at The Lone Pine Memorial. The 1915 Guild Council mounted a handsome plaque to his memory. It is now in the Visitors Information Centre.

Private John Skinner returned badly wounded and was discharged as medically unfit. His death in 1920 was ‘attributable to war service’.

The Great War Honour Board is in the UWA Visitors Centre
Croix de Guerre on several occasions, earning a Military Cross and the Military Medal. He spent four years overseas and was wounded in Gallipoli. Frederick Washington Lawson, Chief Engineer of the Perth Metropolitan Water Board, was attached to the 10th Light Horse and was killed at Walkers Ridge, Gallipoli. Captain Harold Teague of Victoria Park, attached to No.1 Australian General Hospital, was killed in February 1917. Samuel Selby, a veterinary surgeon and Founding Director of the Zoological Gardens, was attached to the 10th Light Horse regiment. Bentley was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Edward Weston, a veterinary surgeon and occasional lecturer at Irwin Street, was killed at the Dardenelles and buried at Shell Green, Gallipoli.

Convocation member Colonel Ernest Le Souef, a veterinary surgeon and Founding Director of the Zoological Gardens (whose son Leslie was Warden of Convocation, 1965-68) and Major James Bentley, on the medical staff at the Claremont Mental Asylum, were attached to the 10th Light Horse regiment. Bentley was awarded the Military Cross. Captain Edward Weston, a veterinary lecturer in the Agriculture Faculty, embarked with them in the 10th Light Horse from Fremantle in February 1915. Alec Davidson, the popular Caretaker at Irwin Street, was killed in action. The popular Caretaker at Irwin Street also enlisted and served overseas, returning to continue this role at Irwin Street and Crawley.

When the University Act was proclaimed in 1911, a Convocation of graduates from universities in Australia and overseas, resident in Western Australia, was formed. A minimum of sixty was required and this was exceeded by February 1913 allowing Convocation to be formed on March 4, 1913. All but two of the Convocation names listed were Founding members. Some 30 members volunteered for war service, ten leaving Fremantle on 2 November 1914 to join the first convoy at sea.

Many of Perth’s leading professionals were Convocation members. Barrister, Gresley Harper, enlisted in the 10th Light Horse and was killed at Walkers Ridge, Gallipoli. Frederick Washington Lawson, Chief Engineer of the Perth Metropolitan Water Board was attached to several Engineers Field and Tunneling Companies. His citation for the DSO notes his fearlessness in ‘doing the impossible’ in restoring water supplies to the advance troops. Tragically, after the war he took his own life, walking into the Swan River with his revolver. A sad reminder of another significant engineer, C Y O’Connor, also hounded by comments in the press of the day. Lieutenant Ridgway, Chief Assistant to the Engineer at Fremantle Harbour, was working on plans for WA’s four principal harbours prior to enlisting. Appointed to the Commonwealth Lighthouse Service and sent to Victoria, he assisted with several military training courses before embarking. Landing at Anzac Cove on 25 April, he was badly injured in early May, died on board the hospital ship and was buried at sea. A memorial plaque may be seen in St John’s Church, Fremantle.

More than a dozen of Convocation’s medical members served with distinction, but several did not return. Captain Anthony Corley from Pingelly was killed at the Dardenelles and buried at Shell Green, Gallipoli. Captain Harold Teague of Victoria Park, attached to No.1 Australian General Hospital, was killed in February 1917. Samuel Selby, a dentist, died at Passchendaele in 1917.

A large proportion of the University’s part-time students were teachers in the Education Department or students at the Claremont Teachers’ College. UWA graduate Lt. Col. A. J. H. Saw, a surgeon, made many voyages on troop transports. He became UWA Chancellor in 1922.
From the Warden of Convocation

What’s the difference between Convocation & Alumni?

When The University of Western Australia held its first graduation ceremony in July 1914, those who successfully completed their academic studies for the award of their degrees were accorded the title of graduates. In accordance with the requirements of the UWA Act, these new graduates were automatically conferred as members of Convocation.

However, over recent years, the term ‘alumni’ has frequently been used to describe graduates of the University as well as many other members of the UWA community.

So are these two terms interchangeable, or are there significant differences in their use and definition?

Graduates

The term “graduate of UWA” is only permitted to be used by those who have successfully completed the courses of study prescribed and have been conferred with their academic qualification by the Senate of the University.

Members of Convocation

In accordance with the UWA Act, all graduates of UWA are automatically granted life-time membership of Convocation (the organisation established by the Act to form the electorate for the University). This entitles them to vote in elections for the Senate and Council of Convocation, to review any proposed changes to the UWA Statutes and to be consulted by the University administration when future strategy and major changes are being considered.

Alumni

While many universities use the term ‘alumni’ in relation to graduates, UWA has adopted a broader definition, encompassing “graduates, members of Senate, past students, past and present staff, those awarded honorary doctorates, exchange students, guest lecturers, corporate partners, bequestors, donors, volunteers, friends and supporters of the University”.

Consequently, there are no eligibility criteria that govern the use of the term ‘alumni’ at UWA. While graduates are included, so are those who did not complete their studies, those studied only for a term, and those who just wish to be associated with UWA.

Relationship to UWA

The use of these terms also implies a significantly different relationship to UWA. A reference to Convocation conveys that its members are an integral part of the University, while the use of the term ‘alumni’ implies the normally accepted definition covering external stakeholders, who have no electoral rights or influence – two significantly different concepts.

Members of Convocation are actually members of the University in a similar manner to the staff and students of UWA. In Section 4 of the Act and in Statute 17, it states that the University shall consist of the Senate, the staff, the students and the members of Convocation (principally the 110,000 graduates who have graduated from our University since its foundation in 1913).

As a result, while past graduates (and the other members of Convocation) may not regard themselves as on-going members of the University, legally this is their status under the UWA Act. The current staff and students are an important part of the University for the duration of their employment or studies, but it is only the members of Convocation who are granted life-long membership of the University.

Who is responsible for Members of Convocation and UWA’s Alumni?

The titles of the Office of Convocation and the Office of Development & Alumni Relations may imply that one looks after members of Convocation and the other ‘alumni’. However, as outlined above, ‘alumni’ includes nearly all the members of Convocation as well as a few additional categories. As a result, responsibility for UWA graduates and other members of Convocation is shared between the Office of Convocation and the Office of Development & Alumni Relations.

The Office of Convocation provides the secretariat services to the Council of Convocation and manages the roles set out in the UWA Act and Statutes, while the Office of Development & Alumni Relations is UWA’s operational centre for fundraising and alumni engagement, including the supporting and coordinating functions for relationship and data management.

Over the years, some duplication in these responsibilities has developed. However, this has recently been recognized and initiatives are currently underway to ensure that complementary roles and responsibilities are developed between these two Offices.

The Potential of Convocation Membership

The fact that members of Convocation (primarily UWA graduates) are members of the University in the same way as the current staff and students, provides the potential for Convocation to become a significant catalyst within the University for providing a connection to graduates and other members of Convocation to aid life-long learning and an on-going active involvement through mentoring and service learning programs.

Council of Convocation is therefore working closely in collaboration with our colleagues in the Office of Development & Alumni Relations to address this challenge for the mutual benefit of both Convocation members and the University.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM
Warden of Convocation
Securing Perth’s water supply in the drying climate

More than half of Perth’s water can be produced – rain, hail or shine – through the Water Corporation’s investment in climate-independent seawater desalination.

Sue Murphy, the Corporation’s Chief Executive Officer since 2008, said Perth’s water supply had been radically transformed, from almost total dependence on dam water less than 50 years ago, to now just 18 per cent from this source.

“In the first part of the last century, some years were very wet and others very dry. The engineering solution to that was to build increasingly large dams,” explained the UWA engineering graduate who was guest speaker at the First Ordinary Meeting of Convocation in March.

Sue said that until the 1970s the State’s water engineers based their calculations on a long-term average of about 350 billion litres of rainwater filling Perth’s dams each year.

“That worked very nicely because, up until that period, Perth used less than 300 billion litres a year,” she said. “However, by the 1970s we had a number of very dry years and as a result some short-term sprinkler bans were implemented in Perth.

“At that stage, Perth’s water supply started to change and engineers realised that rainfall and runoff into dams wasn’t going to meet the city’s future water needs.”

Speaking to more than 300 UWA graduates at the meeting, Sue said last year’s rainfall was at the 10 year average, significantly below the 100 year, long-term average.

“In 1958, the year I was born, Perth’s water supply was 92 per cent dam water and eight per cent groundwater,” she said. “By 1980, the year I started engineering at UWA, it was two-thirds dam water, one-third groundwater. In 2004, when I joined the Water Corporation, it had swapped to one-third surface water and two-thirds groundwater.

“Last year, 18 per cent came from dams, 43 per cent from groundwater and 39 per cent from seawater desalination.

“Our two seawater desalination plants now have the capacity to provide up to 145 billion litres of water each year – about half of Perth’s water supply. Desalination is the cornerstone of our water supply and it’s the reason we don’t have water restrictions in Perth.”

While seawater desalination uses more energy than supplying dam water, Sue said that declining rainfall left little alternative.
50th Anniversary Reunion

Lost Graduates of 1965

Planning is underway for the 30th annual Convocation reunion to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the 1965 graduations. We will celebrate in style with a selection of Western Australian wines and the intriguing science behind their production, presented by vignerons from UWA 1965, as well as UWA oenology researchers. Leisuresly campus walking tours, displays, socialising, fine finger food and refreshments will follow.

Invitations to this friendly and entertaining October gathering will be going out to all those for whom we have contact details. Below is a list of the 1965 graduates for whom we need addresses. If you have any idea of their whereabouts, please let us know.

For more information please contact Rob Blandford at rob.blandford@uwa.edu.au or call (+61 8) 6488 2651.


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40

Ultimately, groundwater replenishment has the potential to supply up to 20 per cent of Perth’s future drinking water needs by 2060.

“The key part of making Perth drought-proof is not just about water sources – it’s about changing our behaviours,” Sue said. “Since 2001, Perth’s population has grown by almost 40 per cent but the Water Corporation supplies less water in total than we did then. Each person in Perth now uses an average of 30 per cent a year less than they did in 2001. Per capita water use has decreased because people have started to think about our water supply – because ‘waterwise’ messages are everywhere.”

Sue believes the biggest single change made to save water was the 2007 introduction of sprinkler rosters. “We don’t have sprinkler bans in this State – we have permanent water efficiency measures which have been in place for nearly 10 years,” she said. “Last year in Perth alone, this saved about 56 billion litres of drinking water – almost 25 Olympic pools of water. We’ve seen phenomenal changes in the garden, in the way we water and use our gardens and in the plants we select.”

Sue said a lot of change had come about through working with irrigators, turf growers, nursery associations and garden industries, and with the plumbers association in relation to household fittings.

“If you install waterwise products in your home you can reduce your water use without any change at all in your amenity or lifestyle,” she said.

However there is still a long way to go – Water Corporation customers in Perth still have the second highest per capita water use of any comparable sized city in Australia, second only to Darwin.

“Climate-independent water being more expensive than dam water, it is incumbent on us to be efficient. By helping our customers reduce water use, we’re able to defer investment in new sources. Over the last decade, water saving efforts in Perth have contributed about 105 billion litres of water saved each year – the equivalent of the total output of the Southern Seawater Desalination Plant in Binningup,” she explained.

Sue said Water Corporation studies show that people save water not to save money, but because it is morally the right thing to do: “Somehow, we’ve got water positioned as a hearts and minds issue, not a financial issue, and I hope that is always the case.”
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 mail: Terry Larder, The University of Western Australia, M474, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009.

HUGO RIETVELD (BSc 1961; PhD 1962) completed his PhD degree in Physics with the late Ted Maslen as supervisor. The thesis was the first single crystal neutron diffraction study in Australia and was conducted at the nuclear reactor, HIFAR, at Lucas Heights in Sydney. In 1969, he took up the position of research officer at the Netherlands Energy Research Foundation ECN at Petten and was mainly involved in neutron powder diffraction studies of uranates and other ceramic compounds. There he developed a method which came to be known as the Rietveld Method, which is now used worldwide not only to determine structures but also to determine the components of powder mixtures. Especially in the ceramic industry this has led to a considerable improvement in quality control. He received the Aminoff Prize for his work and was presented by King Carl Gustaf of Sweden on behalf of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm, in 1995, one of many prizes and honours bestowed on him. In 1992 he retired, after a scientific and managerial career with ECN.

BRIAN SHEPHERD (BA 1964; DipEd 1965; MA 1977) has carried out many consultancies in the museum and heritage industry and in 2011 was awarded the Heritage Council of WA’s gold medal for ‘outstanding service to heritage by a heritage professional’. Brian was previously the Head of the Museum of Childhood at Edith Cowan University, a position he held for 20 years. He is now retired and living in Tasmania. Former classmates can contact him at b.shepherd@bigpond.com

JOHN GUNZBURG (MB BS 1969) celebrated his 70th birthday last February with his wife of 44 years, their three daughters and seven grandchildren. He writes that he has had an interesting career in Melbourne in general practice for 16 years, in family therapy and individual psychotherapy for 16 years and has worked in drug addiction medicine for the last 12 years. John is writing a book for his grandchildren about his time here at UWA.

1970s

SUSANA GLUCK (BSc 1970) worked as an economist in Buenos Aires for many years and now lives in Minneapolis, USA. Susana writes that she has the best memories of her student days at UWA and UWA made a big difference in her life. Former classmates can contact her at gusluck@usewireless.com

BRIAN GAULL (BSc 1971) spent many years as a geophysicist in Papua New Guinea, Antarctica, Japan, New Zealand and Australia, specialising in earthquake hazard assessment. His time spent on Mawson, Antarctica, had a profound impact on his life and with this in mind he began writing his memoir, ‘Chill Out: An Antarctic Odyssey’. Now in retirement in Bunbury, Brian can be contacted if you wish to read about his experiences at brian.gaull@westnet.com.au or briangaull.com

1980s

KERRIE HOUSE (BSc 1987) works as a Middle Years Curriculum Coordinator for Science at Melbourne Girls Grammar having previously worked for several years for the Oracle Corporation. Kerrie is based in Melbourne and classmates can contact her at kerrie213@gmail.com

LINDA JENKINS (née Christie) BA 1988; BPsych 1991) completed her Graduate Diploma in Counselling from Curtin University and is now working as a Counsellor for Anglicare WA. She writes that she has three children and they all enjoy healthy eating and new recipes. Former classmates can contact her at linda.jenkins7@bigpond.com

1990s

GESA RUGE (BArch 1991) is Assistant Professor in the School of Management at the University of Canberra. She is a practice focused researcher working in conjunction with industry organisations and government regulators and supports both industry and government on a number of boards and committees. In 2013 Gesa was awarded the University of Canberra Vice-Chancellor’s Citation Award for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning.
Camile Farah (BDSc 1997) has recently been appointed as Professor of Oral Oncology, Head of the School of Dentistry, and Director of the Oral Health Centre of WA. Camile obtained his dental degree from UWA, and subsequently a PhD in Oral Pathology & Immunology, and specialist training in Oral Medicine & Pathology at the University of Queensland. He also holds a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Leadership. Camile is the Immediate Past President of the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia and served as its Inaugural President, President, of the Australian & New Zealand Division of the International Association for Dental Research, Vice Chairman of the Australian Dental Research Foundation and Chairman of its Research Advisory Committee. He established the Australian Centre for Oral Oncology Research & Education in an effort to leverage his academic, clinical and industry partnerships for the advancement of oral oncology translational research, personalized patient care, patient and clinician education and professional development, and overall advocacy for patients with head and neck cancer. He has authored 120 peer reviewed publications and attracted approximately $5m in competitive research funding. Camile can be contacted on camile.farah@uwa.edu.au.

**FADZI WHANDE (née Mutambiranwa)** (GradCertSocImp 2014) was one of five people selected as part of the Australian National Committee of UN Women to attend the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the UN Headquarters in NYC last March. Fadzi’s highlight was hearing both Melinda Gates and Hillary Clinton address the delegates. She was an Alumni Ambassador at the University’s Graduation ceremony last March.

**NOTE:** If you’re interested in being an Alumni Ambassador at graduations, either in a speaking capacity or by liaising with graduands on the night, please contact Rob Blandford (rob.blandford@uwa.edu.au).

**ELKE GREIG** (BA 1992) writes that she has retired to a rural property and is learning rapidly how to care for horses, sheep, chickens and wildlife.

**KEISUKE FUJITA** (MBA 1993) is working as a chartered accountant for DFK Laurence Varnay, in Pitt Street, Sydney. He previously worked in Tokyo and is married with a teenage daughter. He can be contacted at k.fujita@dfksydney.com.

**CAMILE FARAH** (BDSc 1997) has recently been appointed as Professor of Oral Oncology, Head of the School of Dentistry, and Director of the Oral Health Centre of WA. Camile obtained his dental degree from UWA, and subsequently a PhD in Oral Pathology & Immunology, and specialist training in Oral Medicine & Pathology at the University of Queensland. He also holds a Graduate Certificate in Higher Education and a Graduate Certificate in Executive Leadership. Camile is the Immediate Past President of the Oral Medicine Academy of Australasia and served as its Inaugural President, President, of the Australian & New Zealand Division of the International Association for Dental Research, Vice Chairman of the Australian Dental Research Foundation and Chairman of its Research Advisory Committee. He established the Australian Centre for Oral Oncology Research & Education in an effort to leverage his academic, clinical and industry partnerships for the advancement of oral oncology translational research, personalized patient care, patient and clinician education and professional development, and overall advocacy for patients with head and neck cancer. He has authored 120 peer reviewed publications and attracted approximately $5m in competitive research funding. Camile can be contacted on camile.farah@uwa.edu.au.

**NIGEL JONES** (DipEd 2005) set up the Institute of Soccer at Morley Senior High School and was a recent guest at the opening of Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club’s $10m youth facilitation. Morley SHS has been linked to the Wolves FC since 2006 and follow their Academy Curriculum Training.

**SHARYN GRAHAM DAVIES** (PhD 2006) has just returned to New Zealand after spending four months last year as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor at the University of Cambridge. Associate Professor Davies from the Auckland University of Technology’s School of Social Science and Public Policy specialises in sex and gender research especially with regard to Indonesia. She presented three public lectures entitled Kinships of Shame: Moral Connectivity in Contemporary Indonesia; Survelling Sex, Sculpting Sex: The Shaping of Sexual Self; and The ‘G’ Factor: Gangnam Style and the anthropology of policing.

**MARILYN LAI** (BCom 2006) attained a CPA and is presently undertaking a postgraduate diploma in supply chain management and logistics at Curtin University. Marilyn previously worked for two years in Equity Derivatives Trading with Macquarie Securities Singapore and two years in Risk Management with Credit Suisse Singapore. She has been working for the past four years as a Senior Marketing Analyst with Rio Tinto. Former classmates can contact her at marilyn.lai@riotinto.com.

**KERYN CLARK** (BA(Hons) 2009; PhD 2014) writes that since graduating she has put her creative arts degree to good use by opening a floral design and landscape studio on the Gold Coast. The shop also allows Keryn to explore her other creative talents through writing and photography. Former classmates can contact her at kerynlesleyclark@gmail.com.

**ANDREW TRAN** (BE 2014) is now working as a receptionist for an international school in Hong Kong. He writes that he is still continuing to contribute to a vibrant multicultural community as he did when he studied in Australia. Former classmates can contact him at andrew.tran@inventum.com.au.

**Australia Day Honours List 2015**

**UWA GRADUATES**

**Awarded an AO:**
- Professor Kerry Cox, AO
  (BSc 1972; PhD 1975)
- Mr John Cripps, AO
  (BA 1961; MSc(Agric) 1968)
- Mrs Therese Temby, AO
  (BSc 1967)

**Awarded an AM:**
- Dr Mark Barnaba, AM OAM
  (BCom 1986; HonDCom 2012)
- Mr Menno Henneveold, AM
  (BE 1969)
- Mr Peter Lewis, AM
  (BE 1985)
- Professor John Rossiter, AM
  (BPysch 1966)
- Ms Rona Wade, AM
  (BA 1970)

**Awarded an OAM:**
- Mr Ashley Arbuckle, OAM
  (BMus 1966)
- Dr Malcolm Dunjey, OAM
  (MBA BS 1965)
- The late Mr Frank Harding, OAM
  (BA 1953; DipEd 1957; BEd 1966)
- Dr Margaret Pride, OAM
  (BA 1972)
- Adjunct Professor Jennifer Searcy, OAM
  (BSc(Hons) 1958; DipEd 1965; BEd 1999)
- Mr Geoffrey Simpson, OAM
  (BE 1971)
- Mr Barry Tonkin, OAM
  (GradCertCRLaw 2006; MCRLaw 2007)
- Ms Diana Warnock, OAM
  (BA 1961)
Antoine Bloemen has packed a great deal into his life and his story makes a great read. His recently published book 'No Regrets: A Bicycle Dreaming from Belgium to Broome' (Hesperian Press) follows him from a small war-torn farming village in north-eastern Belgium during World War II, to travelling the world with the merchant navy and, more recently, serving as a magistrate in Broome.

Antoine, who studied Law at UWA, rapidly became known as a magistrate who introduced innovative forms of solving social problems among Aboriginal offenders. Asking a young recidivist what he really wanted and being told 'a bike', the magistrate used the promise of a bike in return for a three month absence from court appearances. He views this sentence as one that changed the lives of both parties.

As a boy, Antoine dreamed of being a cyclist and had built his own bikes from cast-offs from an uncle’s bike shop. When serving in Broome – where he still lives with his wife – he used bikes in alternative sentencing, to encourage desert kids to go to school and to help wardens in remote communities get around more quickly.

Antoine Bloemen migrated to the US in 1962, was drafted into the US Army and, while serving on Okinawa, met his wife, Anne. The couple married in New York in 1966 and after travelling widely and working in New York, they migrated to Perth in 1972 with two young children.

Antoine graduated from the UWA Law School and built up his own legal practice before being appointed magistrate to the Pilbara in 1995 and the Kimberley in 1999.

While he retired from the Bench in 2008, he continues serving on several community and Indigenous boards.

A holiday home that grew...

Ask UWA graduate Peta Dunn (nee Ethell) how she came to host a boutique luxury hotel in Bali and she happily refers to her husband Rick as “an engineer with an ego” whose plans for a family holiday home simply grew! The well-travelled Dunns fell in love with Ubud in Bali and, acquiring land there in 2005, the couple began to plan a retirement house large enough to accommodate family and friends. Rick, who completed Civil Engineering and an MBA at UWA, had spent 30 years running consulting businesses, and had wanted a change. While he knew about building and running small businesses, Peta had always been an excellent host and loved people – so it was no surprise to family and friends when the holiday home morphed into a business venture in the picturesque Petanu River valley near Ubud! Trip Advisor ranks their Amori Villas as the fifth best hotel in Bali and the graduates are enjoying a lifestyle that sees them moving between Perth (where “the beaches are the best”) and their Bali business.

From Belgium village to the Bench in Broome

Antoine Bloemen has packed a great deal into his life and his story makes a great read. His recently published book ‘No Regrets: A Bicycle Dreaming from Belgium to Broome’ (Hesperian Press) follows him from a small war-torn farming village in north-eastern Belgium during World War II, to travelling the world with the merchant navy and, more recently, serving as a magistrate in Broome.

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While he retired from the Bench in 2008, he continues serving on several community and Indigenous boards.
Nurturing White’s literary legacy

The 2012 birth centenary of Australia’s only Nobel Prize-winning writer, Patrick White and an international gathering of White scholars at the University of Hyderabad, has led to a volume of essays on the legacy of this giant of Australian literature. The book’s chief editor is UWA Research Fellow Dr Cynthia vanden Driesen (whose doctoral thesis focussed on White) and several academics and alumni have contributed.

Patrick White Centenary – Legacy of a Prodigal Son was launched by Gareth Evans, former Federal parliamentarian, at the Australian National University in Canberra. The Honorary Professorial Fellow and Chancellor of ANU believes White’s works “will be read as long as books are read,” and he lauds the author as a ‘public sage’ on Indigenous rights, nuclear disarmament and the republic.

Also at the launch was actor Kate Fitzpatrick who performed in many White plays and shared stories of her long relationship with the artist. White’s work was embraced internationally and this volume by Cambridge Scholars Publishing brings together the insights of academics from across the world, some of whom – like Singaporean writer Kirpal Singh – attribute their discovery of Australian literature to reading White.

Was he “an eccentric presence, a querulous curmudgeon unexpectedly gracing the political stage, when his real agency of change was to be found elsewhere, in his fiction?” asked one reviewer of this book. The commentary offered may well provide the answers. Patrick White Centenary – Legacy of a Prodigal Son was edited by Dr vanden Driesen of UWA’s Faculty of Arts and Bill Ashcroft of the University of New South Wales.

An explorer with “scientific sensibility”

UWA geographer Dr Marion Hercock, an Adjunct Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environment and Adjunct Associate Professor Vivian Forbes have long lamented the fact that the achievements of the State’s first Surveyor-General, John Septimus Roe, has been overlooked by scholars. Yet the British Navy surveyor/navigator’s legacy was extraordinary; he was quick to quarantine Mt Eliza from timber cutters in the Swan River Colony’s first years, he planted some of the colony’s first vines on the still-thriving Sandalford Estate (his riverside reward for service from Queen Victoria), and he explored vast tracts of territory in the very best scientific tradition.

Now a new volume devoted to Roe’s exploration has been added to the Western Australian Explorers’ Diaries Project series to fill the gap in history.

In the introduction, Dr Hercock writes that during his explorations, Roe took a geographer’s approach to observing the environment and people. Vegetation, terrain, weather, animals, winds, waters, people and place names were all noted in meticulous detail – this volume includes 230 Indigenous WA place names recorded by Roe and over 150 drawings and maps containing a wealth of information.

“As a geographer, I see Roe’s exploration record as one made by a geographer. Likewise, ecologist and zoologist Dr Ian Abbott, who prepared the index on fauna and ecology, sees Roe as a proto community and landscape ecologist,” says Dr Hercock.

The Western Australian Explorations of John Septimus Roe 1829–1849 is published by Hesperian Press.
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