Tammy Solonec is proud of her Spanish, German and Ukrainian ancestry, but the Law graduate says that belonging to the Nigena people of the Kimberley is the strongest contributor to her identity. The successful human rights’ lawyer celebrates her spiritual and cultural ties to the Fitzroy Valley region and the iconic river that seasonally spills across its vast floodplains.

Tammy Solonec clearly enjoys revisiting the family tree and hearing the tales of her Poppa, a Spanish shepherd boy who was a Benedictine novice monk at Samos in Galicia and at New Norcia. His mother had sent him to Samos when he was thirteen, at a time when Spain was experiencing political upheaval and on the cusp of civil war.

The young man travelled to Australia when he was sixteen but after four years he chose to leave the monastery and he ventured to the Kimberley where he met Tammy’s grandmother, a Nigena woman. Katie Fraser had been a novitiate in the convent for ‘black’ nuns at Beagle Bay Mission, and she too, left of her own free will.

Both of Tammy’s maternal great grandparents were children of the ‘stolen generations’. Fulgentius Fraser and Phillipena Melycan were ‘removed’ from their full-descent mothers in Nigena country and sent to Drysdale River Mission and Beagle Bay respectively. Phillipena’s story is heart wrenching because as a little girl, she and a relative were kept in jail overnight in Derby before being transported to Beagle Bay. Their mothers cried all night outside the jail, calling them, but were not able to reclaim their children.

“Where was a lot of trauma in the lives of my family – with my maternal great grandparents being part of the Stolen Generations and my paternal grandparents coming to Australia as refugees after World War II. Dad was born in a refugee camp in Northam, near Perth. Granddad, Akim Solonec, had escaped the Russian Red Army into Germany where he met my nanna, Gertrud Hagermann. This worldwide trauma is part of the background that created me. It’s part of who I am and why I work in the area of human rights.”

“Being multicultural is a big part of who I am, but my Aboriginal identity is the strongest part of me,” says Tammy. “I was born in the Kimberley, raised in the Pilbara and I’ve worked with Aboriginal people all my life. My Nigena family is traced back to when my great, great grandparents had their children stolen from them.”

Tammy’s mother, Cindy Solonec, instilled in her daughter the steadfast belief that education was the key to achieving her ambitious plans for the future. Cindy is now completing a PhD in Aboriginal History through UWA (Photo: Matthew Galligan)

“I was always opinionated, interested in politics and current affairs,” recalls Tammy. “As a young Aboriginal girl up north, I knew people weren’t likely to listen to me, but I figured that with a Law degree—that bit of paper—they might.”

“Growing up in regional and remote WA, I also saw a lot of injustice, so it was inevitable I’d study Law and use my degree for the benefit of Aboriginal people. I went
straight from high school into the inaugural prelaw course at UWA. At that time it was the first course of its kind in Australia – and I loved it straight away.

“Law just made sense to me, and it was special being in that UWA group. We knew we were the first! There weren’t many Aboriginal students doing Law then, but there was a real need for Aboriginal Lawyers.”

Securing that degree was a long and at times a difficult journey. Tammy met her husband during her first year of study at UWA, married and had two children, then put her studies on hold while working for the Department of Housing.

When her marriage fell apart, there was a custody battle and the need to support her family. Eventually, still juggling being a mum and work, she picked up her Law studies again, doing one or two units while working with the Department of Commerce in Indigenous Community Education.

“It took me 12 years to complete my Law degree,” she says, remembering that final exam in Winthrop Hall.

“I let all my colleagues leave and sat alone in the hall, reflecting on 12 years of struggle. It was a profound and emotional moment. I knew I’d passed but that moment of reaching the end – it was so big I didn’t feel the need to go to a graduation ceremony and collect a certificate. It was enough just to have survived, to have done it!”

But there were people at UWA who were very much a part of her journey.

“Neil Morgan, one of my first lecturers, is now the Inspector of Custodial Services, so I continue to have contact with him in relation to prisoners’ rights. He was very supportive, as was Law tutor Mel Thomas. And, of course, Shenton House was my place: to hang out and use the computers, and to have the help and friendship of staff and students. That was the biggest thing that got me through Law.”

Having completed her Bachelor of Laws in 2006, she was employed by the Aboriginal Legal Service for her Articles, and in 2009 became Managing Solicitor of the Law and Advocacy Unit where she managed policy and law reform, international law, community legal education, prisoner support and coronial inquests, including extensive work on the high profile Ward Inquest.

Tammy’s own small business consultancy, Nyikina Yorga Consultancies, has recently seen her delivering tenancy training in remote Aboriginal communities in the Fitzroy Valley for Shelter WA, along with involvement in research projects, cultural awareness training, media co-ordinating and lecturing (mainly on human rights and governance). Her long association with remote housing means she’s interested in the outcomes of agreements to tackle housing shortages in remote communities, overcrowding and homelessness.

Long involved with NAIDOC Perth – its incorporation, management and promotion – in 2011 Tammy went from Secretary to Vice-Chairperson, and was appointed to the National NAIDOC Committee. Also in 2011, Tammy was elected to the high profile Board of the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, the new national representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, where she leads the organisation’s work in Justice.


In 2012, her work in justice was recognised by the Women’s Lawyers Association of WA as WA Young Female Lawyer of the Year and the Law Society of WA as Lawyer of the Year with less than 5 years experience.

The UWA graduate is also keenly interested in Justice Reinvestment, being a strong advocate of engaging with crime prevention rather than continuing to increase prison populations. She believes ‘tough on crime’ rhetoric needs to be replaced by strengthen communities and preventing at-risk individuals from offending, citing reductions in juvenile incarceration rates in both Oregon and in Texas where effective inventions are in place.

Another future challenge lies in the political arena.

“I’m an obsessive long-term planner, and definitely aspire to enter politics,” says this ambitious graduate. “I know I’ll be able to contribute a lot, having spent so much time working on housing, social justice and human rights issues.”
Wayne Gregson is already thinking about the next season and how to make firefighting more effective. The UWA graduate, who rose to the top ranks of the WA Police, now holds one of the State’s most critical public service roles: Commissioner of the new Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

When, in 2011, fire-fighting was in the news for all the wrong reasons following the Roleystone and Margaret River bushfires and the subsequent Keelty reports, Wayne Gregson was seconded from the WA Police to head what was then the Fire and Emergency Services Agency (FESA).

The graduate is now Commissioner of the relatively new Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES), the State’s leading hazard management agency. DFES covers a range of natural disasters and emergency incidents and co-ordinates both volunteer and career services for fire, hazmat, natural hazards, marine and search and rescue services, making it an extremely complex portfolio.

Particularly in relation to fire management, DFES works closely with the Department of Parks and Wildlife that manages national and conservation parks, State forests, timber and nature reserves, marine reserves and parks.

Wayne Gregson joined the police force as a cadet in 1979 and immediately broke the mould. “I wanted to do something quite unusual: tertiary studies. Academia wasn’t warmly embraced within the force at that time – although today tertiary study has become much more part of the developmental norm,” he recalls. “So while my mates were often in the pub, I was travelling down to UWA to study things like philosophy, history and political science, and I believe those studies stood me in good stead.

“I certainly found they gave me a better understanding of how communities and societies work and showed me different ways of looking at the world. In terms of policing, I was able to appreciate the bigger picture of the forces at work in a society: the ways in which the government bureaucracy, the governing party, the community and the law interrelate.”
So this ambitious cadet graduated and served in uniform at suburban stations, and later with the tactical response group and major fraud and crime squads.

Promoted through the ranks to serve as Assistant Commissioner for the Metropolitan area, he later headed a judicial services review “trying to co-ordinate the way criminal justice processes work from the police perspective”.

That would have been a useful curtain raiser for his present job heading an institution encompassing “people from different services who think very differently”. He observes that all the agencies he has worked with tend to attract alpha males who tend to be critical. The trick, he says, is to get everyone working together, towards a common goal.

When asked to express an interest in the FESA secondment that resulted in his present appointment, Wayne Gregson recalls telling the selection panel that he wanted to make a difference to the people trying to deliver the services in a bureaucracy where the default position is to say, “No, we can’t change that, we’ve always done it this way.”

He sees the challenges of leading DFES in almost military terms. “All the support personnel from medical to catering people are there to support the soldier in the field. So the default position must be to say ‘yes’,” he explains. “I am very big on structure. Everyone needs to know what the rules of engagement are and their responsibilities; operational procedures need to be standardised and good policy needs to be articulated and entrenched.”

When his appointment stirred rumblings in relation to fire management (“What does he know about fires, he’s got no background in firefighting…?”) his response was: “Fighting fires is not my job. My job is corporate governance, minimising risk and providing a clear pathway for the future.”

In relation to fire management and firefighting – the issues that usually thrust his department into the media – he says there is a tension between community resilience and a reliance on a DFES fire truck rolling over the horizon to put things right.

“We have to get the message out that that is not a reasonable expectation. Sometimes we’re not going to be able to battle what the landscape and catastrophic weather conditions conspire to create,” he says. “In those situations you can only minimise the impact and you can best do this through preparation – people taking ownership, looking hard at their homes and striking a healthy balance between ‘living in a tree house or a concrete bunker’ before the fire occurs.”

Since this year’s Parkerville fires, he has also made it clear that reduction of fuel loads will be a major consideration in the review of WA emergency services legislation, and he has emphasised that local councils, state government entities and landholders on semirural properties – “people who own the fuel” – need to be held to account.

“Academia wasn’t warmly embraced in the force at the time – today it’s much more part of the developmental norm.”

The Commissioner has also warned against a growing culture of post disaster blame and litigation. Volunteers, he says, have already approached him to ask whether making a decision that is later questioned will involve them in parliamentary or coronial enquiries, subject them to media scrutiny.

“It’s hard enough to get volunteers. If you continue to blame people there will be less inclination for them to step up to the challenge,” he says. “Mistakes will continue to be made because we’re human; controlled burns will occasionally get away because you are working with fire, however with improved training and clear ground rules established by the Office of Bushfire Management, we reduce the chances of this. We also have at our disposal improved technology and equipment that strengthens our hand.”

Since his appointment, the UWA graduate has been able to design and implement organizational change, and has clearly relished the challenge.

“When you implement change – and the Keelty reports advocated far-reaching cultural change in what was FESA and the Department of Environment and Conservation – you need to bring people along with you, to convince them that the changes being effected are for the greater good,” he says.

“It’s all about harnessing skills and getting people to work more collectively and co-operatively towards a unified command and control structure they believe in. I do feel I’m making headway, however with all cultural reform agendas the trick is not to expect too much too soon, to be satisfied with incremental change that importantly brings people along for the journey.”

Apart from his BA and MBA from UWA, Wayne Gregson is a graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Executive Fellow of the Australia and New Zealand School of Government.
UWA’s Oceans Institute’s labs have become ‘shark research central’ for the national media as interest in recent fatal attacks continues – and two researchers, UWA Winthrop Professor Shaun Collin and Dr Ryan Kempster, have been as much in the news as the predators patrolling Australia’s coastline.

Currently the Ocean’s Institute is pursuing a range of research – from wet suits to shark repellents – aimed at making us feel safer as we enjoy the beaches that play such an intrinsic part of the WA lifestyle.

While researchers concede there’s no ‘magic bullet’, their focus on shark behaviour and biology is providing fascinating insights – like the fact that shark diving behaviour varies with water temperature and the phases of the moon; that they see in black-and-white only and have a sixth sense enabling them to detect electric fields (from body movements in the ocean) down to a billionth of a volt. These are findings that have stirred wide interest and seen UWA research featured in ABC TV’s Catalyst program.

The UWA researchers emphasise that statistical data suggests it’s a fallacy that shark attacks have increased in WA, pointing instead to the State’s spiralling population and the increase in swimmers enjoying beaches with a worldwide reputation for their beauty and exhilarating surf breaks.

While today helicopters are a frequent sight for beachgoers, the UWA researchers say helicopter shark patrols over the past few years have sighted the same number of
sharks per hour of patrolling (about one every 2.5 hours) as in previous years. Stats from Hawaii (between 1959 and 1976, when more than 4,500 sharks were culled) also indicate that culling results in no significant decrease in the number of attacks recorded.

“We take a calculated risk whenever we enter the ocean, but the risk is quite small compared with other daily activities,” say the researchers. To illustrate this, they cite new research showing that on average in Australia rip currents cause on 21 fatalities a year, compared with 7.5 for cyclones, 5.9 for bushfires, 4.3 for floods, and 1 for sharks.

“The WA Government is in a difficult position,” says Professor Collin. “It genuinely wants to protect ocean users and its investment in monitoring and research has been a very positive step, but we still need to better understand why sharks attacks occur and what factors draw sharks closer to shore.

“The more we know about their movements and behaviour, the more able we are to develop strategies to coexist with these important apex predators while continuing to enjoy the ocean safely,” says Professor Collin, a shark sensory biologist and WA Premier’s Fellow who leads the Neuroecology Group at UWA’s Oceans Institute. The group has received WA Government funding to test the effectiveness and improve understanding of existing shark deterrents.

Dr Ryan Kempster’s research focusses on the shark’s sixth sense to ‘see’ the electric fields created by other things moving through the ocean environment. Using tiny pores over the surface of their heads, sharks can detect even weak electric fields.

“Shark repellents have traditionally been used to reduce the risk of attack, but they also play a role in reducing by-catch and protecting both sharks and the people who work and play in our oceans,” says the researcher who recently gave a UWA Extension lecture.

UWA researchers advocate more public education about the risks (times, water temperatures and conditions for most attacks) along with signage on beaches known to be frequented by ‘dangerous’ sharks – a common practice in California and other places visited by large sharks.

The Western Australian Government recently announced the second round of funding as part of its Shark Mitigation Strategy with UWA receiving support for a further two projects. A project led by Shane Chambers from the School of Physics will develop an acoustic system to detect sharks approaching beaches while Associate Professor Nathan Hart’s project will define the actual visual, electrical and vibrational (sensory) cues that trigger shark attacks.

Professor Hart is developing and testing new shark deterrents, including the innovative use of bubble curtains, strobe lights and sub aquatic sounds. He is also working with Professor Collin to develop shark attack deterrent wetsuits in a project co-funded by WA company Dunbar Harper and the WA Government.

Winthrop Professor Mohammed Bennamoun, from UWA’s School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, has received funding to develop advanced vision systems for automatic shark detection. His recent research projects used the latest 3D imaging and biomechanical techniques to quantify swimmers’ movement patterns.

The WA Department of Commerce established the Shark Hazard Advisory Research Committee (SHARC) to deliver shark mitigation education and research.

There are several articles by UWA researchers on shark research in The Conversation (http://theconversation.com).
Hyman Spigl: inspiring the next generation

A family spanning three generations across several continents has created a prize honouring the memory of a brother and uncle who put Western Australia on the map in terms of international astronomy. They hope the Hyman S. Spigl Prize will support tomorrow’s innovators in science and engineering.

UWA graduate Hyman Spigl studied part-time at UWA in the 1930s, graduating with a Bachelor of Surveying in 1939 and later adding a BA to his academic credentials. Joining the WA Department of Lands and Surveys as a cadet surveyor, he went on to play a major role in the geodetic survey marking of the border between Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

This impressive young man was appointed Government Astronomer of WA at the age of 29 and, over more than two decades, he significantly upgraded the Perth Observatory.

At a time when the ‘tyranny of distance’ underscored the State’s isolation, the graduate forged ambitious research links with Washington University, Seattle (USA). As a result, the observatory participated in a program of moon observations during the International Geophysical Year (1957/8).

A UWA Gledden Travelling Scholarship allowed H. Spigl to spend a year in the US, the UK and Europe, further strengthening the Observatory’s overseas links. He was pursuing a new location for the observatory when his untimely death in 1962 meant that he never saw the Observatory’s move to Bickley.

In her book Astronomy of Western Australia Muriel Utting wrote that as Government Astronomer, H. Spigl moved the observatory “into the modern era” and helped to establish a vigorous Astronomical Society of WA.

H. Spigl was a member of the UWA Faculty of Engineering, the Technical Advisory Committee of the University Investments, Endowments and Building Committee, and the Advisory Board in Engineering. He was a councillor of the Institution of Surveyors, Western Australia, a life member of the Astronomical Society of Western Australia, and a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Named in his honour is Spigl Street in the Canberra suburbs of Giralang and Kaleen, and Spigl Way, in the Perth suburb of Bateman.

A part-time lecturer in surveying at UWA, H. Spigl encouraged his nephews George Taylor and Barry Green to study science and engineering. UWA Engineering graduate Dr George Taylor (a world leader in ferroelectricity and in the large-scale conversion of wave energy to electricity) recalls attending lectures given by his charismatic uncle.
“He was renowned for talking at high speed and students had trouble keeping up because as he rapidly covered two blackboards with formulas, he was obliterating the first before we’d copied it all down!”

“He was renowned for talking at high speed and students had trouble keeping up because as he rapidly covered two blackboards with formulas, he was obliterating the first before we’d copied it all down!” recalls Dr Taylor. “However he was very inspirational and always stressed the importance of studying mathematics and engineering.”

After graduating from the Victoria University of Wellington (NZ), Dr Barry Green completed a PhD in theoretical plasma physics (University of Sydney) and has spent the last 40 years involved in the research and development of fusion energy in the US, Europe, and Japan. He currently lectures at the School of Physics, UWA.

On the death of H. Spigl, his surviving sisters, Myrtle (George’s mother) and Dora (Barry’s mother) donated funds to establish the H. S. Spigl Memorial Prize. Now the families of Hyman’s three sisters, Batzion, Myrtle, and Dora, have transformed the prize into the Hyman S. Spigl Prize. The family has strong connections with the University: Dora Green (BA, 1928); George Taylor (BE, 1957, DEng, 1981, and Honorary Doctor of Letters, 2009); and his son George (M.Sc, 1996). And Barry Green is married to Helen (BA, 1965).

The donors to the prize are: Batzion’s son Rodney; Myrtle’s son George Taylor and his four children Susan (and her sons Joseph and James), George, Deborah and Felicity; Dora’s daughter Judith and her children Sibila, Ensor, Rebecca and Zoe; Dora’s son Barry and his three children Stefan, Julian and Aleksandra. Poet Judith Rodriguez, has written a poem in honour of her uncle entitled *Halley’s Comet (Judith Rodriguez: New and Selected Poems, University of Queensland Press, 1988)*.

The family believes that re-invigorating this prize supports excellence in learning at the University. “We want to support education here and to remember our uncle. It’s a great way to tie our family together – because several generations are in different places,” says Dr Taylor. And Dr Green adds: “Scientists and engineers are the innovators for the world of tomorrow, but we need more of them. Hopefully, this prize will assist in providing them.”

From 2014, the prize will be awarded to the Master of Professional Engineering student with the highest mark in Advanced Engineering Mathematics. The 2012 prize went to Elliot Christian Roberts.
Over the past three years, UWA has had a number of opportunities to celebrate the centenary of its establishment.

During 2011, we were able to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the University’s legal creation exactly a century after the University of Western Australia Act received the Governor’s assent on 16 February 1911. The centenary of the appointment of the first members of the Senate occurred on 13 February 2012, and the centenary of the first meeting of the Senate was reached on 13 March 2012.

On the 4th March 2013, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the first meeting of Convocation and on 31st March 2013, we commemorated the centenary of the commencement of the first student classes at UWA.

While many believe the festivities are now over, this year marks the centenary of another very significant event – the conferral ceremony for our first graduate – Edward Sydney Simpson.

Simpson, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geology (for which he attained First Class Honours) was awarded his degree in a ceremony conducted in the Ballroom of Government House on 29th July 1914.

For a mineral-rich State, he is the “first graduate from central casting” given that during his career he was the Chief Chemist to the WA Mines Department and later Government Mineralogist and Analyst. As well as making a substantial contribution to the scientific literature, including the ground-breaking “Minerals of Western Australia”, he took on an extensive number of voluntary leadership roles, including an appointment as a member of the UWA Senate, and he was a key player in the development of many of WA’s scientific institutions.

Based on the excellent research undertaken by Jenny Bevan from UWA’s School of Earth and Environment, we now know far more about Edward Simpson and his studies at UWA.

He was born in at Woollahra, a suburb of Sydney, on 11th March 1875 into a reasonably well-to-do household. An outstanding student at the Sydney Grammar School and the University of Sydney, he won numerous prizes and scholarships, and graduated in 1895 with a Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours) in mining and metallurgy.

His first appointment was as a research chemist at the Russell Silver Mine in New South Wales and then as an Assayer at the Mt Morgan Gold Mine in Queensland.

In 1897, when only 22 years of age, he was offered the position of Mineralogist and Assayer and Chief Chemist in the WA Mines Department, at a salary of £350 per annum. After seven years in these roles, during 1904 Simpson departed on a world tour during which he married Muriel Griffiths in London, and together they returned to reside in Perth in January 1905. Over the years, they had a daughter and two sons and subsequently a number of grandchildren.

By 1913, Simpson had been working in responsible positions for almost 18 years and because of his obvious potential, he was encouraged by his colleagues to undertake a BSc Geology degree at the new University. At nearly 38 years of age, Simpson would have been amongst the oldest of the 184 new students in 1913.

Because of the credits he obtained for the units he had completed in his Bachelor of Engineering degree at the University of Sydney, Edward Simpson was able to complete his Bachelor of Science in geology with First Class Honours in 1914. In doing so, he became the first ever student to obtain a degree from UWA. In 1917, he applied for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science and was awarded his DSc in 1919 for his geological thesis “The Minerals of Western Australia”. Again, he was the first student to earn a Doctorate of Science at UWA.

In 1922, the Geological Survey Laboratory was amalgamated with the Government Chemical Laboratory and Simpson, now in his late forties, was promoted to Government Mineralogist and Analyst in charge of the combined health, mineral and agricultural laboratories.

During this period, he and his family lived on the foreshore in South Perth and he travelled to work by ferry each day. Sadly, in 1934, his wife Muriel died (aged only 59) and in the September of 1936 he married his second wife, Ruth Alcock.

Over his lifetime, he devoted himself to the service of the State and the Commonwealth, specialising in mineralogy and geochemistry (but including positions such as director of the State’s 18-pounder Shell Factory during World War I). He described and named a number of minerals new to science and wrote over a hundred learned papers and monographs as well as reference...
books like his 1932 “A Key to Mineral Groups, Species and Varieties” and “Minerals of Western Australia” (published posthumously). To honour him for his researches into minerals, a new mineral first discovered in the Pilbara was named after him (Simpsonite).

Prior to his death (of a heart attack) on 30th August 1939, at the age of 64, he was accorded many honours. His legacy includes his invaluable three-volume “Minerals of Western Australia”, still the main source of information on minerals in our State, the Edward Sydney Simpson Prize, awarded annually to the best third year student in mineralogy at UWA and the Simpson Collection of 5,500 geological samples he collected during his lifetime, still available for reference at the WA Museum.

On July 29 this year, Convocation will be celebrating the centenary of UWA’s first graduate and the contribution he made to the development of Western Australia.

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM
Warden of Convocation

Three decades of separation

By Jim Paparo

When Marion Doughty walked to the stage of Winthrop Hall on 21 April 1983 to be awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from The University of Western Australia, her fiancé Michael Bateman was in the auditorium sharing the great occasion.

Thirty years later, on 17 September 2013, Marion stepped forward proudly to accept another degree, this time a Master of International Relations. Once again, Michael – now her husband – was by her side.

Celebrating her 30th wedding anniversary exactly one week after her most recent graduation, Marion remarked that the continuing support of her husband means an enormous amount to her.

“...the best thing about being a student has been the strong and enduring friendships that I have formed as a result. For me, UWA will always be associated with learning, meeting new people and sheer enjoyment.”

“It was really quite daunting to return to tertiary education after a break of 28 years”, Marion said.

“Although I had been working at UWA since 2002 and was Project Officer – and sole author – of the Residential Colleges Affiliation Project Report prior to starting the Masters, the idea of undertaking postgraduate study was a little intimidating.”

“While it was hard work writing major essays and preparing for exams, I am so pleased that I overcame my initial fears. The wonderful support that I received from Michael and from my lecturers and colleagues enabled me to meet this challenge and to fulfil a dream”, she remarked.

Studying part-time, Marion completed one unit per semester over three years in the new Master of International Relations by Coursework, which was first offered at UWA in 2010.

With a political science background and a very keen interest in public policy, the course content really appealed to her.

Marion said the Masters has given her greater insight into the international arena and Australia’s role both regionally and globally.

“I don’t think I could have chosen a more topical discipline; the world’s political landscape changed dramatically during my Masters. It was fascinating to be able to discuss with my peers events such as the assassination of Osama bin Laden, the emergence of civil war in Syria, and the efforts of the United Nations in trying to secure and maintain peace.”

“Postgraduate study has been a very rewarding experience for me and I would encourage everyone to explore such opportunities at UWA. Even if three decades, or more, have elapsed it is never too late to return to study and indeed to raise the bar”, Marion said.

“Apart from my marriage, the best thing about being a student has been the strong and enduring friendships that I have formed as a result. For me, UWA will always be associated with learning, meeting new people and sheer enjoyment; I’m sure that most UWA graduates would say the same”.

Marion Doughty with husband Michael in 2013, and her then fiancé at her 1983 graduation
UWA Convocation Travel Award winner takes her research to the Murchison

By Jim Paparo

A Masters student at The University of Western Australia, who grew up in far north Western Australia, used a Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award she won in 2012 to set up a consultative workshop with an Aboriginal community in the Murchison area of the State.

While Award winners often use the funds to pay for their own travel overseas or interstate, archaeology student Vivienne Brown used her Award to defray the costs of bringing together members of Western Australia’s Wajarri community for the workshop, which was a key part of her research.

Ms Brown said that having grown up surrounded by the rich tapestry of Aboriginal culture and the evidence of thousands of years of Aboriginal history, it was almost inevitable her university studies would focus on Australian archaeology.

“I became fascinated with the history of Aboriginal people,” she said. “There seems so much to know and yet I knew so little.”

Ms Brown’s research is investigating the strategies employed by the Wajarri people to manage resource availability in the Murchison’s Weld Range.

“I’d really like to do a PhD, and the Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award has helped to make that a possibility,” she said.

“I need to maintain the collaborative partnership that I’ve developed with Wajarri traditional owners, and that’s what the Convocation Travel Award has supported me to do.”

For further information on the Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards, and to see a video of Vivienne Brown talking about her Award, visit www.convocation.uwa.edu.au/prizes/pgtai.

Applications for the Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Awards will open on 7 April 2014 and the awards will be presented during a ceremony on 15 August 2014.
Convocation of UWA Graduates

Reunion of UWA graduates from 1964

The 29th Annual Reunion for those who graduated from The University of Western Australia 50 years ago will be held on 31 May 2014.

The price of $70 per head covers pre-lunch drinks and canapés, and all drinks served with a full buffet lunch at the University Club.

Included is an optional ‘tram’ tour around the grounds which will commence at 11.00 am with guide Terry Larder of the UWA Visitors Centre, or a walking tour to nearby campus buildings, led by UWA consultant Heritage architect, Ronald Bodycoat AM, prior to the noon welcome.

A souvenir booklet containing the biographies of graduates of that year is an additional feature, complementing a display of memorabilia.

Graduates are most welcome to bring guests and, of course, graduates who have enjoyed these events in past years are cordially invited. 1964 was the first year that there were two graduation ceremonies.

Enquiries to: Office of Convocation
convocation@uwa.edu.au
(+61 8) 6488 3006
www.convocation.uwa.edu.au

Lost Graduates of 1964

Over the years, the University has lost touch with the graduates whose names appear below. If you have any contact details or other information regarding the whereabouts of the following graduates of 1964, please contact the Office of Convocation at phone 6488 1336 or email to convocation@uwa.edu.au.


“Personalities and Places on the Crawley Campus” is a wonderful booklet
by Dr Joan Pope OAM, Wendy Birman and Ronald Bodycoat AM all about the people whose names are on objects and locations on the Crawley Campus.

Made possible through a UWA Centenary Planning Committee grant, the booklet will be launched at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery on Tuesday 13th May at 5:00 pm. Attendance is free, but numbers are limited. You can order the booklet or register your interest in the launch.

The booklet will be on sale at $20.00 per copy (incl GST). Contact Dr Fran Pesich, President of the UWA Historical Society on 0417 178 275 or for more details about the UWA Historical Society email uwahs@uwa.edu.au or visit www.uwa.edu.au/uwahs.

Graduates from 1963 – UWA’s Golden Jubilee year – celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation in UWA’s Centenary year.

(Photo: Manny Tamayo Photography)
Keep in touch!

“Grad Briefs – they’re the first thing I read,” writes one graduate. “They often remind me of former classmates and colleagues and have enabled me to resume long-lost friendships,” writes poet, author and graduate William Grono. That’s what Grad Briefs networking is all about, so let us know where you are, what you’re doing and put us in the picture: hard copy (which we’ll return on request), digital image (tif or jpeg file at 300 dpi).

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

1940s

Colin Farrow (BE 1942) has had two major employers since graduating, De Haviland Aircraft in Melbourne (1942-46) and the Shell Company of Australia (1946-79). This was followed by 10 years in consultancy work on roads. Colin has been a resident of the Menzies Retirement Village in Malvern ( Vic) for the past ten years and has been a widower for 12 years.

Dudley Campbell (BE 1952) previously worked as State Managing Director of Macmahon Construction and was in engineering construction for many years. He worked for the Public Works Department on the Wellington Dam and then with the Hydro Electric Commission in Hobart. He has five children, five step-children (all married), 22 grand-children and two great-grandchildren. Dudley lives with his second wife in Yangbup. Former classmates can contact him at dudleycampbell1@gmail.com.

1950s

Menzies Retirement Village in Malvern ( Vic) for the past ten years and has been a widower for 12 years.

1960s

Alan Bray (BSc(Agric) 1962; PhD 1966) thoroughly enjoyed his nearly nine years at UWA. The education received here could not have been bettered, he writes, and he still recalls the outstanding lectures given by Professors Prider and Bayliss in his first year and Professor Underwood in his fourth. Alan retired in 1996 from the University of Tasmania and returned to campus last October to help celebrate 50 years of Agricultural Science at the University. He lives in Brisbane and is a devoted grandfather to his six grandchildren.

A true pioneer, whose legacy lives on...

Arnold Cook (1922-1981) (BA(Hons) 1948) was diagnosed with the eye condition, retinitis pigmentosa at the age of 15 and was totally blind by 18. He learnt braille and in 1944 commenced Arts studies at UWA, majoring in Economics and gaining first class honours. He met Enid Fuller at UWA and they were married in 1946. Between 1948 and 1950 he studied at the London School of Economics after winning a UWA Hackett Research Studentship.

While in the UK, he made contact with the British Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and acquired a black labrador guide dog, Dreera, which he brought back to Perth in 1950. UWA offered him a position as an economics lecturer and Arnold and Dreera became a familiar sight as they caught public transport between home in Belmont and the campus at Nedlands. In 1951, he established the first guide dog school in Australia in Perth. Last year, Lindy Bryophy (photograph, editor of UWAnews, spearheaded a fundraising campaign that raised $32,000 to sponsor a Guide Dog; a Centenary gift from the University. The puppy, a black Labrador, was named Arnold, and has started training to follow in Dreera’s footsteps so he too can change someone’s life.
Trent Cheney (MBIS 1995) is currently on sabbatical leave studying nutrition and tick borne diseases both internationally and in Australia. He is a rural GP and provides locum services to Bourke and other remote NSW towns.

Ricky Mui (LLB & LLC 1997) has been the Director of Legal and Compliance, Commerce, Finance and Contract Division at Robert Walters in Hong Kong for the past four years. Robert Walters is one of the world’s largest specialist professional recruitment consultancies with 53 offices spanning 24 countries. He previously worked in London, Paris and Madrid. Former classmates can contact him at Ricky.Mui@robertwalters.com.hk.

Sandi Woo (BSc 1997) is an independent producer of community arts projects, who relocated to Broome five years ago with her young family. In 2011-12 she initiated, developed and delivered a youth hip-hop project titled YouTube Me Dance and last year was awarded the Outstanding Achievement in Regional Community Dance by AusDance WA for this work. Last year, Sandi took up a position as the first Broome-based company manager with the intercultural indigenous physical theatre company – Marrugeku. Former classmates can contact her at sandi@sandiwoo.com.au.

Nicole Jenkins (EMBA 2005; MMR 2008) has spent two decades in marketing and communications throughout Australia, with management positions in the corporate and not-for-profit world. She is now Director of her own firm – The Hub Marketing Communication and last year released, Me and You, a book for mothers to share their history, hopes, dreams and legacy with their daughters. The creation of the book has been a labour of love for the past two years and a book for sons is in development and will be released this year. Books are available through the website, meandyoubook.com with one dollar from every purchase being donated to Playgroup Australia.

Adriana Kostov (LLB & BCom 2005) worked with Blackswan Equities and Hancock Prospecting in Perth before joining Sydney-based currency hedge fund ExcelAllure Funds Management. Recently she has taken on the role of Australia’s first Regional Director of the Hedge Fund Association, a not-for-profit group with chapters across the US, Europe and Asia, which represents nearly 10,000 hedge funds across the globe.

Christopher Frame (BCom(Hons) 2008) was recently acknowledged as a finalist in the IA Ball ‘Digital Marketer of the Year’ in Sydney as well as the 2014 ‘Content Marketer of the Year’ in Cleveland, USA, as part of the Content Marketing Institute.

Brent Wheeldon (BE 2008) worked as a software developer in Perth, then in March 2011 he made the big move to New York City and worked for a small software consultancy there. He met his wife in Boston and they married last October with many UWA and St Thomas More College friends in attendance. They both enjoy living in NYC and have been back to Perth visiting family over the Christmas holidays. Former classmates can contact them at brent.wheeldon@gmail.com.

Marcello Cabrera (MBA 2004) is working at Prime Laundry and writes that he is excited about building a new laundry, which will service the linen laundry needs of the Fiona Stanley Hospital. The laundry will utilise the latest radio frequency (RFID) technology to track linen across the hospital.

Elyzza Huaah Chiah Beh (BSc 2009) is an Evaluation Consultant at the Department of Commerce, working for the past four years. Robert Walters has been the Director of Legal and Compliance, Commerce, Finance and Contract Division at Robert Walters in Hong Kong for the past four years. Robert Walters is one of the world’s largest specialist professional recruitment consultancies with 53 offices spanning 24 countries. He previously worked in London, Paris and Madrid. Former classmates can contact him at Ricky.Mui@robertwalters.com.hk.

Jasmine Han Jia Yiing (BCom 2013) travelled to Australia to study at University of Western Australia | 47

## 2000s

Kym Quartersmaine (BSc 2001; DipEd 2004) now lives in Albany with her three children. Kym taught at Kantharia Senior High School for 10 years and previously worked as a Case Manager, therapy assistant and exercise physiologist for Workers Compensation Cases. Former classmates can contact her at kymqui@hotmail.com.

Matthew Corbett (BEInDes 2003; BArch 2006) in the previous issue of Unview. Matthew’s feedback was mistakenly published without his consent. Unview sincerely apologises for this error. Matthew has informed us that he is currently working as an architect in Queensland.

Renae Rutherford (BE & BCom 2003) has been recently promoted to Leader – Source to Contract, Global Process Architect, Procurement at Rio Tinto. Former classmates can contact her at renae.rutherford@bigpond.com.

Nicole Jenkins (EMBA 2005; MMR 2008) has spent two decades in marketing and communications throughout Australia, with management positions in the corporate and not-for-profit world. She is now Director of her own firm – The Hub Marketing Communication and last year released, Me and You, a book for mothers to share their history, hopes, dreams and legacy with their daughters. The creation of the book has been a labour of love for the past two years and a book for sons is in development and will be released this year. Books are available through the website, meandyoubook.com with one dollar from every purchase being donated to Playgroup Australia.

Adriana Kostov (LLB & BCom 2005) worked with Blackswan Equities and Hancock Prospecting in Perth before joining Sydney-based currency hedge fund ExcelAllure Funds Management. Recently she has taken on the role of Australia’s first Regional Director of the Hedge Fund Association, a not-for-profit group with chapters across the US, Europe and Asia, which represents nearly 10,000 hedge funds across the globe.

Christopher Frame (BCom(Hons) 2008) was recently acknowledged as a finalist in the IA Ball ‘Digital Marketer of the Year’ in Sydney as well as the 2014 ‘Content Marketer of the Year’ in Cleveland, USA, as part of the Content Marketing Institute.

Brent Wheeldon (BE 2008) worked as a software developer in Perth, then in March 2011 he made the big move to New York City and worked for a small software consultancy there. He met his wife in Boston and they married last October with many UWA and St Thomas More College friends in attendance. They both enjoy living in NYC and have been back to Perth visiting family over the Christmas holidays. Former classmates can contact them at brent.wheeldon@gmail.com.

Marcello Cabrera (MBA 2004) is working at Prime Laundry and writes that he is excited about building a new laundry, which will service the linen laundry needs of the Fiona Stanley Hospital. The laundry will utilise the latest radio frequency (RFID) technology to track linen across the hospital.

Elyzza Huaah Chiah Beh (BSc 2009) is an Evaluation Consultant at the Department of Commerce, working for the past four years. Robert Walters has been the Director of Legal and Compliance, Commerce, Finance and Contract Division at Robert Walters in Hong Kong for the past four years. Robert Walters is one of the world’s largest specialist professional recruitment consultancies with 53 offices spanning 24 countries. He previously worked in London, Paris and Madrid. Former classmates can contact him at Ricky.Mui@robertwalters.com.hk.

Jasmine Han Jia Yiing (BCom 2013) travelled to Australia to study at University of Western Australia | 47

## 2010s

Ka Hung Alexis Chan (BA 2011) has been in Hong Kong, her hometown, for three years working as a library assistant and as an admin officer in the family business. Alexis is studying for her Master’s degree in Translation Studies and is looking forward to visiting UWA in the near future. Former classmates can contact her at alexisc0329@outlook.com.

Elyzza Huah Chiah Beh (BSc 2012) considered various occupations before deciding on a career in the oil and gas industry. She is keen to study marketing and is grateful for her time at UWA which is benefiting her in her current employment. Elyzza lives in Johor, Malaysia. Former classmates can contact her at elyzahchiah11@gmail.com.

Graduate’s first book a success

Reviewers are unanimous that UWA graduate Sarah Drummond has produced a heart-felt book that sweeps readers into a community of professional South West fishermen who battle storms – natural and political – and struggle to make a living in changing times.

“It’s a lovely read,” concluded The West Australian. “There are times you can almost feel the small boat bumping against waves and taste the salt spray as they lurch about in storms, navigate netting politics and haul in their catch.”

Salt Story: Of Sea-Dogs and Fisherwomen (Fremantle Press) is Sarah’s first book and it’s a tribute to the inshore and estuarine commercial fishing industry and a fading way of life that, as one reviewer put it, “is under threat, dying of a thousand government cuts”.

The author admits that as a wayward teen she was drawn to the jetties and beaches and to the lot of fishermen, yachtsmen and truckies whose “purposeful shiftlessness and nomadism raised a middle fi nger to the myth of the Great Australian Suburban Dream”.

Her writing began as a blog written after nocturnal fishing trips and it was well received, however in turning a 600-word blog into a collection of sea stories she pays tribute to UWA graduate Georgia Richter at Fremantle Press for editing and advice. However, it is the evocative nature of Sarah’s writing that captures readers – so it was no surprise when the first edition sold out in two months. A reprint is already in bookstores.

Meanwhile the graduate is tutoring Smart Start students at the UWA Albany campus and teaching Foundations of University Studies. Her students range from school students considering career options to mid-life residents with mortgages and kids. “It’s a very different demographic of students in Albany because a lot of people want to study but can’t go to the city – and it’s incredibly rewarding teaching.”

While currently missing her fishing jaunts as she juggles the demands of two children and tutoring, her ongoing academic study has provided her with a balance she loved. “I like the idea of having two different things at play, different forms of work – writing and fishing, mind and body – it really works for me.”

Lloyd Lee (BSc 2009) is an Evaluation Metallurgist for Rio Tinto. He has spent the past two years as a Graduate Metallurgist working in the Pilbara and on projects in Melbourne and Brisbane. Former classmates can contact him at lloyd@graduate.uwa.edu.au.

Ka Hung Alexis Chan (BA 2011) has been in Hong Kong, her hometown, for three years working as a library assistant and as an admin officer in the family business. Alexis is studying for her Master’s degree in Translation Studies and is looking forward to visiting UWA in the near future. Former classmates can contact her at alexisc0329@outlook.com.

Elyzza Huah Chiah Beh (BSc 2012) considered various occupations before deciding on a career in the oil and gas industry. She is keen to study marketing and is grateful for her time at UWA which is benefiting her in her current employment. Elyzza lives in Johor, Malaysia. Former classmates can contact her at elyzahchiah11@gmail.com.

Dante Giacomini (MNursSc 2012) started his nursing career in aged care. He worked as a practice nurse until February last year, when he commenced with the Statewide Mental Health Graduate program at Sir Charles Gardiner Hospital. Former classmates can contact him at dante18@iinet.net.au.

Wendy Kong (BCom 2012) works in Perth as a Corporate and International Tax Accountant for BDO Australia. BDO has over 1,264 offices in 144 countries. Former classmates can contact her at wendykong07@dowhotmail.com.

Jasmine Han Jia Yiing (BCom 2013) is working as an auditor for a private company in her home of Brunei. She writes that she enjoyed her studies and misses the student life at UWA. Former classmates can contact Jasmine at jia_ying@hotmail.com.

Naomi Jack (BEInDes 2013) traveled in Europe last year and worked for an architectural firm.
When you advertise in *Uniview* you’re in good company

The University of Western Australia’s flagship publication has a print run of more than 67,000.

*Uniview* goes to all graduates and is distributed to every secondary school in Western Australia and all public libraries.

To date our advertisers have included technology, tourism and theatre companies, banks, wineries, bookstores and international and national conservation and charity foundations.

Telephone: +61 8 6488 1914 or email: uniview@uwa.edu.au


### The multi-talented style guru

Knowing what to wear when and identifying the de rigueur fashion trends has become the specialty of journalist Glynis Trail-Nash who writes for the Weekend Australian Magazine. Glynis takes her sense of style to major events on the haute couture calendar such as Australian Fashion Week and fashion weeks in Paris, Milan, New York and London. She was recently in Dallas for Chanel’s Metiers d’Art collection.

The multi-talented graduate (French and English double major, 1992) began working in UWA’s Publications Department while completing her Arts degree. At the time she also performed in musical theatre, was a jazz singer, and performed with the WA Youth Orchestra.

A 1995 move to London saw her performing in leading venues with her all-Perth quartet while working as a sub-editor – “on unglamorous business titles such as Logistics Europe and Human Resources magazine”.

“...In 2000 I moved to Sydney in search of sunshine and good food, landed a job at Who, which led to my first fashion writing job. From there I moved to The Sun-Herald, The Sunday Telegraph, Grazia and now, happily, The Australian,” writes Glynis, who continues singing and released a CD (GT Nash After Blue) that was recently released on iTunes.

### Australia Day Honours List 2014

Congratulations to the graduates whose contributions were recognised in the Australia Day Honours List:

**Senior Australian of the Year 2014:**

The Hon. Dr Fred Chaney, AO (LLB 1962; HDLetters 2010)

**Awarded an AO:**

Professor Peter Newman (BSc 1968; PhD 1973)

**Award an AM:**

Winthrop Professor D’Arcy Holman, AM (MB BS 1979; PhD 1984), UWA Chair in Public Health

Mr David Maloney (LLB 1970), Mr Didier Murcia, AM (BJuris 1985; LLB 1986)

The Hon. Michael Murray, AM (LLB 1964)

Clinical Associate Professor Peter Winterton, AM (MB BS 1976; BA 1983)

Her Honour Mary Ann Yeats, AM (BJuris 1978; LLB 1982)

**Awarded an OAM:**

Mr Rory Argyle, OAM (LLB 1959), Adjunct Professor Adrian Phil, OAM (BCom 1983)

Dr John Lindsey, OAM (MB BS 1974), Mrs Leonie Reid, OAM (BA 1968)

**Awarded a Public Service Medal:**

Dr Lorna Melville, AM, PSM (BSc 1967)
Spread your wings with a world-class, 12 month MBA Full Time.

The University of Western Australia Business School’s new 12 month MBA Full Time is designed to propel graduates into the global marketplace. As a UWA MBA Full Time student, you will learn from distinguished faculty and international visiting professors; experience unparalleled depth of business interaction through Business Connect; be involved in our Leading Organisations series; get outstanding job preparation; undertake a three month Business Advisory Project; complete a personalised Leadership Development Program and have the unique opportunity to choose one of three focus areas: Natural Resources, Leadership or General Management.

Transform your career today.

Apply now if you’d like to be part of this elite, inaugural cohort. To find out more, call our specialist MBA team on (08) 6488 3980 or visit mba.uwa.edu.au

The University Credit Society Ltd
Since 1964

UniStaff Home Loan
4.85% p.a.*
Comparison Rate 4.89% p.a.^

UniStaff Term Deposits
Terms for 5, 7 & 12 months
Rates up to 4.05% p.a.#

Everyday Access Account
FREE Visa Debit Card
FREE over the counter transactions
FREE ATM access via NAB ATMs and rediATMs

Current and Former UWA staff and students welcome!

*All loan applications are subject to Unicredit’s normal lending criteria. Terms and Conditions, and Fees and Government charges apply. UniStaff Home Loan rate effective 26/8/13, is variable and subject to change. ^Comparison rate is based on a loan of $150,000 over a term of 25 years. #Other rates and terms available. Terms and Conditions apply and are available with the full product information online at www.unicredit.com.au. The University Credit Society Ltd. ABN 90 087 651 901; AFSL/Australian Credit Licence No. 244168. 1403
We’d like to thank our generous donors and supporters, for helping us create tomorrow’s business leaders.

It’s true, The University of Western Australia Business School attracts Australia’s brightest and highest achieving faculty and students, but it’s also true that it can only happen because of the unwavering support of our partners, sponsors and donors.

As part of the State’s only World Top 100 University – and in our continuing mission to be one of the most influential business education institutions internationally – we are investing in professorial chairs, visiting experts, scholarships and prizes, and in industry engagement activities.

This means our faculty is conducting even more innovative research, our students are driving greater positive social change and our graduates are taking on even greater leadership roles.

To our many alumni, corporate partners and donors whose generous, on-going support have made – and continue to make – these achievements possible, we are immeasurably grateful.

Principal Partners

bhp billiton  resourcing the future
Wesfarmers
Woodside
Australian Government

Major Partners

ATCO Australia
EY
Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd
UBS

Supporting Partners

Allen + Overy
ANZ
BDO
Maccquarie Group Foundation
Mirvac
NWQ

EFMD
EQUIS
AACSB
The University of Western Australia

To contribute to developing world-class business education for the Western Australian community, please contact Quang Ly on (08) 6488 5834.