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COVER: The Jakobshavn Glacier which is receding and thinning at a dramatic rate. The photo is one of many featured in the NorthSouthEastWest exhibition at The University Club of Western Australia – see In Focus. (Photo: Ian Berry/Magnum Photos)

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A VISUAL WAKE-UP CALL

The eye of the camera has seldom been more effectively employed than in telling the story of global climate change in the NorthSouthEastWest exhibition on display at The University Club of Western Australia.

This visual ‘wake-up call’ features works by leading Magnum photographers who travelled the world to capture not only the impacts of global warming, but solutions being implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Created by The Climate Group, an independent non-profit organisation based in the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia, the exhibition runs until June 29 and entry is free.

UWA graduate Rupert Posner (BCom, 1992), Director of The Climate Group’s Australian office, senses a shift in attitudes towards the environment, particularly in business circles.

“While there is still a lag at the national political level, our organisation is now working with people such as Rupert Murdoch and Richard Branson. Senior business leaders around the world are getting involved because there are good business reasons for doing so.”

Mr Posner is one of several speakers in a series of free public lectures focusing on climate change that will run through June at UWA’s Social Sciences Lecture Theatre. Rupert will talk about the international impacts of climate change on June 19 at 6pm while Dr Ray Willis, Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, will focus on the impacts within Australia on June 12.

For details, visit the Institute of Advanced Studies website on www.ias.uwa.edu.au

In this issue, we cover a climate change research project already happening on campus (see Charting the course of climate change).

This article, with its illustrations by former Time/LIFE photographer Frank Fischbeck, founder of FormAsia Books, and the classic images of Italian photographer Paola Paschetto in Promoting World’s Breast Practice – along with our cover by Magnum’s Ian Berry – set a new benchmark for photography in this magazine.

CENTENARY TRUST LUNCHEON

Developments such as the creation of new research centres significantly advance the vision of those who worked to establish UWA’s School of Medicine 50 years ago.

The memory of former Vice-Chancellor, Sir Stanley Prescott, will be evoked by his granddaughter, Professor Susan Prescott, when she addresses the UWA Centenary Trust for Women luncheon on July 29. The UWA researcher will remind her audience of the tremendous fund-raising effort that established the School of Medicine and of the generous bequest that established the Raine Foundation.

A paediatrician in UWA's School of Paediatrics and Child Health, Susan Prescott studied Medicine at UWA and launched her own independent research career with the help of a Raine priming grant.

“I will also honour my grandmother Lady Prescott who will attend the luncheon,” says Professor Prescott. “A medical graduate from the UK, she contributed to University life through her work at St Catherine’s College.”

Professor Prescott will also recount how her grandparents (who ran a university hospital in Japanese-occupied China) fled from China at the outbreak of World War II and were evacuated to Australia.

UWA Chancellor Dr Michael Chaney will host the annual fund-raising luncheon at Winthrop Hall which will also be addressed by Australia’s Governor General, Major General Michael Jeffery, and Mrs Marlena Jeffery.

The Centenary Trust for Women provides educational opportunities for women in financial difficulties. For further information about this event, contact Leigh Grant at the Office of Development on +61 8 6488 4774 or email Leigh.Grant@uwa.edu.au

FOUNDATIONS OF EXCELLENCE

Philanthropy plays a significant part in boosting UWA’s ability to deliver better educational outcomes, and the Fogarty Foundation plays a leading role in this regard. This philanthropic foundation supports excellence and encourages individuals to realise their potential through a portfolio of scholarships and awards for students planning to study at UWA. Students are assisted with HECS fees, ancillary and accommodation costs, and the scholarships reward academic merit and excellence, diversity and activities beyond the sphere of learning.

When presenting the scholarships earlier this year, along with benefactors Brett and Annie Fogarty, UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson said that the

Professor Robson presents a Fogarty Foundation Scholarship to Ms Jee Yun Leung.
scholarships encouraged students to pursue tertiary education, “and to participate and contribute to their local community, both throughout and on completion of their studies”.

NEW PRESS TITLES

UWA Press has a range of new titles that are earning impressive reviews.

The Canberra Times offers congratulations on the New Writing series, the latest (and fourth) novel being The Seamstress by Geraldine Wooler, who is studying creative writing at UWA (see GRAD BRIEFS).

“When Begun in 2005 under editor Terri-ann White, the series has already produced some outstanding fiction and Perth-based Wooler’s second novel is no exception,” writes reviewer Dorothy Johnston. The Seamstress charts the relationship of a mother and daughter, as the former slides into dementia.

In very different territory is Bart Ziino’s A Distant Grief, the first major study of the roles of overseas war graves and cemeteries in private grief and mourning. Some 35,000 of the estimated 60,000 Australians killed in World War I were buried overseas in war cemeteries in Europe and the Middle East.

Continuing the wartime theme, but on a celebratory note, is Anzac Cottage by Valerie Everett, a children’s title that tells how 200 Perth residents rallied to build a cottage for a wounded ANZAC soldier in 1916. It is illustrated with archival photographs and evocative illustrations.

Along with these books, there are new editions of Press titles in response to public demand. One such book is Henrietta Drake-Brockman’s Voyage to Disaster on the Batavia tragedy – and there’s more about the famous shipwreck in this issue (see Forensics unravel Batavia mystery).

UWA Press books are available at the Co-op Bookshop on campus and at all major book stores. To check out new titles, visit the website: www.uwapress.uwa.edu.au

2007 YOUNG PERSON OF THE YEAR

When natural historian Rachel Carson wrote Silent Spring in the 1960s she highlighted concerns that pesticides and pollution were blighting the reproductive capacity of birds. But the title of her best-seller could well apply to the diminishing springtime chorus of frogs.

Researchers are unsure of the culprits in the worldwide scenario of declining frog populations. Is it a virus, loss of habitat, pesticides, pollution or global warming? PhD student Aimee Silla is leaving that particular strand of scientific detective work to others while she refines artificial reproduction protocols to advance captive breeding programs that could help threatened species survive.

Her research is conducted in collaboration with Perth Zoo, and is supervised by UWA frog expert Professor Dale Roberts in UWA’s School of Animal Biology.

This research and an impressive track record of commitment to conservation recently saw the UWA student named Western Australia’s Young Person of the Year for 2007. Aimee has worked on several conservation programs and is involved in the Science Education Engaging Knowledge (SEEK) program, mentoring primary and secondary students. She is also active in implementing green initiatives in energy and waste reduction, water consumption, and recycling as one of six Green Office Coordinators within UWA’s School of Animal Biology.

...AND LAST YEAR’S WINNER

Meanwhile UWA graduate Darren Lomman, 2006 Young Person of the Year for Western Australia, has established his own company, Dreamfit, that aims to provide innovative recreation and leisure equipment for people with disabilities.

During his Honours engineering studies at UWA, Darren modified a motorbike for use by a paraplegic friend and his hand-operated motorbike is the first of its kind to be registered for road use. More recently, he supervised UWA engineering students on a now-completed project to build a modified ski boat and hovercraft.

Along the way, Darren has impressed many with his drive and enthusiasm, and has collected several awards including 2006 WA Young Citizen of the Year and the 2005 Young Biomedical Engineer of the Year.

Currently Darren is collaborating with UWA’s School of Engineering to design and build an abseiling tower for wheelchair users, a driving simulator to teach people with disabilities to drive, and a modified trimaran yacht for use by an electric wheelchair user who refuses to let his disability hamper his recreational activities.

WONDERFUL WINDOWS WALK

Stroll through UWA’s campus and your eyes are constantly drawn to magnificent windows, like the Rose Window above the Winthrop Hall organ, the Holy Spirit Window designed by Dublin artist Richard King at St Thomas More College, or the stained-glass windows in the St George’s College Chapel.

Members of the UWA Friends of the Grounds will enjoy a guided tour of UWA’s most outstanding windows next month led by Terry Larder of UWA’s Visitors Information Centre. The Wonderful Windows Walk is on July 31, with participants...
meeting at the visitors centre at 10am. Members and non members are welcome. For further information contact Judith Edwards at the Office of Development on +61 8 6488 8541 or email: judith.edwards@uwa.edu.au

AN ALLIANCE OF EXCELLENCE

With UWA’s School of Medicine marking its 50th anniversary this year, the Federal Budget’s $100 million commitment to the creation of two state-of-the-art medical research hubs for Western Australia is further reason to celebrate.

The research hubs are an initiative of a new alliance, the Western Australian Institutes for Health, which brings together 24 research organisations undertaking the bulk of WA’s medical research.

Major centres of research excellence – the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), the Lions Eye Institute and the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research – will join forces with UWA researchers and specialised research teams and hospital clinicians to make sure that this State continues to compete on a global scale.

The solid funding foundation of $100 million committed by the Federal Government will be augmented by an $80 million commitment from the State Government and $50 million from UWA.

Professor Peter Klinken, Director of WAIMR, said the development of these new first-class research precincts would allow WA to take medical breakthrough from the laboratory bench to life-saving hospital treatments.

UWA researchers also welcomed the State Government’s commitment to establishing an early stage clinical trials centre at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Nedlands. The centre will have major health benefits for Western Australians taking part in trials of new medicines and treatments.

WAIMR co-deputy, Professor Peter Leadman, said that the centre would also deliver economic benefits to the State’s burgeoning medical research industry.

ENHANCING STUDENT LEARNING

Professor Don Markwell, who will chair the Steering Committee of the Review of Course Structures at UWA, has many years experience of academic leadership roles in Britain and Australia, has written extensively on global higher education issues, and recently spent several months visiting universities in the United States, the United Kingdom, and China.

Speaking at a leadership forum shortly after assuming the Education portfolio at UWA, he told his audience: “I cannot hide the exhilaration of discussing research on democratisation in China with scholars at Jiang Zemin’s alma mater in Shanghai; or watching as Oxford’s dons debate new governance proposals; or seeing how Wellesley College in Boston works to educate what it calls ‘women who will make a difference in the world’ – its alumni include Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright.”

Professor Markwell came to UWA from the University of Melbourne’s Trinity College, where, in the 1870s, John Winthrop Hackett (a graduate of Trinity College Dublin) had his first taste of Australian university life. Hackett was the college’s deputy head before becoming proprietor of The West Australian and, later, this University’s first benefactor.

As Chancellor, Hackett wanted UWA to benefit from the experiences of the world’s great universities – and this quest for international excellence has become a top priority as the University approaches its centenary. UWA aims to be counted among the world’s top 50 universities in the next half century, and to advance this ambition, Vice-Chancellor Professor Alan Robson has launched a comprehensive and consultative Review of Course Structures, with Professor Markwell chairing the Steering Group. Professor Markwell writes about the Review on page 8.

BOOK SALE’S PULLING POWER

If browsing in book stores is a favourite pastime, you’ll love exploring the vast array of books that fill UWA’s Undercroft each year for the Save the Children Book Sale. Gathered and sorted by a dedicated band of volunteers, the books attract thousands of booklovers.

If you are a regular visitor you’ll already know the particular pleasure of finding a much-loved favourite, slightly worn and with a beautifully written inscription that makes you wonder about the book’s first owner – and lament the loss of fountain pens!
The UWA ‘family’ is very much ‘in focus’ in this issue, with the University calling for alumni feedback on several issues, including the important Review of Course Structures currently under way.

Also seeking graduate feedback are well-known historians Professor Jenny Gregory and Dr Jean Chetkovich, Director of UWA’s Centre for WA History, who are editors of a planned UWA centenary history to be published in 2010. You’ll be hearing a lot about UWA’s centenary over the next few years, with celebrations spanning three years 2011-2013.

The historians would welcome recollections about aspects of your association with the University. To help collect these, a survey form has been inserted into 20,000 copies of this issue. If your copy of UNIVIEW includes one, please take the time to fill it in and send it back in the reply paid envelope.

If you would like a form, please email jchetkov@arts.uwa.edu.au or call +61 8 6488 2130 and leave your name and address. Alternatively, you could record your memories online by visiting the website: www.cwah.uwa.edu.au/centenary

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK...

Seasoned Graduate Dramatic Society performer David Goodall joined GRADS in 1961 and will no doubt have a fund of stories for those preparing a history of theatre at UWA – and also calling for graduate feedback (see page 23). David is seen rehearsing for the GRADS production of Henry V earlier this year. (Photo: The West Australian)

On Sunday 19 August, visitors will have a chance to appreciate the full spectrum of courses on offer at this University and to visit theatres, museums and galleries on campus. UWA Expo 2007 will follow the format of previous years, allowing prospective students to encounter a wealth of information that may well set them on a career path. Closer to the event, you’ll be able to check the final programme by visiting the website at www.expo.uwa.edu.au

MAKING MUSIC AT NEW NORCIA

Making music of the highest order is the aim of the School of Music’s many professional musicians, and several achieved this recently in the serene seclusion of a chapel at New Norcia.

Beneath a lavishly ornamented altar and a mural of trumpeting angels in the chapel of St Ildephonsus, musicians from UWA and other institutions recorded the first of five CDs that are part of an Australian Research Council grant project on French Baroque Music.

UWA cellist and Senior Lecturer Suzanne Wijsman, one of the initiators of the project, recalls that the monastery setting for the ABC Classic recording was perfect.

“We chose to record at New Norcia because of the perfect acoustic for baroque music in the European-designed chapel. It is so well-insulated against outside noise and this is critical in achieving commercial-calibre recordings,” said Dr Wijsman, a frequent performer with Ensemble Arcangelo.

The result of this music-making – an ABC Classic recording entitled French Baroque Cantatas – speaks for itself. Recently launched, it features the works of Montéclair and Stuck, and is part of a performance/research project on French Baroque music funded by an Australian Research Council Linkage Grant, with ABC Classics as the industry partner.

UWA musicians involved in the project include Dr Wijsman and violinist Paul Wright. Singers Sara Macliver and Taryn Fiebig (both UWA graduates) and Fiona Campbell, UWA’s Lecturer in Voice, perform with the musicians.

Emeritus Professor David Tunley, internationally renowned as a musicologist in the field of 18th and 19th century French music, has written an informative introduction to a booklet accompanying the CD. The booklet also contains translations of French poetic texts by Dr Robin Adamson, an Honorary Research Fellow at UWA.

“The Benedictine Community at New Norcia was very welcoming, making the chapel available to us for more than four
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DIRTY POLITICS AND WEASEL WORDS

Professor Bill Louden, Dean of UWA’s Faculty of Education, will be exploring the characteristics of high quality teaching when he gives a July 18 UWA Extension talk on Good Teaching: what do we know about it and how do we get more of it?

Professor Louden is just one of a line-up of speakers guaranteed to get you pondering the big questions of life and the hot topics of 2007 in Extension’s Winter School 2007.

We’ve already heard from Clive Hamilton, author of the much-talked about Scorcher: The Dirty Politics of Climate Change, but still to come is best-selling author Dr Don Watson (Watson’s Dictionary of Weasel Words) exploring ‘anaesthetic’ language in his talk on July 3.

One of the highlights of the Winter School will undoubtedly be the chance to hear Abbot Placid Spearritt of the New Norcia Benedictine community and Sheikh Mohammad Agherdien, Imam of Masjid al Taqwa in Mirrabooka, speaking about what their faiths offer to the 21st century. Anglican priest and religious commentator Canon Frank Sheehan will facilitate The Abbot and the Sheikh at New Norcia on August 12.

As the ancient Benedictine and Islamic traditions are rich with wisdom and experience that have an application beyond the monastery and mosque, this full day program at Australia’s only monastic town should prove attractive.

Add to these events, courses to help you edit your own work, learn to dance, to speak out, write your life story, and get to grips with grammar and Latin. Can winter be long enough to encompass so much learning? Visit the UWA Extension website for details: www.extension.uwa.edu.au

THE BEST SORT OF BLUE

UWA Sports is keen to encourage excellence in student athletes but its brief also extends to urging past sporting stars and club members to remain involved with the fortunes of the University’s athletes and clubs.

These two aims come together during the annual New Blues Welcome Function held in March at the Watersports Complex. Recent recipients were welcomed into the prestigious Blues ‘family’ and presented with commemorative pins to mark the occasion. With former recipients in attendance, there was much talk of sporting landmarks and of the careers of legendary figures.

Special guest was former Wallaby and inaugural Western Force member John Welborn who recalled receiving his 1989 Blue.

UWA Sports’ next big event is the Vice-Chancellor’s Cup, an annual rowing regatta pitting the five Western Australian universities in a battle for supremacy on the waters of Matilda Bay. This year’s event will be held on August 19, coinciding with the campus-wide UWA Expo. For more information please visit www.sport.uwa.edu.au closer to the event day.
It is said that in our modern times, the only constant is change. This is certainly the case in the higher education sector where we must continually examine and re-examine the provision of high-quality teaching, learning and research against a backdrop of fast-moving operating environments and the changing expectations and aspirations of individuals and the wider community.

There has been substantial discussion in Australia over recent months around the merits (and otherwise) of differing global models of higher education. Notably, there has been a focus on different approaches in the United States and Europe. On the one hand, the US model incorporates broad undergraduate degrees followed by professional graduate degrees; and on the other, the so-called Bologna model offers a ‘common European currency’ of qualifications: three years study for an undergraduate degree, a further two years for a Masters programme and another three years for PhD programmes.

Given the international nature of our university, we decided last year that it was timely for us to more formally undertake a review of our courses, taking into consideration a number of these emerging international standards. More detail of the process – and an offer for you to become involved – is presented in this issue of UNIVIEW by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Professor Don Markwell (see page 8).

We believe that by carefully thinking through what courses we should offer, and then structuring these in a coherent framework, we will be able to build on our existing strengths and shape our academic direction for the benefit of our students and the communities we serve. Our final decisions will be based on what is best for our own environment and high quality cohort of students and researchers, while drawing on the strengths of other models in the global environment.

Also of significant recent interest has been the national political focus on the importance of education in general, and the higher education sector in particular. While some of this reflects a recurrent election cycle, the increased level of attention is both important and gratifying. There is no question that many areas of university activity have suffered as a result of chronic under-funding for many years. Over that time, universities and the Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee have continued to lobby for additional investment in the sector.

It is pleasing, therefore, that the most recent outcome of this debate was a Federal budget which provided significant allocations which have the potential to do much to support the sector.

Key among these initiatives was a $5 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund which has the potential to provide substantial support for the funding of vitally needed capital works and the development of research facilities. This is a significant recognition of the importance of universities in supporting the growth of Australia’s economy and our social and cultural development.

Of specific significance to our University was the allocation of $100 million towards the creation of the Western Australian Institutes for Health. This combines with $80 million already committed by the State Government and $50 million by our University to provide us with the ability to move ahead with confidence on a project which will bring together the best medical research minds to work on improving the health of local, national and international communities (see In Focus).

While media commentary made much of the Federal budget in the context of the election year, rather than adopt a cynical view, I believe we should accept the current political environment as a further opportunity to continue to push the importance of our sector at all levels.

There is still much to be achieved. For example, beyond infrastructure and capital works, we must continue to press for increased investment in world-class teaching, learning and research; we need to consider how to encourage further private investment in research and development; we need to find new ways of continuing to increase funding per student; and we need to work out how to best support those students whose poor financial position is negatively affecting their study.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor
Are there things that everyone who graduates from this University should know, or skills that all should have? If so, what are they, and how do we teach them? What kind of curriculum will best equip our students for tomorrow’s world of massive and rapid change, and global forces? What should be the balance between breadth and depth in our degree programs? Can we enhance the learning experience by structuring our degrees better?

As part of its commitment to offering an excellent student learning experience, and to ‘achieving international excellence’ in our educational activities as well as in our research and service, the University has embarked on a far-reaching consultative Review of Course Structures across all areas of study. This process – a once-in-a-generation opportunity to consider afresh the optimal nature, structure and scope of a UWA education – is impelled by the same forces that are causing many other leading universities around Australia and overseas to look seriously at possible course reforms.

Increased globalisation is one of the most obvious trends, bringing with it greater international mobility within study programs and afterwards. Graduates in the years ahead will often need to work across borders, cultures and disciplines. They will need to apply their knowledge in a range of contexts – very many of which do not yet exist -- and so need to engage in lifelong learning. They will require not only specialised expertise in their chosen fields but also various ‘generic’ qualities such as high-level communication capability, cross-cultural understanding, problem-solving ingenuity, and strong ethical foundations.

What should be UWA's response to these challenges and others that confront us? Our graduates, and other friends of the University, are in a particularly strong position to help us to answer this question. The Review of Course Structures has already received valuable submissions from a number of alumni and members of the wider community, and invites further input from any interested person as the process continues over the months ahead.

Please visit the Review website at www.coursestructuresreview.uwa.edu.au. It includes a detailed discussion paper, a synopsis of key issues, and several relevant web links for background information. It also gives postal and email addresses for feeding in your insights. Feel free to email your thoughts to coursestructures@uwa.edu.au at any time.

In April, the Vice-Chancellor sent an email to all alumni for whom we have a current email address, encouraging them to contribute their ideas. We welcome further contributions. If you did not receive the email, we encourage you to update your details so that we can contact you about the Review and other matters of importance to your University. You can do so at www.development.uwa.edu.au/staying_in_touch

A distinguished Australian academic, Professor Ian Reid, has been appointed as Senior Academic Reviewer, helping to lead the Review. Throughout it, the steering committee is conducting consultations intensively within the academic community and beyond. Open forum discussions with staff and with students have begun, and we will continue to meet also with representatives of professional associations, employer groups, and other external stakeholders. An international advisory board of distinguished academic leaders will help to ensure the Review focuses on ‘achieving international excellence’.

If you wish to comment, an especially helpful time to do so would be after the release of the Review’s ‘Issues and Options’ paper in September. That paper will incorporate a number of ideas generated by submissions that we have received to date, along with the fruits of research now being carried out, and recommendations from several working groups that are providing expert advice to the Steering Group. Comments on the ‘Issues and Options’ paper will help to shape the final report and proposals, which will go to the appropriate University bodies.

Any contributions received in the meantime from alumni and friends will be gratefully taken into account. By engaging with this Review process you can help us to ensure that your University will provide the best possible education to future students.
Resolutely modern

Kerry Hill, one of the first eight graduates to complete an architecture degree at UWA (in 1968), has established an enviable international reputation for not only landmark hotels such as Malaysia’s award-winning Datai Hotel and the incomparably elegant Aman Resorts strung across Asia, but also for stand-out homes like the contemporary Ogilvy House at Sunshine Beach in Queensland and the much-admired Garlic Avenue House in Singapore.

The UWA graduate has been described as one of the most influential figures in the changing face of South-East Asia, and his work as “resolutely modern whilst in a traditional setting”.

Until recently this consummate architect was better known in Asia – where his first striking modern buildings took shape – than in Australia. Today he works out of a converted Chinese shop-house in Singapore.

Geoffrey London, Professor of Architecture at UWA, says that there is both tacit and open acknowledgement among Singaporean architects of the importance of his presence in that city. The Genesis Building, the entrance plaza to the Singapore Zoological Gardens, the Singapore Cricket Association’s new pavilion and the University of New South Wales Changi Campus – all reflect his distinctive architectural signature and many have won national and international awards.

In Architecture Australia’s coverage of the 2006 Gold Medallist, several leading academics and practitioners echoed the sentiment of the RAIA President, Mr Bob Nation, that “to experience Kerry’s projects is, typically, to feel oneself exposed to beauty of the highest order”.

The UWA graduate’s diverse projects today span Australia, South-East Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Japan, Taiwan, Dubai, Turkey and Bhutan.

“Kerry is an extraordinary and exemplary architect who has consistently delivered the very highest quality architecture over the past four decades,” wrote the RAIA President. “While he has experienced client briefs, cultures and environments of every disparate kind across the globe, he

Above: Kerry Hill’s design for the new Perth Performing Arts Centre.
Next page: Ogilvie House, Sunshine Beach, Queensland.
is widely known for his steadfast search for and commitment to his own architectural language (abstract modernism with superbly sensitive local cultural references), his inspiring material selection, and the graphic and spatial quality of his planning.”

For Dr Philip Goad, Professor of Architecture at the University of Melbourne, Hill is, “an unassuming figure, almost shy, a man of very few, always well-chosen words,” who has been a conscientious mentor to some of the region’s most vital young practitioners. “Like his personal presence, his architecture is an elegant backdrop to the largeness and relevance of place.”

Erwin Viray, Assistant Professor at the National University of Singapore, believes that Kerry Hill has had a profound influence on international architecture and that those who have worked with him have become important practitioners. He cites Kerry Hill’s use of a wooden screen on the Genesis Building in Singapore (1994-1997) as an example of his influence. “It created an explosion of work on the possibilities of wooden screens around South-East Asia,” he recalls. “This gesture of a wooden screen on the façade of a building catapulted a simple device that responds to wind, breeze and sun, so necessary in the tropics, into everyone’s consciousness.”

The acknowledgement of this Singapore-based Australian architect (who also has an office in Fremantle) underscores the increasingly international face of Australian architecture. Some 800 RAIA members currently live and work outside Australia, the majority being based in Hong Kong and Singapore. In fact the RAIA International was recently launched in Hong Kong and will benefit the many architects working in China.
In *Architecture Australia*, Dr Philip Goad points out that the work of Australian architects is not bound by geographical borders as a growing cohort of architects and academics work across the world from bases in Australia.

“Awarding the Gold Medal to Kerry Hill is an important recognition of that fact. His is a truly international practice,” writes Dr Goad. “Unlike previous medallists who have built in overseas locations from practices based in Australia, Hill is part of a substantial contingent of expatriate Australian-trained architects and academics who have practised outside this country, often for decades. They have been ambassadors for Australian practice.”

Philip Goldswain, Lecturer in Architecture at UWA, is enthusiastic about Kerry Hill’s winning design for Perth’s new performing arts venue that will fill the void when the Peter Parkinson-designed Playhouse reaches the end of its functional life. The brief called for a 600-seat main theatre and a smaller 200-seat studio theatre plus administrative and public spaces.

Mr Goldswain believes that the design distinguishes itself through a singular architectural gesture. “By stacking the two theatres, Hill liberates the ground plane and forces the ancillary functions of the theatres underground. This raises a series of intriguing spatial and architectural possibilities that engage with the broader historical precedents of theatre design. A series of staircases and voids alludes to the traditional theatre spectacles of arrival, viewing and promenades…”

The winning design, he says, involves a formal layering of abstract boxes that increase in scale. “These abstract cubic volumes are articulated by light – diffused, striated, absorbed and projected – and are transformed at night. The fly tower glows as an incandescent and minimal lantern. Shadows curl up internal curved ceilings…”

Mr Hill says that the procurement of design contracts through competition is now standard practice in Europe – and generally delivers excellent results.

“It should also stimulate the local architecture community and provide otherwise unattainable opportunities for young architects,” he says. “We have responded by entering – and winning – the competition for the new Perth Performing Arts Centre. It’s unlikely we would have known about the project if it had not been advertised internationally.”

Mr Hill also commends the State Government’s appointment of a Government Architect, a position currently held by UWA’s Professor Geoffrey London.

“Having a Government Architect who views Architecture with a capital ‘A’ must make a difference. A design based procurement policy is essential for the future well-being of Perth’s built environment,” he adds.

After graduating from UWA, Kerry Hill worked in Perth with Howlett & Bailey for three years. He considers Jeffrey Howlett, a great friend, as his early career mentor.

Today the UWA graduate lives in an old house in Singapore built in 1928 and an even older (1800) house in Sri Lanka. Clearly while credited with changing the architectural face of South-East Asia in a ‘resolutely modern’ way, he also relishes the elegance and comfort of an earlier era.
UWA Senior Lecturer Dr Karl-Heinz Wyrwoll is studying the Asian-Australian monsoon system as part of an international quest to understand the pivotal role that past events – such as the uplift of the Tibetan Plateau – played in global climate systems. Together with his colleagues, he is working with scientists in China, Germany and the United States to learn more about past climates to better understand the changes threatened by unprecedented levels of carbon dioxide in the Earth’s atmosphere. Trea Wiltshire reports

The summer monsoon that annually drenches Australia’s tropical north is a three-act drama that transforms landscapes and lives. It begins with the steamy ‘build-up’ when tempers fray and lightning pulses across advancing purple clouds. When the deluge arrives – drawn down from India and Asia – it is worthy of its laconic description, ‘the wet’. Rivers flow chocolate brown and sweep over their banks, washing away roads and isolating towns and outstations. Its legacy is equally dramatic – the greening of a parched landscape that will largely do without water until the next monsoon.

Dr Karl-Heinz Wyrwoll of UWA’s School of Earth and Geographical Sciences is studying the northern Australian summer monsoon that is part of a far more extensive monsoonal system that moves across Indonesia, Malaysia, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

This UWA research is important for natural resource management and to the resources industry, but it is also helping to chart the possible course of one of the 21st century’s major challenges: global climate change.

The Asian-Australian monsoon system sustains crops, recharges precious underground water supplies and has a huge impact across a region where 60 per cent of the world’s population lives. In our north-west, a single cyclone can bring rain equal to an area’s annual rainfall – as we saw with the recent Cyclone George – and threaten lives, offshore platforms, remote communities and mining camps.

Such events leave their mark on the landscape, and Dr Wyrwoll is ‘reading’ the evidence in stratigraphic records of lakes and river deposits in the monsoon region.

Photos: FormAsia Books, Hong Kong.
of north-western Australia. The Fitzroy River catchment is one of the best locations to study the ebb and flow of the northern Australian monsoon. Encompassing some 65,000 square kilometres, its paleohydrological record allows the identification of periods of increased and decreased precipitation during the last 20,000 years – the period currently being studied by the UWA researcher and members of the Institute of Earth Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xi’an, China. They are linking these results to the dating of growth periods of cave stalagmites-stalactites being undertaken with members of the Western Australian Museum and Cornell College (USA).

“The northern Australian monsoon is highly variable, so we need to study long-term records to provide the basis against which questions of climate variability versus climate change can be assessed,” explains Dr Wyrwoll. “The historical flood record is poor, so we are providing a long-term record of events spanning thousands of years, and this will facilitate both flood management and prediction.”

“The riparian and wider floodplain ecology of the Fitzroy River is closely geared to the occurrence of large overbank flows. Questions of variability and change in such flows are of paramount importance to the continued existence and management of this important ecological resource.”

“The monsoon drives the whole ecosystem of north-western Australia, so our study has applications in obvious areas such as water and land management, but also in some surprising areas – such as diamond exploration. Our studies of Lake Gregory in Western Australia and Lake Woods in the Northern Territory show that in the past there were periods of recharge the likes of which we have not seen for the last 80,000 years. Alluvial diamonds were once transported in rivers that have long disappeared, but we can reconstruct their course and size, and these data become a link that leads us to a very different world, with a very different climate.”

“Twenty thousand years ago the northern Australian monsoon system was much weaker and most of the north-west was extremely dry, in fact the desert stretched as far south as Geraldton – so the wheat fields of today are growing on old desert sand dunes.”

While his work enables him to appreciate that climate change is nothing new, Dr Wyrwoll also appreciates that in the last one million years we have not seen anything like the amounts of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere that we are seeing today.

“Researchers like myself work in the past so that we can understand the future, and to my mind climate change is the most pressing issue facing the world today,” says the UWA researcher.

“In all climate predictions the south-west corner of the Australian continent seems to be emerging as a very vulnerable area, particularly in terms of the viability of its water resources, and this already seems to be happening.”

This long term project aims to develop an understanding of the paleohydrology and paleoclimatic record of the monsoon region of northern Australia and its role in the overall function of the Indian-Australian-East Asian monsoon triad and has been supported by funding from the Australian Research Council, National Science Foundation of China, National Geographic Society (USA), industry and various government agencies.

Dr Wyrwoll’s research network spreads far beyond UWA, where he works with geologist, Dr Bryan Krapez of the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences and mathematician and meteorologist, Dr Jenny Hopwood of the School of Mathematics. The link between the Australian and East Asian monsoon systems is emphasised in an on-going collaborative project centred on north-western China, involving the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Xi’an, Institute of Geology, Beijing, and members of Zhejiang University, China, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

One of its aims is to link the development of the East Asian monsoon system to the Tibetan Plateau uplift and to evaluate its evolving and pivotal role in the global climate system.

“We are looking at how the uplift of the Tibetan Plateau directed the monsoon flow out of East Asia and affected the climate of Australia millions of years ago, and we are trying to identify the determinants of different climate states,” says Dr Wyrwoll.

“Our work also involves considering future climate projections and trying to understand how they will impact on landscape stability and on land surface processes such as soil, water and wind erosion and the injection of dust into the atmosphere. This involves collaboration with members of the Department of Agriculture and Food, the Institute of Atmospheric Physics, Beijing, and Professor Yaping Shao (University of Köln, Germany), an atmospheric physicist who is helping us to develop numerical models of wind erosion and atmospheric dust loading.”

“A new direction in our work involves collaboration with biologists in Australia, the United States and Russia who are interested in the genetic diversification of species in the arid zones of Australia and Eurasia, and how biological niches were affected by past climate states, and will be affected by future climate change.”

The multidisciplinary nature and scale of this work goes beyond the capacity of individual researchers and the resources of any one institution, so the UWA group works
with institutions that have specific strengths. For example, the Centre for Climatic Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has the technology and expertise that have made it one of the world’s leading climate-modelling groups. Over several decades, this centre has developed complex modelling systems that require a large amount of day-to-day support in terms of people and computer time. Similarly, the UWA group’s Chinese collaborators have expertise in the dating of sediments, which is of fundamental importance in providing the time scale for past climate events. One of the Chinese researchers is Professor Lu Yanchou of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Xi’an, an outstanding geochronologist who was responsible for radiocarbon dating the famous Terracotta Army near Xi’an.

“We cooperate with these institutions and take advantage of their facilities rather than trying to duplicate them – and working with these groups leads to an exchange of ideas and exposure to expertise, invaluable for our research efforts and for the students that have been involved in our work,” says Dr Wyrwoll.

This UWA research will contribute to our knowledge of how the climate of the northern Australian region has functioned over long time-scales and will establish its controls and sensitivity to global climate changes. As such it relates to questions about an environmentally sustainable Australia, climate change and water resources, that are all considered as National Research Priorities.

“The research is innovative in that it adopts an integrated approach to the problem of climate change – combining field observations with climate-modelling and placing these issues into a global context. It allows us to exploit the paleoclimatic archives of north-western Australia for evaluating the behaviour of the northern Australian monsoon under future climate changes,” says Dr Wyrwoll, whose academic background is in geology and physical geography. He also trained and worked in aviation meteorology while at the McGill Subarctic Research Laboratory in Canada.

“We are seeing a new world emerge, and it is important that we appreciate this and keep pace with the changes and their implications,” he says.

“Even while there may be some uncertainty about whether the climate changes we are seeing are entirely due to human activity, decisions need to be taken based on probabilities so that we can manage our future. We, as scientists, need to use our skills to make sure our research provides the basis for such decisions and to contribute to the public debate. And as a university we owe it to our students and to the wider community to provide the necessary training and research environments to take a leading role in this global challenge.”
When Peter Hartmann took up a post at UWA in 1972, breastfeeding was not the ‘in thing’ and there was a dearth of research about a practice widely acknowledged to have huge health benefits for both infants and mothers.

The UWA researcher immediately began to remedy this lack of understanding of the mechanics of breastfeeding and of the physiology and biochemistry of milk synthesis, secretion and ejection. His aim was to facilitate the World Health Organisation’s recommendation that babies be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of their lives.

Over the past two decades, Professor Hartmann’s research output has been acknowledged internationally and today he heads UWA’s Human Lactation Research Group in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences which, with industry support, is widening our understanding of how to achieve what some are calling ‘world’s breast practice’.

Significantly, the group’s research has also overturned 160 years of received wisdom about the anatomy of the female breast, much of which dated back to 1840 text books based on anatomical dissections by British surgeon Sir Ashley Cooper.

“Until recently, the model of the breast used by many surgeons, obstetricians, doctors and midwives around the world was based on these dissections,” says Professor Hartmann. “However, our research produced a new picture of the anatomy of the lactating breast. Using sophisticated ultrasound technology, we found that the breast has fewer
milk ducts than text books indicated and this finding has changed our understanding of the way in which the breast produces and delivers milk. It has also helped mothers gain a better understanding of the mechanics of successfully feeding their babies.”

Professor Hartmann points out that making milk consumes huge amounts of energy. “In evolutionary terms, something as expensive as the making of breast milk would have to have an overwhelming evolutionary benefit in relation to survival and reproduction. And indeed, human breastmilk gives babies a great start in life.

“Studies indicate that breastfed babies suffer fewer illnesses, have better visual and motor development, enjoy a lower risk of obesity, and even bear lower risks of diseases like cancer in later life. They also do better at school – in fact the longer toddlers are breastfed the higher the impact on their grades at school.”

And there are benefits for the mother, including faster recovery from childbirth, reduced obesity risk, fertility, cholesterol and glucose control – and a boost to IQ. Both pregnancy and breastfeeding unleash a flood of hormones in mothers’ brains making them more vigilant and nurturing – an effect observed in mammalian mothers across the board: mother rats, for example, are better at navigating mazes and capturing prey!

Professor Hartmann says that the protections offered by breastmilk evolved from antibacterial compounds that the skin produces to protect itself. “It looks as if the protective function of the skin’s glands gave rise to a system that later, much later, became breasts. In this view, the first function of these skin secretions was protective – to confer immunity to the infant. Only later did the nutritional function evolve from these proteins,” he explains.

“Although the lactating breast uses 30 per cent of a mother’s daily resting energy requirement (the brain takes 20 per cent) it is the only organ in the body that does not have a clinical test to determine if it is functioning normally. Our research has focused on assessing the function of the normal lactating breast.”

As a student, Peter Hartmann began studying lactation in dairy cows at the University of Sydney and postdoctoral research took him to the United Kingdom and the United States. However, when Britain entered the Common Market and the dairy industry collapsed (taking with it his main source of research funding), he took a post at UWA and began to focus on the much-neglected area of human lactation.

“At that time, breastfeeding in the Western world had – for historical and social reasons – probably reached its lowest level,” recalls Professor Hartmann.

In Europe, in the past, affluent women seldom breastfed their babies – they handed them over to wet nurses. With the advent of infant formula, there was an alternative to the wet nurse who became a rarity in the 20th century, because the war years saw so many women enter the workforce.

“In Australia, breastfeeding rates never fell as low as they did in Europe – primarily because we had a sparse population and wet nurses were never readily available,” explains Professor Hartmann. “Historically, there was also a different attitude towards families. In England, children were classically ‘seen and not heard’ and people were outraged if a woman breastfed in public. In Australia children were always much more part of the family and breastfeeding was more socially acceptable.

“In the postwar years, women were sent back home to ‘make babies and become home-makers’, but the sixties and seventies saw them re-entering the workforce, burning their bras, demanding equal pay – and taking advantage of the freedom offered by the aggressively-marketed infant formula.”

The advent of infant formula brought its own changes, for it was seen as being ‘advanced and scientific’ – the modern thing to do. When Peter Hartmann arrived at UWA in 1972, less than half of Australian mothers were breastfeeding, and figures had slumped to just a quarter in the US and the UK. When he applied for research grants, the National Health and Medical Research Council queried why he was planning research on these unusual women who persisted in breastfeeding!

However, the UWA research was timely, for the 1970s witnessed a resurgence of interest in breastfeeding largely due to self-help organisations such as the Australian Breastfeeding Association which came into being in 1964.
“This was a grassroots rather than a medically-driven resurgence – it was mother-driven! The Association was a great support for mothers and countered some of the negative perceptions that had been put around. And their members were their best advertisements,” recalls Professor Hartmann.

“When this movement began to spread in developed countries, the producers of formulas began looking for new markets, particularly in the developing world. In areas where there were poor health facilities, infant formulas were a disaster – there was a 16-fold increase in deaths that could be contributed to formula. Even now in the United States, the death rate of infant formula babies is 20 per cent higher than in breastfed babies.”

Whereas in the dairy industry in which Professor Hartmann once conducted research, the aim is to maximise milk production – if you restrict diet, you restrict milk production – in human lactation a quite different control mechanism is at work. Most women can produce more than their babies’ daily needs, and diet has very little effect on milk production.

During the 1970s it was argued that hormones regulated a mother’s milk supply, with more frequent suckling releasing prolactin (a hormone required for milk production) and thereby increasing milk production. Professor Hartmann’s research has shown that each breast independently regulates the rate of milk production in response to the fullness of the breast. This in turn varies with the breast’s capacity to store milk. A small breast may store 100ml, a larger one, double that amount. The fullness of the breast is the major determinant of the fat content of breastmilk. If the breast is full of milk the fat content is low and if most of the available milk has been removed from the breast the fat content will be high.

UWA Research Associate Catherine Garbin and Dr Jacqueline Kent have studied more than 70 WA mothers and babies and have found a huge variation in the quantity of milk taken at each feed, and the feeding frequency of babies.

“These babies happily get by with 550 grams of milk a day while others take more than a litre. Some only suckle from one breast at each feed, others prefer both. Some are happy with as few as six feeds a day, others demand up to 18!” say the researchers. “But no matter how they feed, they take remarkably similar quantities of nutrients. Fat intake, for example, is independent of feed frequency. Babies that prefer fewer feeds take in more milk per feed than those who prefer more feeds.”

Medela Research Fellow Dr Donna Geddes and Research Associate Ms Garbin, a lactation consultant with the team, have used ultrasound sonography to investigate the experience-based advice given to women experiencing feeding difficulties.

One of the world’s pre-eminent sonographers, Dr Geddes used her skill to revolutionise the world of anatomy in 2005, when she published a paper showing that the textbook anatomy of the lactating breast was flawed.

“Looking at the breast using ultrasound in this way was a world-first,” says Dr Geddes, a researcher in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences. “The milk ductal system of the female breast was a lot more complex than first thought and resembles an arterial system where essential fat stores for milk production cannot be separated from other parts of the breast tissue.”

For this work, Dr Geddes developed an innovative way of taking ultrasound movies of the feeding infants which show how the baby’s high speed sucking after ‘latching on’ turns on the milk ejection reflex. When suckling, the baby applies a vacuum to the nipple and its sucking rhythm has a distinctive pattern. This ground-breaking research shows that uncomfortable, inefficient breastfeeding is often due to sucking pressures being out of line.

The findings are already helping mothers experiencing feeding difficulties. Clinical observation and scientific information acquired in a laboratory have been brought together in a Breastfeeding Assessment Tool that helps healthcare workers gauge the reason for feeding problems.

Professor Hartmann says that today 95 per cent of Western Australian mothers want to breastfeed and 93 per cent leave hospital doing just that. While these statistics are heartening – having risen from 48 per cent in 1972 – there is still room for improvement.

“We have a high drop off by six months, mainly because women encounter an array of problems. Most mothers

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experience sore nipples, some will have problems with mastitis, others are concerned about whether baby is getting enough nutrition. And then there is the problem of fatigue and those night feeds.

“After breastfeeding for several months, a mother can feel vulnerable and may blame breastfeeding rather than other factors. Maintaining a mother’s confidence is an important factor in the maintenance of lactation. Response to physical stress is reduced during breastfeeding but the response to psychological stress is not. Thus physical stress won’t stop milk production, but if you take away a mother’s confidence in her ability to breastfeed, it can. It would seem that rural Aboriginal women who have learnt to breastfeed from observation of their relatives don’t experience feeding problems to the same extent as urban women.”

Women experiencing difficulties with feeding are generally referred to lactation consultants at breastfeeding clinics such as the Breastfeeding Centre of WA at King Edward Hospital which has close ties with the UWA research group through the Women and Infants Research Foundation. Currently three doctors (a paediatrician and two GPs) are working with the researchers in the Human Lactation Research Group.

Professor Hartmann has received backing for his research from the Swiss company Medela which produces technically advanced breast pumps and other breastfeeding accessories based on academic research. The company has supported Professor Hartmann’s research to increase the effectiveness of expressing milk – from the types of stimulation necessary to maximise milk ‘let down’ to the most efficient methods of removing milk from the breast.

Recently the Swiss company released a breast pump driven by smart cards based on the research done by Professor Hartmann and his team at King Edward Memorial Hospital. The pump generates infants’ suckling patterns and is particularly useful for mothers of preterm babies, for working mothers who want to store milk for a baby, or for infants with problems such as cleft palate. The pump is now available around the world.

For the tiny preterm babies in the special care nursery at King Edward Memorial Hospital, successfully expressed breast milk is a lifeline that increases chances of survival. Dietician Gemma McLeod (left), who is investigating how to optimise the nutrition of human milk for preterm babies, is photographed with her supervisors: UWA’s Professor Peter Hartman, Dr Jill Sherriff of Curtin University of Technology and Professor Karen Simmer of Women and Infants Health. Second from the right is Doug Parker of the Rotary Club of Thornlie which supports the research that will help babies to thrive. (Photo Lindy Brophy)

so their capacity to utilise food is limited,” says Professor Hartmann. “They burn a lot of energy just keeping themselves alive, without having any left over for growing.”

Professor Hartmann, who is also Visiting Professor at Kagawa Nutrition University in Japan, has recently been internationally honoured with the Macy-Gyorgy Award by the International Society for Research Human Milk and Lactation 2006 and by the La Leche League International Award of Excellence. His research has been presented at conferences around the world.

The research group at UWA has produced a CD based on their research, entitled Anatomy of the Lactating Breast for use by the medical profession.

For the tiny preterm babies in the special care nursery at King Edward Memorial Hospital, successfully expressed breast milk is a lifeline that increases chances of survival. Dietician Gemma McLeod (left), who is investigating how to optimise the nutrition of human milk for preterm babies, is photographed with her supervisors: UWA’s Professor Peter Hartman, Dr Jill Sherriff of Curtin University of Technology and Professor Karen Simmer of Women and Infants Health. Second from the right is Doug Parker of the Rotary Club of Thornlie which supports the research that will help babies to thrive. (Photo Lindy Brophy)
In 1629 the Dutch vessel, *Batavia*, bound for the spice islands of Indonesia, was wrecked on Morning Reef in the Houtman Abrolhos. For those who survived, Beacon Island became a refuge that rapidly turned into a place of mutiny and murder. Before the killing began, the commander of the stricken vessel had embarked on a hazardous journey to seek help, and when he returned the ringleaders were tried and hanged.

Ever since, human skeletal remains recovered from *Batavia* excavations have testified to the reign of terror unleashed on the windswept island. At least 125 men, women and children were slaughtered – an epic tragedy that has spawned books and documentaries, including the UWA Press publication *Voyage to Disaster* by Henrietta Drake-Brockman. The tragedy also draws many a fascinated visitor to the *Batavia* Gallery at the WA Maritime Museum Shipwreck Galleries in Fremantle.

Four individual *Batavia* burial sites were discovered on Beacon Island in the 1960s and a further six bodies were recovered from a multiple burial site during the 1990s. This island graveyard became the ‘laboratory’ for Dr Daniel Franklin, whose undergraduate and Honours studies focussed on the skeletal remains unearthed by fishermen who live on the island during the western rock lobster season.

The grave sites had been disturbed not only by visiting fishermen but by burrowing birds. “Fortunately the soil’s high calcium carbonate content favours bone preservation, and so far the skeletal remains of ten individuals have been found on the island,” says Dr Daniel Franklin, who was part of a team involved in the 1999 excavation of the site.

The excavated grave featured in his Honours studies contained six individuals, including two children, laid against one another in a circular pit. The bones were in various stages of preservation and some were in poor condition.

Above: Relics from the *Batavia* wreck site that have found a home in the WA Maritime Museum’s Shipwreck Galleries in Cliff Street, Fremantle, and skeletons of *Batavia* victims on which UWA’s Daniel Franklin has worked. The human remains were uncovered during a 1963 expedition to Beacon Island in the Houtman Abrolhos. (Photos: Patrick Baker©WA Museum.)
All the adults recovered were assessed as males – who were regarded by the mutineers as a greater threat than women, some of whom were kept alive to serve as unwilling concubines. The remains found in the pit were initially thought to be members of a single family battered to death with an axe, but when excavated coral and earth were sieved for clues, that hypothesis was rejected. Forensics established that the ages and sex of the remains did not match those of the murdered family.

“The remains appeared to be of victims roughly thrown into the pit,” says Dr Franklin. “I think their bodies were hastily dragged into the pit in the early stages of the mutiny.” He believes the remains are those of a gunner, a carpenter, an English soldier, a cabin boy, a child and an infant, most being ill and offering little resistance to the mutineers. All that remained of the infant (between eight to nine months of age) were teeth.

Dr Franklin’s background in anthropology and anatomy studies at UWA enabled him to ‘flesh out’ the victims, using forensic techniques.

“Essentially, I wanted to do a comprehensive study of the mutiny victims, to work out their sex, how old they were, how they died, what their health was like when they were alive – in order to build up a life history,” says Dr Franklin. “I also did soil profiles to measure the impact on the bones in this relatively shallow grave. I was able to critique the historical record and reconcile it with what we found.”

He went on to complete UWA PhD studies in Southern Africa that identified regional differences in cranial morphology among the Bantu-speaking people, including the Zulu and Xosa. His study will prove useful for forensic anthropologists in Africa faced with the task of identifying remains.

As a Research Associate in the Centre for Forensic Science at UWA, Dr Franklin is working at the forefront of forensic anthropology and is enthusiastic about the three-dimensional geometric morphometric technology he used in his PhD study and continues to use as an advanced forensic tool for determining age, sex and population affinity.

“Traditional technology provides linear dimensions of a skull, but using this more sophisticated statistical method of analysis provides virtual three-dimensional representations of skulls or bones that allow investigators to see very fine shape differences that might relate to the sex, age or population differences,” he says. “This technology has not yet been taken up by forensic science in Australia although it is being used in the US and Europe.”

Dr Franklin, whose position is funded by the Australian Research Council, recently attended an international geometric morphometric workshop in Vienna which focussed on the new methods he is using. This helped him plan future research orientated towards applying these methods to problems in forensic science.

The UWA researcher is currently working with UWA’s Professor Charles Oxnard and Professor Paul O’Higgins of the University of York. Both are studying the evolutionary variation in skeletal morphologies, using geometric morphometric methods, CT imaging, and other advanced technologies. He also works with forensic entomologist Associate Professor Ian Dadour (Director of UWA’s Centre for Forensic Science).

However, the young researcher’s fascination with the Batavia sites has not been totally eclipsed by his more recent research interests. He has recently received funding that will enable him to use DNA and stable isotope analysis on the Beacon Island remains to reveal dietary information on the victims – adding to the wealth of information already gathered in relation to WA’s most dramatic shipwreck.

UWA is launching a new unit in forensic archaeology as part of its Graduate Diploma in Forensic Science. Forensic archaeology involves the application of archaeological theory and method in relation to the excavation and recovery of skeletal material and artefacts from forensic contexts. This unit is intended to introduce students to basic ideas and principles in forensic archaeology, including: surveying, site recording, excavation techniques, artefact collection and preservation, and interpretation of crime scenes. The unit will also provide practical experience in correct collection techniques for skeletal remains. It is envisioned that students will develop an appreciation of the importance of using proper archaeological field methods in relation to skeletal remains encountered in forensic contexts.
Given film and television’s continuing fascination with forensic science, this area of study is likely to maintain its current popularity as a career choice. Professor Ian Dadour, one of a handful of forensic entomologists in Australia, is Director of UWA’s Centre for Forensic Science. His expertise – which involves gauging the time of death of a victim through the maggots found on the corpse – is in high demand at crime scenes.

In response to the continued growth of interest in studying forensic science, Professor Dadour says that UWA will offer in 2008 a Graduate Diploma and a Master of Forensic Science program specialising in anthropology. This course will have units in forensic archaeology, molecular anthropology as well as aspects of disaster victim identification.

If you would like to know more about this area of study, visit the website: www.forensicscience.uwa.edu.au/current_students/postgraduate/unit_descriptions
Four years after The University of Western Australia opened its doors in 1913, the University’s Dramatic Club came into being – two years before the Perth Repertory Club was formed.

In the following decades, the curtain regularly rose on campus theatre, much of it driven by the students themselves, sometimes with the help of academics or students turned professional actors – such as Neville Teede who, after serving in World War II, studied in the English Department, performed with the Old Vic in the UK, and then returned to the National Theatre at the Playhouse and to lecture at UWA.

“During my time at UWA from the mid-1950s, it was DIY theatre,” recalls Joan Pope, who donned wigs for the classics and bikinis for the revues. “You might have a script or you might put one together. You worked out how and where to stage the production, found money for it and rehearsal space. And the fortunes of the club went from hyperactivity to hibernation, depending on the enthusiasm of those involved.” The UWA graduate went on to a career as actor, choreographer, director and educator and received an Order of Australia for her contribution to the creative arts.

Bill, a student actor who went on to perform in the professional theatre and to direct student productions, recalls that during the 1970s and 1980s, it was part of the brief of English Department lecturers specialising in theatre, to work with professional companies such as The National Theatre and the Hole in the Wall. Several lecturers, including Bill, Neville Teede and Collin O’Brien, became well known to theatregoers on stage and backstage.

“We were expected to help establish professional standards and keep a high profile,” recalls Bill. “We balanced UWA’s drama programs with those of the professional companies, so that UWA staged productions that would normally be outside the companies’ brief. There was a lot of trading of people during that time and a huge amount of student theatre.”

Dr Steve Chinna, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, counters the impression that in recent years English Department productions have declined. He has personally directed 22 productions at the Dolphin (the home of student theatre on campus) and he teaches three theatre courses: Avant Garde Theatre and Performance, Performing Bodies/Performing Selves and Spaces of Resistance: Subversive Theatre. He also supervises postgraduates creating stage plays and film scripts. In May...
this year, theatre students presented a production of Howard Barker’s *Seven Lears* in the Dolphin Theatre.

“Because the WA Academy of Performing Arts only accepts graduate students, those interested in going into theatre may opt for our courses before going on to the Academy or NIDA,” explains Dr Chinna. “They usually get involved not only with English Department productions, but with UDS, GRADS and the Panto Society, which usually has a couple of productions a year. Several graduates, such as Genevieve Hegney of the Bell Shakespeare Company and former student, actor/playwright Toby Schmitz, have gone on to successful careers in theatre.”

Bill Dunstone and Joan Pope are hoping that recent graduates and those from earlier eras will contact them, share their memories and help to add to an archive of material relating to campus productions.

“When UWA celebrated its 75th anniversary, and I was Warden of Convocation, Ruth Hunter-Brown who was very involved with campus theatre, began collecting programs and photos,” recalls Joan. “As a student, I was president of UDS, and at that time we diligently kept scrapbooks and records - but we don’t know where that material has gone.

*The Black Swan* (a student magazine from 1917 until after World War II), *The Pelican* (1930) and *The Critic* (1960) have provided quite a bit of information, and we are drawing on the memories of many people, plus autobiographies, like those of Sir Paul and Dame Alexandra Hasluck, who were both in plays in the 1920s.

“Ruth is diligently collecting information but there are lot of gaps and that’s why we need people to contact us.”

Joan says that each decade of campus theatre has a distinct flavour – from the controversial, left-leaning productions of the 1930s, to the exuberance of the late 1940s, when theatre was energised by nearly 1,000 post-war students who launched a whole new chapter in the story.

Old programs and theatre reviews throw up familiar names – Sir Paul Hasluck, who later became Governor General, produced *Murder in the Cathedral* in front of the St George’s Chapel in 1938. Katherine Brisbane and her late husband Dr Philip Parsons, founders of Currency Press, met at UWA and were involved in campus theatre before going on to publish David Williamson and others, and to have an extraordinary impact on Australian drama. Faith Clayton followed memorable performances in student theatre with those in professional theatre. Poet and playwright Dorothy Hewett added a radical touch to campus theatre, writing experimental plays for the New Fortune stage from the 1960s to the 1980s; celebrated painter Guy Grey-Smith painted murals on hessian for the old Dolphin in 1960; and actress Greta Scacchi (who enrolled at UWA but did not complete a degree) added her fledgling star quality to several UDS productions in the 1970s. And comedian/musician Tim Minchin, who won the 2005 Edinburgh Festival Perrier Newcomer Award, and who recently made a return trip to perform in his home town, also enlivened campus productions. Tim, who now lives in London, did several theatre units as an undergraduate and performed in Theatre Studies and UDS productions.

Academics also had a profound impact on campus drama. When Allan Edwards, Professor of English, arrived on campus in 1941, his emphasis on drama in English courses increased the number of student productions. He believed the best way to study a play was to see a good performance, or, better still, to take part in a production.

At the time, a proposal to establish a University theatre had been rejected on the grounds that it might lead to “unimaginable expenses”. So Professor Edwards mounted play readings followed by lively tutorials. Several productions were also mounted with the student Dramatic Society.

A Foundation Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities in 1969, Professor Edwards worked tirelessly to promote literature, theatre and the visual arts to students and the wider Perth community. The dynamic professor also persuaded the architects of the new Arts building to create a courtyard between the buildings that could be turned into a replica of a Renaissance theatre – that later became known as the New Fortune – and held discussions with British theatre director Sir Tyrone Guthrie that led
CURTAIN UP ON UWA THEATRE

Material for this article has been sourced from Campus at Crawley by Fred Alexander (UWA Press) and University Voices, Traces from the Past by Christine Shervington.

Note: If you feel you can contribute to this theatre history project – either financially or with memories or material – please contact either Joan (jlpop3@student.monash.edu.au) or Bill (dunstonw@iinet.net.au).

That made me wonder where the Foundation Professor of History and Economics in 1912 acquired such theatrical skills, and it also made the location of his memorial in the Sunken Garden so appropriate.” Professor Shann is widely acknowledged as one of the founders of the study of economics in Australia and the annual Shann Memorial Lectures remind us of his contribution to UWA.

Bill Dunstone says that the group of graduates intends to produce a centenary publication that does not merely record the flowering of theatre on campus, but “captures the social history of University theatre, the flavour of the different decades and what it was like to put on a play at UWA”.

The publication will also highlight the establishment of UWA’s own unique suite of theatrical venues that play an important role in promoting performance on campus, and that provide a range of venues for PIAF and other professional productions.

“The venues not only accommodate productions by professional theatre, UDS and GRADS, they also host performances of plays by the Department of English and Cultural Studies, and the French, German and Italian Clubs,” he says. “We hope the book will reinforce the strong position that theatre continues to hold on campus.”

Bill performed in the opening production of Hamlet at the New Fortune. The 1964 opening of the theatre was accompanied by a flurry of telegrams from theatrical luminaries such as Olivier and Sir Tyrone Guthrie, who later advised on the design of the Octagon Theatre.

The New Fortune annually hosts a season of Summer Shakespeare by the Graduate Dramatic Society (GRADS). In March, the club staged Henry V and, as usual, the performance proved popular with school groups.

GRADS, which currently has 50 members, produces three plays a year. In July and August they will perform The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde and in October, Harold Pinter’s The Birthday Party.

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to the building of the Octagon Theatre which opened in 1969.

Before the theatres we know today were built, venues for productions have included labs and lecture rooms at Irwin Street, the Assembly Hall and Burt Hall in Pier Street, and table tops in the old Refectory at Crawley! Later, the rather chilly steps in the foyer of Winthrop Hall, the hall itself (which was too large for most productions), and the Sunken Garden were used. At one stage the Shenton House dairy served as a dressing room for the old Dolphin Theatre (named after the dolphins that frequently played in Matilda Bay) which had been an Engineering workshop. UWA English lecturer David Bradley was a driving force behind the opening of the old Dolphin.

In 1948, English lecturer and UWA graduate Jeana Bradley produced Oedipus Rex in the Sunken Garden which previously had been little more than a “sandpit”. At the end of the 1940s, this once unsightly area was terraced to seat an audience facing the Shann Memorial, which was flanked by two lily ponds and an arched rustic bridge. The production brought together many talented people and won plaudits from the British actors Laurence Olivier and Vivian Leigh who were performing in Perth at the time.

Oedipus started a tradition of performances in the Sunken Garden and when Jeana Bradley went to London in 1952, she received a long cable from Professor Fred Alexander (founder of the Festival of Perth) asking her to return to produce a show for the first Festival a year later – A Midsummer Night’s Dream.

This was the first of many Festival productions in the Sunken Garden, and it highlighted the importance to UWA theatre of the Adult Education Board chaired by Sir Alex Reid, who went on to become the eighth Chancellor of UWA. As a student after World War I, Alex Reid had performed in a notable production of J.M. Barrie’s What Every Woman Knows.

Piecing together the history of UWA theatre is involving a good deal of detective work.

“You might pick up a trail of something interesting in a review in The Dragon (formerly the St George’s College magazine) or in a Guild archive, and that sets you off on a fascinating search,” says Joan. “For instance, in an old copy of the Black Swan the students thanked Professor Edward Shann for his wonderful stage-management of a production.

Graduate Joan Pope (on the right) was active in campus theatre productions and in the cabarets such as this one presented at The Eccentrics Club ball in 1954.
UWA graduate, noted organist and teacher Annette Goerke admits that the massive electric action pipe organ in Winthrop Hall gave her a few heart-stopping moments in recent times.

“There have been a few awkward situations, but we have got by,” recalls the seasoned WASO performer who has a long list of recording credits with the ABC. “The organ needed complete restoration and when it returns it will be even better, with a few extra stops that will make it even more versatile, plus some adaptations that will make it easier to maintain.”

The organ, built in England by JW Walker and Sons and shipped to Perth in 1965, was purchased as part of a major bequest from Dr William Sim McGillivray (whose bequest also secured for UWA what is now the McGillivray Oval).

The instrument boasts more than 3,000 pipes and 13 kilometres of wiring. It also comprises a wealth of materials – softwood for some of the pedal basses, hard oak and mahogany for the flute, hard rolled zinc for the front pipes and an alloy of tin and lead for most of the others. The restoration is being carried out by the South Island Organ Company in New Zealand, one of few companies worldwide that restore and maintain such organs.

The cost of restoration is around $600,000 so the University has launched a Restoration Appeal to raise funds for the work and maintenance, and to provide the basis for an organ scholarship. The organ will be back where you like to see and hear it early next year, its distinctive sounds heralding the 2008 graduation ceremonies.

Annette Goerke, one of Australia’s leading organists, was largely self-taught, although she benefited from the guidance of Father Albert Lynch of St Mary’s Cathedral where she played for more than 40 years. She also honed her skills when a Churchill Fellowship took her to Paris for advanced studies with Marie-Claire Alain. A degree in composition at UWA’s School of Music when already an accomplished musician equipped her to compose, arrange and orchestrate music, as was often required in her capacity as Director of Cathedral Music.

The UWA graduate has had a long association with the Winthrop Hall organ which she describes as a typical JW Walker instrument.

“It is quite a versatile instrument in that you can play most styles of music on it,” she says. “Every organ has its own voice. The tonal style of this instrument is a typical English interpretation of the neo-baroque style in vogue at the time: voicing is on low wind-pressure, open-toe fluework and French-style reeds.”

Today Ms Goerke teaches UWA’s only organ student, working on both the Winthrop Hall organ and, in its absence, the French classical organ in her home studio. She says that mastering the coordination required to play the organ inevitably determines the success of students.

“When you are playing this most challenging instrument, your feet are as involved as your hands, so you must...”
be very agile,” she explains. “People always think of the organ in terms of the huge sounds it makes, but every bit as important are the warm, quiet tones and the wonderful range of effects obtained from these more subtle sounds.”

UWA organ student Andrew Cichy became interested in the instrument while a student at Trinity College.

“I was awarded the Lynn Kirkham Pipe Organ Scholarship at the age of 15 and was very fortunate to have Annette as my teacher from the time I started playing,” says Andrew, who echoes Annette’s remarks about the difficulty of mastering the organ.

“Robert Schumann was right when he said, ‘Lose no opportunity of practising on the organ; there is no instrument which takes swifter revenge on anything unclear or sloppy in composition and playing!’ This is true. A well-built instrument tells no lies – even a slight slip of the hand or foot will be magnified several times,” he says.

“However, the many difficulties are outweighed by the sheer beauty of the instrument and its repertoire. Practising has certainly become a labour of love for me.”

Andrew puts his skills to good use on church organs, but will also take advantage of other performance opportunities. “I hope that the independence of line that I have learnt through playing contrapuntal music will enable me to direct musical ensembles with greater sensitivity and musicality,” he adds.

If you have relished the big and small sounds of UWA’s pipe organ, you may wish to make a donation to the McGillivray Organ Restoration Appeal. Call the Office of Development on +61 8 6488 7222.
When appointed UWA’s Dean of Education last year, Professor Bill Louden was determined that the University’s Graduate School of Education should play a pivotal role in shaping the State’s educational research and policy development.

“These are areas in which this University can provide leadership,” says Professor Louden, “so we are looking to have more impact on decisions being made in the area of school education.

“We are currently developing the University’s engagement with our industry partners. That has meant taking on new staff skilled in areas where there are acknowledged problems, so we can contribute to providing solutions.

“UWA is acknowledged as a leader in scientific research. Our contribution in that area is huge. Now we are working with the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences to strengthen the University’s science education program – and the appointment of Professor Grady Venville has been a very positive step in that direction.

“Another area demanding attention is that of psychometrics – measuring student performance in key areas. The School has made several appointments in this area, including that of Professor David Andrich, a world authority on assessment, who holds the Chapple Chair of Education and heads a research team.”

Professor Louden himself is involved in a $1.8m research project for the Department of Education and Training. The three-year study will investigate student growth in literacy at key stages of development – in preschool and Year 1, and in Year 8. This major project involves six members of staff.

Most research conducted by the School is commissioned and paid for either by the State Government or the Federal funding body, the Australian Research Council. While the School is acknowledged for producing high-calibre teachers, some 35 per cent of its students are in fact studying for higher degrees by research, and 25 percent are pursuing those studies in overseas locations.

Many of the School’s doctoral students are teachers or former teachers. Some wish to develop their intellectual skills or are curious about pursuing a specific area of research, others hope their studies will help them to move from the classroom into educational research, or one of many other jobs in educational leadership.

The Dean of Education’s own career has seen him move from teaching to senior positions in the Education Department, followed by a term as Pro Vice-Chancellor of Research and Executive Dean at Edith Cowan University prior to his UWA appointment.

“When I became a teacher 30 years ago, about 10 per cent of school students went on to university. Today the figure is closer to 40 per cent. When I trained, teaching was a popular graduate destination and there were many more male teachers. Today teaching competes with professions such as IT that barely existed back then. In three decades a whole range of occupations have been professionalised, creating many career options for school leavers,” says the UWA professor.

“These factors have resulted in a shortfall in teachers that has been exacerbated by the resources boom. But the most important factor has been the declining status of the profession and its low salaries. People want to become teachers in Ontario, Canada and Singapore, where teachers are better paid and the profession is more highly regarded. In Scotland and Ontario, it is difficult to get a place in a teacher education program – in fact an Australian university has set up a campus in Ontario to help meet local demand. We have to ask what makes teaching an attractive occupation in these places – and in my view the answer is salary and status.

“In WA, if a maths graduate weighs up whether to enter teaching or the financial sector, there’s no contest in terms of salary, so people take their skills somewhere else. Sadly, not enough graduates with maths skills are making those skills available to the next generation. There are, however, still some able and altruistic young people who want to be maths teachers. Last year, our ten new maths teaching graduates
included a graduate with a PhD and several others with first class honours degrees in mathematics.”

Are unruly classrooms in the ‘blackboard jungle’ contributing factors? Professor Louden thinks not. He believes that there have always been schools that truly test a teacher’s commitment.

“I taught in tough schools where the children didn’t want to be there and didn’t see any value in studying, so I had plenty of experience in trying to persuade the students that learning could be interesting and useful,” he recalls. “I don’t know that the situation is much different today.”

Professor Louden says that whereas in the past an elite group of students stayed on to complete schooling in Year 12, now the WA Certificate of Education obliges all students to do so.

“The successful schools have been able to bring vocational education and training programs into mainstream upper schooling. We are in the middle of a transition in the system designed to regulate university entrance and to recognise the learning of all young people in the year they turn 17. It’s a big challenge,” he says.

Shortly after assuming his current post, Professor Louden chaired a taskforce which conducted the most comprehensive review of literacy and numeracy in WA. Key recommendations included increasing the number of local kindergarten and pre-primary places in schools with low rates of participation and achievement; preparing kindergarten and primary syllabuses that include clear targets and a stipulated minimum time allocation for literacy and numeracy; and establishing an independent body to investigate, monitor and report on system performance in literacy and numeracy.

Professor Louden supports the move towards a national curriculum. “My view is that 100 years after Federation, the previous colonies do not have such significant differences as would justify a different curriculum. There are local differences that matter but there are as many local differences within the states as between them. I think it is inevitable that we will move toward a national curriculum, especially in areas where there are high status assessments as in Year 12. It does not seem plausible to me that material taught in senior schools should change when you cross a state border.”

UWA has been offering courses in education since 1916 and its graduates and staff have occupied leading positions as principals in schools, as consultants and administrators in education systems, and as leading researchers.

The School has off-shore programs established in Hong Kong and Singapore and its international work is dedicated to representing local and global needs, cultural and educational priorities in curriculum and pedagogy. If you would like to know more about studying in the Graduate School of Education, visit the website: www.education.uwa.edu.au

Now in its second year, SPICE – the Secondary Teachers’ Enrichment Programme (Science) – is enhancing science teaching skills and knowledge about ‘wow factor’ research that is likely to stir the interest of students.

The UWA-WA Department of Education and Training initiative is supporting collaborative networks of teachers, scientists and science educators. A popular Teacher in Residence programme enables teachers to spend time at UWA in an environment of scientific research, multimedia development and curriculum design.

Last year seven teachers explored areas as diverse as electromagnetic waves and ecosystems during their time at UWA, while others participating in Spice Days enjoyed workshops and lectures on topics such as spinal cord injuries, quantum computing and radio astronomy.

Recently a half-day Science Taster saw visiting students exploring the stunning Beyond Fibres exhibition from the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Japan and hearing scientists talking about their cutting-edge research.

SPICE offers a range of benefits to individual teachers and schools and some 22 schools (including schools from Bunbury and the Warren Blackwood regions) are now taking advantage of the programme. Recognised SPICE high schools include Armadale, Carine, Churchlands, Duncraig, Hamilton, John Curtin College of the Arts, Mount Lawley, Padbury, Shenton College, Warnbro and Willetton.

If you’d like to be involved, contact Fred Deshon (6488 4795 or email fdeshon@cyllene.uwa.edu.au) or Alan Cadby (6488 1916, email acadby@cyllene.uwa.edu.au). Both are available to visit schools and provide information. For more information, visit www.spice.wa.edu.au

Local teachers who benefit from the Teacher in Residence programme at UWA have a continuing commitment to the SPICE by providing professional development at workshops and presenting their research to other science teachers at conferences. Several teachers who have participated in the programme are presenting their research at the World Conference on Science and Technology Education which is being held in Perth for the first time in July (see www.WorldSTE2007.asn.au).
Reverend Canon Richard Pengelley looks like an incarnation of the Jesus he envisages and admires – fit, strong and out there.

“He must have been robust and physical because of his carpentry,” says the Anglican Minister, “and athletic because he walked all over the place.” Yes – and over all kinds of surfaces and on all sorts of toes, which is something Richard can hardly avoid in the all-hallowed domain that he is currently exploring: sport.

Richard himself doesn’t quite walk on water, but he was a water polo Olympian and no doubt often skimmed along the surface to escape hefty kicks from opponents below. Which brings us directly to a quandary of one of his intellectual pursuits, namely spirituality in sport; how does spirituality relate to our aggressive culture of winning – does a Christian have to turn the other cheek?

This is one of the questions third year students will be asked to ponder when Richard teaches a new Sport and Spirituality unit at UWA in the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science this year. Sport and Spirituality is a burgeoning academic interest (with the inaugural world conference on Sport and Spirituality in York, UK, later this year) and UWA, it seems, is the first major university to offer a complete unit based upon it. Studies will cover such topics as the historic corollary of sport and religion, the psychological effects on both spectator and sportsman, ethics, and sociology, especially the rituals we have created and the meanings we’ve added to them, vis-à-vis the religious metaphors used by the media (“the greatest comeback since Lazarus!”).

“For many years in most cultures, sport has been a form of worship. You only have to think of the original Olympic games and the muscular spirituality espoused at English public schools like Eton, the Scouting movement and YMCA, or the explosion of sports chaplains in the USA.

But we need to think about our current obsession with sport and its bizarre exposition through liturgical team colours, hymns to the victors and the chairing of heroes around the stadium. Men use it to show emotion – weeping for losses, hugging and falling to their knees at successes, and venerating their idols; yet where is this coming from? And when they’re not at the game, what happens? The main grief of their lives remains hidden.”

As for our sporting heroes, “We build them up, make icons of them, give them lots of money and few social responsibilities and no thought to helping them deal with the aftermath at the end of their careers.”

Richard will be at the forefront of helping the next generation think critically about these issues. Apart from being a tertiary student mentor (as chaplain at St. Georges College), he will lecture in the new unit at UWA, talk at high schools and churches, and give papers at national and international seminars. He is also developing a new water polo program for youngsters from 10 years of age.

“Sport has been seen as good for the soul,” he says. “It helps teach kids discipline, selflessness and team spirit. It’s once a sport becomes highly paid entertainment and the aggressive culture of winning sets in that the ethical side of sport begins to suffer.” He started young himself, joining Harry Gallagher’s promising young swimmers’ team in Melbourne in the 1960s, before taking up water polo, and training twice a day for three decades, his discipline culminating in a place at the Olympics (Los Angeles 1984 and Seoul 1988).

Born in Bahrain, Richard arrived in Australia in 1966 as a ‘ten-pound Pom’, and came to Perth in 1972, following his father, who was a driller. After receiving a Bachelor of Physical Education and a Diploma of Education (UWA) he taught in State high schools until becoming a PE teacher and then lay Chaplain at Hale School. Training for the
priesthood ‘on the job’, he was ordained in 1994. After Hale he became the Rector of the Anglican parish of St Nicolas Carine-Duncraig. He continued his sporting career, coaching and commentating on water polo for the ABC at the World Championships in 1992 and Channel 7 for the 1998 World Championships and 2000 Olympic Games.

“Now I am combining two of my passions, religion and sport. I’ve been a religious person all my life and an Olympian, which our culture sees as a very important thing. Even though water polo is a minor sport with little money behind it, it was an area of my life which I was able to objectify – I believe I did the best I could with the gifts I had been given.”

One could say that our community has been given a gift in Richard Pengelley – a person with a combination of sporting background, an interest in spiritual and mental health, and an ethical stance to guide people through the imbalance we have created in sport.

What is needed, according to Richard, is a new perspective which can help us concentrate on the wider issues of life so often forgotten in the pursuit of sporting prominence – one which will negate the aggressive culture of winning, and bring to the forefront questions about meaning and the role of compassion and service to others.

Richard will expand on these issues at the Second Ordinary Meeting of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association on Friday, 21 September, at the University Club, 6.30 for 7 pm to which all are welcome. Enquiries to Juanita Perez Scott, Tel: +61 8 6488 3006.

Ben McCleery is in his nineteenth year – and at such a young age is already tipped to be a role model and mentor for future generations of water polo players. He is, according to a member of the Torpedos Water Polo Board, of “exceptional character and always honest and fair in water polo matches.”

As such he exemplifies the qualities of sportsmen promoted by Reverend Canon Richard Pengelley, creator of the new Sport and Spirituality unit in the School of Human Movement and Exercise Science (see previous article).

Ben is a recipient of the Convocation 2007 Sports Bursary Award for his achievements in water polo, which he’s been playing since the age of 11.

“My mother (Carolyn Quinlivan) was a State Life Saver, and all my aunties were into swimming, so my brothers and I went to swimming when we were very young and then went into squads at UWA and I just kept going.” Until, that was, he decided water polo was more fun than training lap after lap after lap. “It’s true, water polo players don’t really like swimming, that’s why they go into water polo. My cousins played and I went along to training and liked it, so I joined.”

Ben trains at night, six to seven times a week in peak seasons and works at a local cinema once or twice a week. In between he studies for his Bachelor of Commerce degree.

The UWA student was awarded Most Outstanding Junior Player at the City Beach Water Polo Club in 2004 and 2005, and the various teams he has played for have won bronze, silver and gold medals. He was in the Australian School Boys UWA Torpedoes National League Team in 2005 and since 2004 has played in the WA State U/21. Ben would like his sport to have a bigger profile because of the financial advantage it would bring.

“Most of us have to have jobs because we don’t get big bucks thrown into water polo, like football,” explains Ben, who doesn’t care personally about the public glory that footy stars get. “None of our players have big heads – I don’t think they would even if it was a big sport – I think it’s something about the personality.”

Big shoulders and chest, however, are something water polo players need. “Carrying a little extra weight’s not a bad thing either as it gets harder for your opponent to move you. Strong legs help too.” One of the cardinal rules in water polo is that it’s a team game and you pass to the best-positioned player. “It doesn’t matter who scores,” says Ben, who also likes recent new rules which have changed the game. “There are a lot less corners and grabbing because they’ve made the game faster.”

One of Ben’s sporting aims is to be picked for the Australian Men’s Senior Squad and compete at the Olympic Games. He’d also like to become a Committee Member of the UWA Water Polo Club and assist with the coaching and organisation of the UWA Torpedoes.

* Thomas Hood, The Bridge of Sighs
Academically he wants to attain Chartered Accountant (CA) or Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) status and undertake an MBA. “The Convocation grant will be a huge help financially. I might not have to work at the cinema, and I’ll give some to Mum probably as she paid for lots of my sporting trips,” he says.

Like Ben, Jessica Jordan, 22 this year, Taekwondo Black Belt, Open Age, Bantam Weight Champion, was steered into her sport by her family. “My mother thought I ought to learn to defend myself, but I was interested in all kinds of sport, especially soccer and gymnastics. When I went to my first State Competition I was 11, and I loved it.”

Ideally you need a tall, slim body and a combative nature. Taekwondo is 70-80 per cent kicking, you hardly ever use arms (except to ward off blows) or punch, so you need to kick hard. It’s a great sport, she says, for fitness and self-defense and body conditioning, although she lets out a groan at the thought of the circuits and push-ups it entails. It’s also a respectful sport.

“You bow to the room when you enter even if no-one’s there. If there is, you find your instructor and bow to him and you bow to anyone higher than you, and you bow before you start. It’s a good discipline and kids learn respect, even if their parents can’t control them!” She represents the Charles Rawlins Taekwondo Academy and would be more than happy to help the UWA club out if it decided to compete at University games in tournament style fighting, which it doesn’t at present.

Jessica’s aim is to compete in the World Championships in Beijing in 2008. She certainly has a good pedigree for selection. She has won gold in State, National and Commonwealth Championships and Selections, and in Australian University Games. In February this year she was WA Team Representative in the World Championships Selection in Liverpool. She would also like to compete for UWA at the Australian University Games, and the National championships. As well as the talent, she also has the grit, continuing to train with a spiral fracture to her 4th metacarpal on her hand, sustained early in 2006 after blocking an opponent’s kick.

“I was in a large amount of pain, but the bone was mending in the correct position. I could still train with the injury as Taekwondo is almost only leg work – I just didn’t have to do push ups for about a month. It didn’t affect my studies either as I’m right handed.”

Those studies this year are towards a Graduate Diploma in Education to follow up on the Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Health Science awarded last year. “I’m used to trying to mix studies, sport and work now but it is hard having to miss things because of a test. TEE was hardest. I went away six or seven times, so had to catch up when I got back to school.” She loves the subjects she’s taking, particularly the health side of things and is interested in helping young people with their problems.

“I’ve been teaching Taekwondo since I was 14 when I damaged my growth plates and had 10 months off. And I’ve taught ever since,” explains Jessica, who also works at Jim Kidd Sports Store.

The Convocation Award will make life a little easier for Jessica: “It will help fund numerous interstate and overseas’ trips, and the support of UWA Sports will make it simpler to organise time off from Uni to attend competitions, so I’m really pleased.”
50th Anniversary Luncheon

Coming soon – Convocation’s popular Annual 50th Reunion Luncheon will be held this year in Winthrop Hall on Sunday 18 November 2007. Graduates who have already celebrated their 50th Anniversary with us (or who couldn’t get to earlier functions) are welcome. A formal invitation will be sent to all. Any volunteers who would like to help organise the event are invited to join a small sub-committee.

We’ve lost contact with a few graduates listed below (maiden names in brackets). If you have an idea of their whereabouts could you please let us know.

Graduates Coordinator Juanita Perez Scott: +61 8 6488 3006 is the person to contact if you have information and/or if you’d like to help organise this year’s event.


Donations to Awards

Each year Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association, presents a number of awards to students for their extraordinary achievements. These awards assist the students financially. If you would like to contribute to these awards, please complete the form below.

Donations for excellence

All donations over $2 are tax deductible, provided they are made out as set out below

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Travel Awards $ __________
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Cheques payable to “Donation to UWA Graduates Association”, or you may pay by credit card

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Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association

Waterpolo Athlete / Human Movement student Amity Campbell, winner of 2003 Sports Bursary.

Ballroom dancer / Architectural student Emily Reilly, winner of the 2002 Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence, with partner Richard Tomizzo.
1940s

- Dr James Jauncey (BSc 1941; BA 1946) has just turned 90 and has four sons, two daughters, 15 grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He lives with his wife Dorothy in El Paso, Texas, and describes himself as a psychologist, clergyman, author, world traveller, former guided missile scientist and inspirational speaker.

1950s

- Arthur Russell (BA 1953) taught Fine Art at Perth Technical College and Curtin University (then WAIT) in the late 1960s. Arthur went on to teach in Alice Springs and Papua New Guinea, returning to take up the position of Senior Education Officer at the Art Gallery of WA from 1980 to 1984. In 1991, a major retrospective of his work was held at UWA’s Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery and in 2003 he was awarded a Centennial Medal for long service to art and teaching.

1960s

- John Christmass (BA 1967) presented his 15th annual Best of British programme at the Perth Concert Hall last May. John’s 26th Vienna Pops Concert is being planned for New Year’s Eve, when the New Iovi Singers will celebrate their 35th anniversary.

- Francis Prendergast (MB BS 1967) retired from vascular surgical practice in December last year. Former classmates can contact him at fjprendy@iinet.net.au

- Bruce Henshaw (BSc(Hons) 1968; PhD 1972) has relocated back to Perth having spent the last 35 years working in Melbourne and on the West Coast of America in various technical and managerial roles within the chemical industry. He recently retired from Albright and Wilson Limited, having served as their CEO for 15 years.

- William Marshall (BPsych(Hons) 1968) has been Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Psychiatry since 2001 and has published over 300 publications including 16 books. In 1999, he was awarded the Santiago Grisolia Prize for worldwide contribution to the reduction of violence. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was invited to the Vatican as a consultant.

- John Fletcher (MB BS 1970) is Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Sydney and Westmead Hospital.

- Barbara Good (BA 1972) has just published an early-teens adventure novel, the Golden Eagle. The novel is set in the Scilly Islands, off the coast of Cornwall. Barbara has completed the first draft of a sequel which gives a truthful anti-drug message.

- Susan Belman (BA(Hons) 1973; DipEd 1974) completed her PhD in Education at Murdoch University after working for many years as a School Psychologist. She has been a lecturer in Education at Curtin University of Technology for the past two years and teaches pre-service teachers in the area of educational psychology.

- Kevin Findlay (MusB 1973; DipEd 1977) retired as a TAFE College Principal after 12 years in TAFE administration. His working life included 10 years in banking and 15 years in music. His musical career involved teaching and also performing professionally. Kevin lives in Moondah, Tasmania.

1970s

- Craig Lawrence (BCom 1975; MBA 1980) is CEO of Future Directions International, Australia’s Centre for Strategic Analysis and is based in West Perth. He writes that he and his team concentrate on developing medium to long-term policies and strategic plans for issues affecting the nation. Last year, they launched Australia’s Energy Options at Parliament House in Canberra and are currently working on the Australia 2050 study that goes to the heart of future options. In June last year, Craig was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to business and finance, national security, crime prevention and fostering national pride and identity.

- Colin Rainbird (BDSc 1977) works four days a week as a dentist in Albany. He also runs a beef and cattle property in the South-West.

- Diana van Straalen (née McQuillan) (BA 1979; DipEd 1980; MA 1998) has been Professor Emeritus of Psychology and Psychiatry since 2001 and has published over 300 publications including 16 books. In 1999, he was awarded the Santiago Grisolia Prize for worldwide contribution to the reduction of violence. Elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, he was invited to the Vatican as a consultant.

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1980s

- Geraldine Wooler (BA(Hons) 1977; DipEd 1985; MA 1998) writes that her second novel, The Seamstress, published by UWA Press was launched in February this year. She has also published many short stories, and has won awards for short fiction. Geraldine lives in Perth, where she writes and teaches English as a Second Language. She is also studying for a PhD in Creative Writing at UWA.

- Mary Winter (BA(Hons) 1979) is retired and lives at Hollywood Retirement Village, where she is very busy with the many aspects of retirement village life.

- Andrew Murray (BPsych 1980) is Director of Planet Creative, a marketing, communications and design consultancy based in Mt Hawthorn. Former classmates can contact him at andrew@planetcreative.com.au

- Otto Pelczar (MBA 1982) became State Secretary/Treasurer of the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) after retiring as WA’s Head of Naval Intelligence in the 1990s. He writes that the Institute, which was founded in the UK in 1831, is open to all those with a shared interest in the security of Australia. Otto is also Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial in Kings Park and twice a year he lectures on Navigation aboard the QE2. Former classmates can contact him at otto.pelczar@defence.gov.au

- Craig Lawrence (BCom 1975; MBA 1980) is CEO of Future Directions International, Australia’s Centre for Strategic Analysis and is based in West Perth. He writes that he and his team concentrate on developing medium to long-term policies and strategic plans for issues affecting the nation. Last year, they launched Australia’s Energy Options at Parliament House in Canberra and are currently working on the Australia 2050 study that goes to the heart of future options. In June last year, Craig was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for service to business and finance, national security, crime prevention and fostering national pride and identity.
1990s

• Helen Angspin (née Lee)(BA 1982) moved to Melbourne after completing a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She worked in social work for several years and then retrained, completing a Business degree at Swinburne University. She now works as a Paraprapher for Mercer Human Resources. Helen has three children.

• Paul Grayston (BArch 1985) is involved in pastoral ministry and teaches religion at Launceston Church Grammar School. He is also completing a BEd degree through the University of Tasmania.

• Mary Chape (formerly Bilick) (BBus 1988; LLB 1989) transferred from Managing Solicitor, Aboriginal Legal Service WA (ALSWA) based in the Kimberley to Managing Solicitor, Family Law Unit at ALSWA in Perth. Mary writes that she is enjoying being a grandmother for the first time after the birth of her daughter’s son last February.

• Russell Waugh (BE(Hons) 1988) worked with Clough Engineering after graduating and in 2004 took up the position of Country Manager for India for Leighton’s oil and gas business, based in Mumbai. He writes that he is enjoying all the challenges and opportunities that working in India presents. Former classmates can contact him at russell.waugh@leighton.com.au

1990s

• Anna Quick (BSc(Hons) 1990) has been living and working in the UK since 1991. Anna is married with a 6-year daughter and has her own business as an editorial consultant.

• Amanda Sainsbury-Salis (BSc(Hons) 1991) worked and studied for six years in Switzerland and has a PhD from the University of Geneva. She relocated nine years ago to the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney, where she lives with her husband and two young children. Amanda leads a team doing research into how the brain controls appetite and body weight and last February published ‘The Don't Go Hungry Diet.’ She draws on her scientific and personal insights on weight management to help people lose weight and keep it off by working with their physiology, rather than against it.

• Russell Fine (BSc 1992; BDes 1997) is in private dental practice in Booragoon and recently married Jennifer Sullivan (BMAEd(Hons) 2006), who is currently teaching primary school music at Scotch College.

• Tony Sader (BE 1993) worked mainly in the commercial and semi-industrial sector of the building industry. He is now part-owner of Mizco, a Perth-based company specialising in building automation, access control, CCTV and electrical switchboard manufacture and installation. Former classmates can contact him at tauder@mizo.com.au

• Martin Dupont (BCom 1994) is Financial Controller for Techne Oceania and is back at UWA studying for his MBA degree. Martin is married with three boys. Former classmates can contact him at dupont.martin@yahoo.com

• Sandy Ang (née Jakovich)(LLB 1997; BCom 1997) writes that she is now back at UWA studying architecture after a 10 year break.

• Billie Giles-Corti (PSD 1998), one of UWA’s top population health experts, is one of only two Australians to secure a 2007 Fulbright Senior Scholarship. Professor Billie Giles-Corti will spend four months at Stanford University in California early next year establishing a collaborative research program on Active Living for older adults. She writes there is a growing recognition of the link between the built environment and health and an urgent need to consider the housing and urban design needs of older adults with research examining how to keep people active as they age. Billie writes that it is important to keep people out of hospitals and reduce pressure on the health system. Being active as you age reduces the risk of frailty and falls and provides an opportunity for people to interact with others, which helps people stay mentally healthy. While at Stanford, Billie will work with Professor Abby King, who has an Active Ageing Lab.

• Reece Lumsden (BE 1998) began officer training in the RAAAF at Point Cook, Victoria, in 1998 and served at RAAF Williamstown the following year dealing with Air Traffic Control Radar Navigation aids. He completed his Master’s degree in Space Studies at the International Space University, in Strasbourg, France. He worked with the Intelligent Robotics Group and Crew and Thermal Systems Division on Advanced Life Support Systems development for the eventual crewed mission to Mars. He resigned his commission in the RAAAF in 2002, and started up Lumsden Consulting in 2003. In 2005, he moved to the US and in 2006 took up his current position with Boeing, as Project Manager working on the 787 Dreamliner aircraft. He completed an MBA in 2006 and started his PhD in Systems Engineering, at the University of Missouri-Rolla, sponsored by Boeing. Reece lives with his wife in Everett, in Washington State. Former classmates can contact him at rlhumsde@yahoo.com

• Christina Wang (née Yap)(MB BS 1998) has recently moved to Newcastle, NSW, with her husband and two infant children. Former classmates can contact Christina at ckkwang@ausdoctors.net

• Rosliza Mohd Saniu (BA 1999) lives in Singapore and has been teaching in the Opera Estate Primary School for six years. She also enjoys spending time with her daughter, Rosliza’s husband, Nordin bin Hasan (BSc 1998) teaches Physical Education at the Tampines Junior College and is also the teacher-in-charge of the school’s Outdoor Activities Club and has been busy organizing the annual overseas adventure and training trip. Nordin coaches the boys U18 soccer team. Former classmates can contact them at nordin_b_hassan@moe.edu.sg

2000s

• Lyneve Cannon (née Amoore)(BA 2000) recently retired from the State Public Service in London. She self-published her family history, Beyond the Mere – the life and times of four generations – Albert, Henry, Reginald and Albert: 1846-1996. Copies of the book have been circulated to Finance in Western Australia and the world, as well to the National Library, Battye Library and the City of Perth Library. She is presently working on a short story collection and lives in Mandurah with her husband. She will celebrate her 60th birthday in July.

• Ariada Gonzalez (née Battigelli) (BA 2000; DipEd 2001) is a language teacher and writes that she is always at her happiest when playing with her two-year old daughter.

• Syed Zainal Abidin Syed Noh (BE –2003) writes that he has been working as an electrical engineer with Bluescope Steel Malaysia since graduating. ‘It’s great to be working with such a brilliant group of people, together striving for excellence every single day. It’s a marvellous organisation with a great working environment,’ he writes.

• Luana Dwyer (BSc 2004) works as a Marketing Analyst for Australian Pork in Canberra. She previously worked at the UK Management Stock Options Coordinator for Citigroup.

• Anthony Tan (BSc(Hons) 2004; BCom 2004) is based in Canberra and works as a policy adviser for the Department of Finance and Administration, in their Transport and Communications branch.

• Andrew Ridley (BSc 2005) returned from a 10-month overseas trip last January and now works as an Events, Sponsorship and Marketing Officer for Swimming WA, in Perth. He previously worked as the Sports and Recreation Manager, for Wellington Sports, an Australian Paraplegics Committee and prior to that as Manager, Sport and Events for Surf Life Saving WA. Former classmates can contact him at andrew@wa.swimming.org.au

• Scott Banister-Jones (BSc 2006) is a real estate sales consultant at Gordon Davies Real Estate. Scott lives in Claremont and writes that he is about to complete his diploma in property. Former classmates can contact him at scott@qdc.com.au

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Tanya Monaghan (BA(Hons) 2006) writes that she is starting full-time employment in the Department of Corrective Services as a Case Support Officer and will be based at Fremantle. She is hoping to take part in a departmental research project into sex offenders in WA prisons and to train as a Community Corrections Officer.

Bader Al-Shammari (PhD 2006) is an Assistant Professor at Kuwait University and the Public Authority for Education and Training. He has published two papers since graduation and writes that he is very satisfied with his work and degree.

Sarah Ghirardi (BCom 2003) writes that she loves reading Grad Briefs and decided to add her own. Sarah has been living in London since graduating and works as the Marketing and Brand Manager at the British Design Council. She is pictured here with the Duke of Edinburgh, at the Prince Philip Designers Prize. Sarah organised the award ceremony which recognises outstanding contributions to design for business and society. “Every year Prince Philip chairs a selection panel to determine the winning designer. It is the UK’s longest-running annual design prize and this year’s event was held in our Covent Garden offices.”

It’s always great to hear from graduates, especially when they have happy news to convey and good advice to impart. UWA graduate Fleur Smith (MPsych 2003, GDipEd 2003) was studying for a Psychology Honours degree in South Australia in 1999 when she found out about a UWA Vacation Research Scholarship programme. At the time she was entirely focussed on completing her thesis.

“I am not sure what I was thinking the day they handed out that bright yellow sheet about a summer research programme at UWA,” she recalls. “I had heard that UWA had a Masters programme specializing in child development, something not offered in South Australia.

“On a day when my thesis wasn’t progressing, I completed the form and four months later was standing in a residential college surrounded by 15 students who may also have experienced a ‘slow thesis’ day. Among them was my future husband Trent Max who had just completed his Honours degree in Microbiology at Melbourne University and was doing some research at Sir Charles Gardner Hospital in collaboration with UWA.

“Skip to one year later – I applied for the Master of Psychology (Applied Developmental) at UWA and completed this, plus a Graduate Diploma of Education, that qualified me to be a School Psychologist – which I enjoyed for a few years before moving to Melbourne to be with my Microbiologist. It’s been a definite advantage having a teaching degree in my current work as an Educational Psychologist with the Department of Education.

“So my advice to any postgraduate student is…try to look beyond your research/thesis occasionally.”

The happy ending is that Fleur and Trent were recently married, and the most important guest at their wedding was their son Joshua Max. Congratulations on all counts!
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“Many guests commented that it was one of the best weddings they had attended and a great part of the success of the reception is due to your organisation, the quality of the food presented and to the skill and courtesy of the staff who served it. Thank you once again.”

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