Perth Festival
Iain Grandage on his first festival

EZONE UWA
The building that doubles as a teaching project

Matters of the Heart
Celebrating our partnership with the Heart Foundation
IN THIS ISSUE

It’s graduation season as we go to print with our summer edition! From the moment our graduands cross the stage in historic Winthrop Hall they are making their way in the world.

In this issue, we give a nod to the past, present and future UWA community: from Australia’s most outstanding football club, to the construction of the EZONE UWA Student Hub, an amazing new building that will help forge connections with students, industry and alumni.

We celebrate our relationship with the Heart Foundation and take a look at some of our incredible researchers working to help save the lives of everyday Australians affected by heart disease.

Just as the intricate Rose Window adorns Winthrop Hall, our alumni are creating an intricate community of global citizens. You can read more about our alumni on page 20 and in Grad Briefs.

It was encouraging to receive enquiries from our last edition regarding the Uniview wrapping and how it can be recycled. The best and simplest way is to dispose of it in your home compost bin as it is completely biodegradable. Or if you’d really like to help support our sustainable efforts to reduce printing, you can opt-in to receive Uniview in digital form. Send your full name and email address to uniview@uwa.edu.au and we’ll let you know when it’s available online.

Happy summer reading.

Alana Pham
Editor
Globalisation is a tricky thing, a complex business. It creates unprecedented opportunities and excites hopes and dreams. It connects human beings across the world.

But opportunities are not equally shared and we do not always like what we see of each other. Anxieties and fears are created, along with the hopes and dreams.

The standard definitions of globalisation describe it as a process by which businesses and other organisations develop international influence or operate on a global scale.

Great multinational corporations can make profits on a planetary scale; but the same technologies which allow their rise also allow the rise in influence of not-for-profit organisations and popular movements – for better and for worse.

How are we to make our way in such a world? Individually and collectively, we have to learn how to be good global citizens. We have to expand our sense of community beyond our own families and suburbs, beyond our towns, cities and nations.

At The University of Western Australia, we are inviting our students to embrace the grandest challenge of all – to be good global citizens. We want them to think globally and to dare globally, to aspire to positions of global responsibility and to accept the challenge of leadership wherever they are.

Citizenship is taught from birth, in our interactions with others. Here, universities can play a noble part.

At UWA we reach out – locally, regionally and globally. For us, the local is enormous – the entire state of Western Australia.

The first university in this state was not named after its capital, but after the state that constitutes Australia’s western third. We are concerned with wave energy at Albany and rock art in the Pilbara. We are also determined to consider the Indian Ocean Rim as part of our regional community, as well as the rest of Australasia.

Our health and reproductive biology students who assemble birthing kits for families in Africa are acting as global citizens. So are our law students who help homeless people of Perth to access the information and opportunities that can make a practical difference to their lives.

Our researchers and scholars who invited students at a nearby secondary school to design a liveable suburb, based on their aspirations and with the help of physical, interactive models, were also teaching the value of specialised research, and the added value of a multidisciplinary approach.

Our scientists who help agricultural production in Western Australia are also saving millions from starvation.

Across the world, the people we have taught and trained are making a difference. We believe that we have taught them that serious, properly-conducted research matters – whatever the subject.

Courageous and effective global citizenship requires knowledge and an education which has taught people that they belong to the world.

For all our students, all our staff and all our alumni, we hope that they aspire to be all that they can be, in a world that belongs to them, too.

We trust them to accept responsibility and embrace the grandest of challenges.
IN FOCUS

**Brilliant mathematician wins Australia’s top prize for science**

UWA Emeritus Professor Cheryl Praeger has won the prestigious Prime Minister’s Prize for Science for her contribution to the mathematical sciences.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison presented Professor Praeger with her prize at an awards dinner held in the Great Hall of Parliament House in Canberra on October 17.

The Prime Minister’s Prize for Science is the top prize for science in Australia.

Professor Praeger said the Prime Minister’s Prizes for Science were an outstanding recognition of the excellence of Australian scientific research.

“I regard it as a wonderful statement about the importance of mathematics and my achievements in mathematical research, along with my colleagues and students, in the mathematics of symmetry,” she said.

UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater said Professor Praeger was ranked in the world’s top one per cent of highly cited mathematicians and had received many awards and honours during her highly successful career.

“Professor Praeger is a marvellous role model here at UWA, around Australia and the world and we’re so pleased to see her receive this richly deserved honour,” Professor Freshwater said.

The major prize is awarded for a significant advancement of knowledge through science.

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**Honorary doctorate for UWA’s youngest student**

Professor Akshay Venkatesh, the youngest-ever student to enrol at UWA and last year’s recipient of the prestigious Fields Medal for mathematics, was awarded an honorary doctorate at a special ceremony at Winthrop Hall on August 22.

The honorary Doctor of Letters was conferred on Professor Venkatesh in recognition of his outstanding contribution to mathematics at an international level.

The 38-year-old mathematician was just 13 when he enrolled at UWA in a four-year Bachelor of Science with Honours. He completed this in three years, making him the youngest person to earn first class honours in pure mathematics.

He went on to undertake a PhD at Princeton University in the United States, and became a full professor at Stanford University in 2008. He joined Princeton’s Institute for Advanced Study in 2018.
Hearing the smallest with a loud VOICE

Western Australian children aged five to 12 made their voices heard on Sunday November 17 at the inaugural Children’s VOICE (Voicing Our Ideas for Children Everywhere) Conference at UWA.

Run by children for children, the conference is a platform for children to express their ideas about matters that are important to them in the world.

Dr Gemma Scarparolo and Dr Fiona Mayne, from UWA’s Graduate School of Education, created the conference with the aim of providing a platform for children to share their ideas, knowledge and questions with other children so that they could be informed and active citizens, and feel a sense of empowerment about their future.

A children’s steering committee contributed to all planning decisions, including the theme of this year’s conference: Children’s Voice 4 Change: It’s our future.

Children who attended the conference were provided with the opportunity to share their ideas with adults who could help them influence changes in legislation, policy and practice.

The conference, delivered in partnership with UNICEF Australia, aimed to draw attention to the 30th Anniversary of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child; and World Children’s Day, which is marked each year on November 20.

The global day of action raises awareness of the most pressing issues facing children domestically and globally and the vital funds needed to respond. The theme for 2019 is For every child, a childhood.

Embracing our cultural narrative

In just over half a year’s time, students and staff will be moving into the University’s new Bilya Marlee (River of the Swan) building.

Scheduled to open in semester two, 2020, it will house the School of Indigenous Studies, Centre for Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health, and Poche Centre for Indigenous Health.

The new building will include a mixture of high-quality informal teaching and learning spaces, along with a variety of research and postgraduate office spaces.

Construction began after a smoking ceremony in May this year and workers recently topped out the second floor.

Situated within the southern precinct of the campus, the design and positioning of the building has been guided by the Noongar cultural narrative and the significant efforts of the design team, who have worked to preserve the culturally significant family of mature Marri trees, which will enhance the building’s main courtyard.

A number of Marri and Jarrah seeds have been harvested from the site, germinated and grown into mature trees in an offsite nursery. These will be planted as part of the building’s opening celebrations.

In a first for the University, the building will also be enhanced by a public art project, with concepts from Noongar artists set to be integrated into the fabric of the building.

For more information on the Bilya Marlee building, visit cm.uwa.edu.au
Celebrating 20 years in Albany

A colourful academic procession, special reception and research dinner were among events held to celebrate two decades of learning, teaching and research at UWA Albany.

UWA Vice-Chancellor Professor Dawn Freshwater said the University’s success would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the City of Albany, the Great Southern Development Commission and the local community.

“UWA in Albany has gone from strength to strength, expanding the undergraduate teaching program and undertaking important environmental and medical research through the Rural Clinical School of WA, the Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management and the Wave Energy Research Centre,” Professor Freshwater said.

“Many of the University’s key research areas have a strong base in Albany, including our oceans and the marine environment, environmental science, sustainability, engineering and clean energy,”

Albany Centre Director Jennifer O’Neil said UWA had built an important and enduring relationship with the local community.

“We are committed to responding to the needs of our local community while working to find solutions to the grand challenges facing the global community,” Ms O’Neil said.

During the past 20 years UWA Albany has built strong relationships with local, State and Federal Government agencies as well as community groups.

Join our Crowd Research community

We need your help to make the next great discovery. Become a UWA Crowd Research volunteer and take part in projects including medical studies and citizen science, doing your bit to help create stronger, healthier communities.

To learn about current research projects, visit crowdresearch.uwa.edu.au

Women in STEMM head to Antarctica

UWA graduates Rebecca Handcock, Rachel Sheffield and Nina Tirnitz-Parker recently ventured to Antarctica as part of a leadership program for women in STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine).

Each year, 100 women from around the world are selected to take part in Homeward Bound. The 12-month program provides participants with tools to make a difference globally, especially in relation to the health of our planet and climate change, before culminating in a three-week voyage to Antarctica.

Dr Rebecca Handcock (BSc (Hons) 1993) was only seven years old when, following a campus drop-off for her brother, she decided she would one day attend UWA. Now, as a spatial data scientist working with satellite images of vegetation and water, she says the most interesting part of her research is seeing places that most people never get the opportunity to visit.

Dr Rachel Sheffield (BSc 1990), an Associate Professor in Science and STEM education, was a finalist in the 2019 WA Premier’s Science Awards. She is also the co-founder of the STEMinists – a global group of pre-service teachers (predominately female) who embrace science – and is passionate about educating young minds.

Associate Professor Nina Tirnitz-Parker (PhD 2008) came to UWA on a work experience trip, but ended up staying to complete a PhD in Biochemistry and postdoctoral training at Fremantle Hospital. She remains linked to UWA through her adjunct position.

Follow their journey at: homewardboundprojects.com.au
Collaborate with WA’s top university

As Western Australia’s largest research organisation, UWA creates positive impact through innovation, entrepreneurship and new technologies.

At the heart of UWA is creating and sharing knowledge to help industry overcome challenges, and harness opportunities to grow and thrive. Let us match your needs with our talented students and academics.

www.uwa.edu.au/business-industry
For several decades UWA has been working with the Heart Foundation, which this year celebrates its 60th anniversary, to save the lives of everyday Australians affected by heart disease.

In the 1980s, the late Professor Konrad Jamrozik’s anti-smoking advocacy and research into the epidemiology and prevention of vascular disease led to the adoption of smoke-free legislation and health warnings on tobacco products. In 1995, Western Australia’s first heart transplant occurred, followed nine years later by the State’s first heart-lung transplant – achievements that are inspiring today’s doctors and scientific researchers.

Despite impressions to the contrary, and a steady decline in prevalence, coronary heart disease (reduced blood flow to the heart) remains Australia’s number one single killer. Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) figures from 2018 released in September this year reveal 17,500 people died from the disease. Related afflictions such as ill-defined heart disease and cardiac arrhythmia were responsible for another 5,600 deaths last year, a figure that has remained relatively steady in the past 10 years.

So as overall heart-related deaths decline, UWA researchers are delving into some of the lesser known cardiovascular diseases (CVD). Professor Livia Hool, who heads the Cardiovascular Electrophysiology Laboratory at UWA’s School of Human Sciences, says scientists

UWA alumna and researcher Dr Helena M. Viola, National Heart Foundation Future Fellow
are learning more about the types of heart disease that aren’t caused by fatty deposits or blood clots blocking arteries.

One of these is hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which, with the exception of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, is the leading cause of death in young people (those aged 5–15 years). It’s a genetic disease that is thus far incurable and often only becomes known when a person suffers a cardiac arrest.

Dr Helena Viola, who works with Professor Hool, has been awarded various types of Heart Foundation funding since 2007, including a postgraduate scholarship to support her PhD, a Heart Foundation Bendat Family Scholarship, two travel grants, and a postdoctoral research fellowship. In 2018 she was the only West Australian recipient of a Future Leader Fellowship to continue her research. Dr Viola is seeking to develop a translatable, early-intervention therapy for the prevention of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and associated morbidity and mortality.

“My goal is to develop a therapy that prevents the disease, and as a result prevents cardiac death. It’s a devastating disease that can happen rapidly, suddenly and without any warning. So we need treatments for people who may carry these genetic mutations,” Dr Viola says.

The UWA/Heart Foundation partnership has been crucial to the research and early-stage drug development Dr Viola and her colleagues are conducting – but she says the partnership offers far more than money.

“I’ve found being funded by the Heart Foundation to be such an amazing and unique experience. As a preclinical discovery scientist, I don’t typically get a chance to interact with, first of all, patients, but secondly people who are actually impacted by the disease – including family members who have lost loved ones to cardiovascular diseases,” Dr Viola says.

“Being funded by the Heart Foundation gives me the opportunity to speak to some of the donors and people who are touched by the disease, either directly or through the loss of family members. This makes what I do very real – it’s a wonderful link between the science and real-life impact.”

Like her colleague, Professor Hool emphasises the need to connect science with practical outcomes for the sake of supporting continued research into CVD.

Earlier this year, Professor Hool initiated the formation of an alliance of West Australian cardiovascular researchers (WACRA) to advocate for greater funding and public awareness of the impressive work occurring in this State. The Heart Foundation has become a formal partner in the alliance while UWA is an institutional member.

In a difficult funding environment, Professor Hool says the results of cardiovascular research far outweigh the costs.

“Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the country – actually worldwide – and it’s the most costly disease; it’s costing us $8.8 billion in healthcare annually,” Professor Hool explains.

“If you look at the cost-benefit ratio for all medical research areas, every dollar spent on medical research returns $3.90; but if you look at cardiovascular research, it’s the highest of all the groups in Australia – we return $8 for every $1 invested, and I think that’s an important point to make in terms of investment in research and community.”

Top tips for heart health

The best way to look after your heart is with a healthy lifestyle.

Be smoke-free
Being smoke-free is one of the best things you can do to protect your heart.

Manage your blood cholesterol
Cholesterol is a fatty substance carried in your blood. Your body needs cholesterol to be healthy, but an imbalance of cholesterol in your blood can lead to a heart attack or stroke.

Manage your blood pressure
Blood pressure isn’t usually something you can feel. If it’s too high, it needs to be treated.

Manage diabetes
It’s important to manage your diabetes to help prevent a heart attack or stroke.

Be physically active
Regular, moderate physical activity is great for your heart health. It’s never too late to start and get the benefits. It’s also important to sit less during your day and break up your sitting time.

Achieve and maintain a healthy weight
Maintaining a healthy weight can reduce the risk of heart disease and other health problems. It can help to know your body mass index and waist measurements and what these mean.

Enjoy a variety of nutritious foods
Eating a varied diet of healthy foods can help with your weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Source: Heart Foundation
Collaborative project ready to transform learning

In 2020, UWA will offer an unparalleled student experience and become the new go-to destination for industry, government and research partners when the EZONE UWA Student Hub — a world-class learning space for the engineering and mathematical sciences — opens in its entirety.
The $80 million facility is supported by Foundation Partners BHP and Woodside, along with alumni donors.

Comprised of three engineering laboratories, 14 flexible learning studios and space for 150 research students, EZONE will transform the way UWA educates students, undertakes research and engages with industry, alumni and the community.

The north side of EZONE UWA has been extremely well received since opening to students and staff in semester two this year. The ground floor includes a thermodynamics lab, flexible learning studios, student services administration and a café. Upper floors contain open learning studios, workspace meeting rooms, an industry incubator and both social and silent work breakout spaces, which will link to the south side when it opens next year.

While 2020 represents the culmination of the two-year build, opportunities for student involvement and collaboration with industry have been key to the process.

BHP Head of Corporate Affairs Western Australia Meath Hammon said the EZONE is a revolutionary education and research facility. “The EZONE will equip Western Australia and the world with engineers, computer scientists and mathematicians who will shape the future of many different industries.”

“We are proud of the legacy we are creating with UWA and together we will be future ready.”

Echoing this sentiment, Woodside Chief Technology Officer Shaun Gregory said the new building would benefit future generations of students.

“Young people are our future and we owe it to them to provide them with the opportunities we had,” he said.

“The EZONE UWA Student Hub is one of the best examples in Western Australia of how industry is working alongside students to be responsive to current and future needs.”

UWA Major Projects Manager Merv Shortt said from the planning and design stages, through to the construction phase, student learning had been maximised.

“It has been a multi-layered project with great outcomes, including students in part-time employment on the build (with Perkins Builders), offers of internships and numerous student assignments based around design data,” Mr Shortt said.

He said the installation of a viewing platform and coordinated site tours gave students and staff the opportunity to learn the intent and philosophy behind the project.

Once delivered, Mr Shortt said the student hub would transform into a learning tool with all mechanics of the structure visible to students. This includes access to a digital twin system, which allows students to read the performance of the building during live working conditions from internal and external building sensors, and to manipulate data on a remote offsite digital system.

“It will also allow for creative modelling solutions for optimal conditions within the building, such as air conditioning and ergonomics,” he said.

“The building has not just been designed for its opening next year; it has been built for future students to challenge, manipulate and change going forward.”

Master of Professional Engineering (Mechanical) student Sharon Nanang was among students given the opportunity of shadowing Mr Shortt during the innovative build.

“I went to meetings with other project managers, architects, students and stakeholders and learnt a lot about how the professionals go about their projects,” Sharon said.

“What surprised me was how well everybody worked together, considering there were so many people involved.

“The experience was one of the greatest things I have been involved in and as a result, I got my summer internship position from networking with an engineer during my work experience.”

Sharon said there were many opportunities awaiting students within the new ‘smart’ building.

“IT students can develop applications that can be used to potentially maximise the building’s efficiency, and electrical engineering students can look up and see all the wiring on the ceilings and essentially map out the building’s electrical connections,” she said.

Up to 15 projects, involving 60 students, were developed and integrated into the EZONE UWA build, while another small group of students have
been actively recording the project’s progress in 4D that will be used for project management studies within engineering and architecture.

Master of Architecture student Tyran Hanlon was part of the student team engaged to photographically survey the refurbishment of EZONE North and the demolition and construction on the site of EZONE South, a collaborative effort between the School of Engineering and the School of Design. The project was rapidly launched to record each stage, from earthworks to completion, creating a visual record of the project transformation.

“Each fortnight we take 360-degree panoramas at up to 29 nodes across the site, which will be uploaded into a 4D learning environment, allowing students to virtually experience the processes, technologies and innovations that are going into the project,” Tyran said.

To date, they have taken over 3,000 photographs that have been stitched together to form more than 500 panoramas.

Tyran said he had been humbled to have been engaged in such a transformative project for UWA and the future of tertiary education more broadly.

“It has been great to be part of the journey, seeing the site transform every fortnight from what it was to the world-class facility it is shaping up to be,” he said.

Alumni spotlight:

David Gulland (BArch ’88) – Principal, Hassell

Having spent his younger years growing up near the Nedlands campus, attending kindergarten in the building currently used as the construction site office, and then studying architecture just north of the site, David feels a strong connection to place.

He believes the combination of the garden campus setting and the University as a place to meet, challenge and exchange ideas has resulted in an outward looking, international facility with a strong local identity.

“Architecture is a collaborative activity that extends well beyond the architectural team itself, and the connection with the UWA community, in particular the Faculty of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and Campus Management, has been very strong,” he said.

There are a number of current and past linkages with UWA across the entire project team, including the Landscape Architect role (also by Hassell), led by UWA alumna Natalie Busch (BEnvDes ’02, BArch ’05). Adopting a coordinated design approach with the architecture, Natalie also liaised with Dr Richard Walley OAM and others on integrating the Indigenous story of place and learning specific to the location.

David said the project had a broad range of innovations that overlapped, with the themes of ‘Connection and Exchange’ and ‘Inside-Out and Outside-In’ driving the design process. He said the combination of different elements, including urban design, planning, sustainability, specific design elements and the building as a tool for learning itself, were all important.

“The building has been designed as a living textbook for investigation and interpretation by students and researchers,” he said.
Alumni spotlight:

Mike Yates (BE ’05) – External Project Manager, NS Projects

Delivering something back to the place that helped set him on his professional pathway was a privilege for Mike, who said a key innovation of the project was the high level of interaction between staff and students.

“This interaction will be enhanced with the infrastructure being installed in the building,” he said. “The digital twin system creates a platform that captures key data and information from the building’s engineering systems, enabling staff and students to access the performance metrics of the building – giving them real experience and understanding of the engineering systems they are learning about.”

Mike agreed that collaboration had been a cornerstone of the student hub project, through consultation with an extensive stakeholder group within the UWA community.

“This has included consulting with students and staff on the furniture selections for the building, right through to discussions around the strategic objectives and vision for the project with UWA and industry executives,” he said.

Blade King (BSc ’15, MPE ’17) – Structural Engineer, Pritchard Francis

Being exposed to an outstanding design project early in his career, after gaining an engineering position through the UWA scholarship program with Pritchard Francis, was a dream opportunity for Blade.

He said the structural design of the new building was extremely complex, requiring post tensioned concrete slabs and beams in combination with a perimeter steel truss. This accommodated the large internal spans and the remarkable external facade developed by Hassell architects.

“The structures lab includes a 5×5-metre L-shaped reaction wall made of one-metre thick reinforced concrete, allowing the University to carry out full-scale structural experiments, matching the best structural research facilities in the country,” he said.

Blade also said a large percentage of the consultant design team had graduated from UWA, resulting in extensive collaboration with graduates from a variety of UWA faculties from the conceptual stages through to construction.

“The entire Pritchard Francis structural design team are graduates of UWA and throughout construction we have worked with UWA students who are shadowing the University’s project manager, as well as students employed by the builders.”
The richness of Western Australian stories shines through in Perth Festival’s upcoming 2020 program, presented as a glorious summer celebration of people and place.
Led by Perth-raised, UWA alumnus Iain Grandage in his first year as Artistic Director and supported by a curatorial team of Perth-based artistic associates, the programming for this summer’s festival features more than 250 events across theatre, music, dance, opera, film, visual arts and literature and ideas.

When Uniview spoke with Iain about what to expect from the 2020 festival line-up, his enthusiasm about this deliberate connection to people and place was palpable.

“Perth Festival 2020 will be a huge euphoric celebration of Perth, Western Australia – it’s my home town and I love it,” Iain said. “The program has an intentionally strong connection with place and a thread of celebrating local stories.”

“Of course, the bedrock of this place is Indigenous culture, which is why the first week of the festival is dedicated to First Nations performances.”

Under Iain’s direction emerges a sequence of four annual programs intended to capture an ever-expanding orbit of stories from the local to the global. The 2020 festival theme of Karla – a Noongar term meaning fire, and by extension country and home – will transform over the next three years into Bilya (river), Wardan (sea) and finally Djinda (the cosmos, the stars) with an idea of spreading ever outwards.

“We begin this year with the centrepoint, Karla – like the hearth of our home – a campfire for sharing stories and inviting belonging,” he said.

“From here we progress ever outwards – travelling along the river in 2021, then the ocean in 2022 and finally upwards into the cosmos in 2023 – extending our reach both geographically and philosophically.”

One flick through the vast program, and the strong local flavour is immediately evident. Most notable is the retelling of two of Western Australia’s most successful theatre works – the first Indigenous musical Bran Nue Dae and the stage adaptation of Cloudstreet.

In a significant first, the festival begins with a week-long celebration of Indigenous culture, including the landmark adaptation of Macbeth by writer-director Kylie Bracknell (Kaarljilba Kaardn) into the all-Noongar language performance Hecate.

Iain explains why taking this step was important to him personally. “It seemed timely now – while lots of stories are being shared around the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook’s arrival – to acknowledge the strength and breadth of Indigenous culture that existed when he landed, and the hideous concept that was ‘Terra Nullius,’” he said.

“In addition, I have been lucky enough over the past few decades to be introduced to, and experience, the thriving Australian Indigenous culture which we have today and I really wanted to bring these experiences to new audiences.”

As Perth Festival founder, the University will once again proudly welcome festival audiences and artists on to its grounds, with the return of three much-loved elements of previous years: the Chamber Music Weekend, Lotterywest Films at the Somerville and the Literature and Ideas Program.

Lovingly curated by Iain himself, the series of events for the Chamber Music weekend (14 to 16 February) reframe Western fine music with Indigenous songlines of country through collaborations between internationally renowned classical ensembles and some of Australia’s finest Indigenous musicians.

“I am thrilled to be bringing classical music back to the fore with the Chamber Music weekend. I trained in fine music at UWA and it feels natural to be bringing it back and having the chance to celebrate classical music, especially with the 250th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth,” he said.
"We will celebrate the beautiful cathedral acoustics of Winthrop Hall with hour-long concerts inside, accompanied by talks and presentations outside in the beautiful surrounds."

The centrepiece of the weekend is Quartet & Country, four concerts which see the Australian String Quartet perform all six of Beethoven’s effervescent Op. 18 quartets matched with works from Australian Indigenous composers. In Ancient Voices, didgeridoo master William Barton unites with a massed choir consisting of UK vocal consort The Gesualdo Six and local choirs The Giovanni Consort and Voyces, to perform Thomas Tallis’ 40-part motet Spem in Alium and which includes a new commission based on Beethoven’s ‘Ode to Joy’ from local composer Cara Fesjian.

The bold program for the Literature and Ideas weekend (21 to 23 February) tackles four themes: Land, Money, Power and Sex. Compiled by Perth-based Zulu woman Sisonke Msimang, the full program will be unveiled on 16 January 2020.

“Sisonke is a compelling storyteller and novelist in her own right and has curated an excellent program opening up conversations on these universal concepts – some of the most pressing issues of our time,” Iain said.

The Lotterywest Films series, already under way at UWA Somerville, brings to Perth the best in cinema globally.

“Our film curator Tom Vincent has brought together a selection of national and international films of the highest calibre, which I think have wide and broad-ranging appeal,” Iain said.

Lawrence Wilson celebrates 30 years

An exciting series of exhibitions for 2020 have been programmed to mark the 30th anniversary of the opening of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, and highlight the unique possibilities for university art galleries.

The first purpose-built university art museum in Australia, Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery (LWAG) was designed by Western Australian architect Gus Ferguson and officially opened its doors in July 1990. In addition to dedicated exhibition space, LWAG has museum-quality storage facilities that house three major UWA collections, including the UWA Art Collection, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology Collection, and the Cruthers Collection of Women’s Art.

Season One 2020 commences with the following two exhibitions:

The Long Kiss Goodbye
Artists: Sarah Contos, Penny Coss, Iain Dean, Brent Harris, Clare Peake, Michele Elliott
8 February to 9 May

Presented as part of the 2020 Perth Festival, The Long Kiss Goodbye is an evocative exhibition featuring artists from around the nation, each with a unique connection to Western Australia. Curator Gemma Weston provides her insights into the exhibition.

“The Long Kiss Goodbye takes a major work of the same name by Sarah Contos as its starting point, a cinema-screen sized quilted piece that incorporates fragments from nearly a decade’s worth of studio practice,” Gemma said.

“Originally from Perth, Sarah won the inaugural Ramsay Prize at the Art Gallery of South Australia in 2017 with The Long Kiss Goodbye – but she’s never exhibited here. The exhibition draws from the major themes of this work – love and loss, the use of found images to express personal stories, the transformation of tiny fragments into epic gestures...”
“We’re consistently looking to improve the quality of the program, and also the audience experience. I think some of the changes we’ve made this year to seating, food vendors and programming should make for a wonderful summer night experience.”

Beyond UWA grounds, Iain draws particular attention to festival commissions Leviathan and Tao of Glass. These are two of 14 new commissions – works funded by Perth Festival which enable local artists to perform side-by-side with national and international companies.

“Commissioning works which create opportunities for our local performers to share the stage with artists of international standing was key – not only for the audience, but also for the ongoing effect of this exposure for our artists. It’s extremely important to the continued growth of our local artistic community,” Iain said.

“Leviathan is a world premiere in which 36 artists, including six local circus performers, six dancers and six children, create an epic theatrical performance about the power of many in the face of an individual who tweets too much.

“Also unmissable is Tao of Glass, a beautifully executed piece that’s philosophically rich in content, which has master storyteller Phelim McDermott collaborating with composer Philip Glass and an ensemble of musicians and puppeteers for a part-concert, part-performance theatrical odyssey.”

One thing is sure, with plenty of choice among the extensive program, deciding which shows become part of your summer events calendar will require some serious reflection time.

- and each artist I’ve selected also has a special relationship to Western Australia, similar to Sarah.

“Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery has such a strong history of supporting Western Australian artists and I wanted to present an exhibition for the Festival that honoured that commitment, while also presenting an expended view of ‘Western Australian art’ connected to a national conversation.”

Boomerang – A National Symbol
8 February to 27 June

Australia as a nation is recognised around the world by symbols of Aboriginal culture. In this exploratory exhibition, the Berndt Museum of Anthropology is addressing the idea of the boomerang – beyond a symbol of ‘Australia’ – to highlight the multiplicity of uses and meanings. This exhibition encourages the audience to consider the place of the boomerang in Australian society and asks the audience – ‘How much do you know about boomerangs?’
Prof. Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), will step down from her role at UWA at the end of this year. She holds a BSc (Hons) from UWA and a MSc and a DPhil from Oxford, all in Mathematics. She began her career at l’Université de Paris-Sud, Orsay, before returning to Perth in 1981 to work as a research mathematician at UWA. Since then, she has held various positions at the University, and has been in her current role since 2010.

Responsible for ground-breaking research and a much-valued mentor to generations of researchers, Prof. Owens shares her reflections upon her retirement.

Much of life involves managing the tensions between heart and brain, between want and should, between desire and duty. Through marvellous serendipity, I have managed to hold the position of Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) for 10 years at UWA and have had both my heart and brain equally fulfilled through the outstanding achievements of our staff and students.

While there are new discoveries to be had on a daily basis, some of the achievements of the University over the past 10 years will forever stay with me because of the joy of both discovery and success I felt as we collectively contributed to the advancement of human knowledge.

Over the course of my tenure, we’ve celebrated many achievements. In 2012 the University won the first ever ARC Centre of Excellence (COE) in the Humanities, awarded to the History of Emotions team led by Prof. Philippa Maddern. I was in Bali at the time, on holiday with my family, but I still remember the intense joy and pride I felt for my colleagues in their win, and throughout the duration of the Centre for the exceptional work that has been undertaken. This Centre of Excellence joined a number of others, which we have hosted or played a major role in, including the Plant Energy Biology COE, which has had a sustained period of success spanning almost 15 years. Currently our Department of Physics hosts nodes for four major Centres of Excellence, focusing on gravitational waves, dark matter, quantum systems and astronomy. And who can forget the ripples across the planet when the world’s first detection of gravitational waves was announced in February 2016? Our researchers had been involved in this discovery for almost 40 years and a large number of the current team were co-authors on this major paper, which has achieved almost 3,500 citations to date.

Similar centres of critical mass are found across the University, with major activity in engineering, agriculture, business and medicine – right across the medical research institutes and into the schools throughout all our faculties. Sometimes it’s the big achievements that stand out, like getting into the Top 100 on the Academic Ranking of World Universities one year ahead of our targeted centennial anniversary, or two of our researchers signing their names in the book containing Isaac Newton’s signature at the Royal Society. But often the daily pleasure comes from reading various applications for grants and scholarships, and to discover just how the world works inspires just as much awe. I have had the wonder of pondering the sex life of insects, learning what the epoch of reionisation is, finding out how plants communicate and sense the world, how our cardiovascular system seems to be involved in just about every health issue we have, how Indigenous history has shaped our land, and how human behaviour – even the most irrational – is eventually predictable.

The Government’s Education Investment Fund Round 3 in 2010 awarded $34 million to the University for the establishment of the Indian Ocean Marine Research Centre, creating a collaborative hub of activity with many of our partners in shared facilities on campus and at Watermans Bay. The Oceans Institute, like the Institute of Agriculture and the Institute of Advanced Studies, integrates activities across all faculties to develop solutions to problems that require a multidisciplinary and collaborative
Much of life involves managing the tensions between heart and brain, between want and should, between desire and duty.

approach. These investments have focused our attention on the need to build cutting-edge infrastructure and open data and publications to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from public investments into our future world. The passion that now unites researchers and students across all faculties to tackle some of the planet’s most pressing issues – renewable energy, pollution, climate change, food security, migration, cultural diversity and economic disparity – has been supported by thinking for the long-term, not just for short-term gains. And this passion is shared by an outstanding team of professional staff who work tirelessly to achieve the same goals, who experience the same successes and challenges, and whose dedication to the University is exemplary.

The way in which knowledge is advanced, curated and communicated has changed dramatically over the past few decades. Where researchers were once agitated that their manuscript had been sent off via surface mail rather than airmail, we are now in an instantaneous world, more dependent on virtual machines and machine learning than ever before. Our future research, involving consumers as well as artificial intelligence, is an exciting future, both for heart and brain, and its success will depend, more than ever, on maintaining a highly ethical approach to discovery.

We are lucky to benefit from the immense generosity of a number of benefactors. Their support for our students, young postdoctoral researchers and research leaders enables exciting discoveries and creates an enduring legacy for this state. Our success would not be possible without them.

My intellectual passion has always been mathematics. To have completed the final 12 months of my position with a Fields Medallist, a Laureate Fellow and a Prime Minister’s Science Prize winner, all from UWA’s School of Physics, Mathematics and Computing, has been a wonderful culmination for a decade of synergy between the pleasures of both heart and brain. I will follow future successes with equal passion and intellectual interest and wish all our researchers and their collaborators the very best for success in their discoveries.
Our future lies in the East as brains follow money

By Victoria Laurie

Tayyeb Shah is a self-confessed escapee from the Brexit chaos, which he suspects – when it happens – will ripple through the UK in unpredictable ways.

But Shah also has been lured Down Under to The University of Western Australia, where he arrived in June, because he’s a firm believer that the Asian century is approaching.

“Economic power has shifted East but what is less well-known is that academic power has shifted East,” says the affable Oxford-educated academic whose job at UWA has the open-ended title of Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Global Partnerships.

In Perth he will draw on experience working with Chinese industry and universities for King’s College London, in a former job he describes as “global business development”.

“What does a strategic partnership look like in the future? And how do we anchor ourselves in key markets with deep multilevel relationships that will stand the test of time?”

To find an answer to such questions, Shah made 22 visits to China in 24 months, visiting most major Chinese campuses and meeting hundreds of government and industry officials.

His quest came to fruition days before he left for Australia. In just one Shah-directed project, King’s signed a deal for a joint medical campus at the Southern University of Science and Technology in Shenzhen, the world’s fastest growing industrial city, in Guangdong province.

In the groundbreaking scheme, medical graduates will emerge with a Chinese medical qualification and a UK-recognised one.

“You’re not just training the next generation of doctors but medical leaders with a specialisation in health technology because Shenzhen is the IT capital of China, their Silicon Valley.

“We have partnered with the big IT companies, all of which have health divisions, and the aspiration is to train the next generation of medical innovators.”

King’s has clout in making such deals. Founded in 1829 and based in the heart of the capital, it boasts the largest medical and dental school in Europe. It has a prestigious history – a dozen Nobel laureates among its graduates and staff, and the world’s first nursing school, which was set up by Florence Nightingale.

The research-intensive Russell Group university has 30,000 students, half undergraduate and 40 per cent foreign students, including many EU students.

It is this reliance on EU intakes that Shah predicts will be adversely affected by Britain’s Brexit withdrawal. Until now EU students have paid the same as UK students, £9250, but under Brexit they will pay the international student rate, which is double.
Shah says a Brexit ‘gotcha’ moment is that universities likeliest to lose EU enrolments lie in regional cities where people voted substantially in favour of Brexit. Another blow is that Britain will no longer have access to EU research funding. All of which provoked Shah to look beyond his native shores.

“My role at King’s College London came out of Brexit as much as anything else, from the realisation that our partnerships were very much in and around Europe. And we needed to rebalance that portfolio more towards Asia. Academic power is shifting East, and by that I mean that the top countries in Asia – China, Korea, Singapore, India – all have government-backed schemes to ensure that their universities are world-class. In India you have the Institutes of Eminence initiative. They’re all designed to ensure central government backing to provide them additional resources over and above normal universities to become elite institutions.”

China has poured money into nine Chinese universities to mirror the Group of Eight in Australia, or Britain’s Russell Group, or the US Ivy League universities.

Then there’s the Double First Class Initiative, in which the authorities homed in on two universities, Peking University and China’s leader Xi Jingping’s alma mater Tsinghua University.

“It’s fantastic, a traditional science and technology institution that has now morphed into a comprehensive university through heavy investment,” Shah says.

He says China also launched the Thousand Talents program, which attracts elite academics from around the globe and offers expatriates’ packages to do collaborative research in China. “They can pay better than anyone else; they can match the Americans now. They invest in the latest kit, and research funding from the ministry of science and technology is available. They want to internationalise their campuses, recognising the value that brings to their country.

“So they will become elite institutions, I have no doubt. In time we’ll see a shift of Asian universities entering the world top 200 league tables. And they will rise and rise.”

The consequence is that universities in the West need to be engaging with Asian universities in deeper, more multi-layered relationships, he says. “It can no longer be ‘send us your best students, or your best academics’. It’s got to be much more reciprocal.

“The projects I was involved in were recognising a window of opportunity to build relationships with Chinese partner institutions – essentially before they leapfrog you in the rankings. You partner with an elite institution in the making. And the Shenzhen city government is very ambitious; Shenzhen went from a fishing village to a city of over 20 million in 40 years. The region produces most of the patents in China and it’s a talent magnet.

“But what it lacks is high-quality healthcare for the burgeoning middle class and elite, and high-quality education. It tried to bring in branch campuses from Beijing, but then it decided to set up on its own. So I identified the Southern University as a future superstar university.”

Born in Leeds to Indian parents from the Punjab, Shah won a place at Oxford and studied politics, philosophy and economics. He came from a humble government school. “It was odd being the only one in my school to sit the entrance exam, me and one teacher as invigilator.

“It was interesting going to university in the late 80s because at Oxford there weren’t many non-white British students.”

So what does Australia do to diversify its global education reach? Shah hints that while King’s looked to Asia to diversify, UWA might need to balance its portfolio by looking elsewhere.

“People here are saying China is the big market but you need to diversify. Any strategy that relies on one or two countries is dubious. At King’s there are students from 170 countries and only recently Chinese numbers overtook US numbers.”

Recruiting students will not be his responsibility. Instead Shah will work on "connecting UWA to the rest of the world" by building relationships with foreign universities and research bodies.

“Our Vision 2030 policy talks about how UWA is well-placed to connect Australia with the Indian Ocean Rim. So how can we expand our influence from Indonesia, Malaysia, through to India, the Middle East and Africa?

“It may be working with African universities on upskilling or Indian universities on joint research projects that are industry related. I’m keen to ensure UWA is seen as the partner of choice for industry and the community it’s located in. After all, we are civic institutions first and foremost.”

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Our Community of Alumni are making a global impact

Keeya-Lee Ayre  
Senior Marketing Manager, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation, GSMA (Atlanta, USA)  
BA ’14, BA(Hons) ’16  
Keeya-Lee is a Senior Marketing Manager responsible for leading global communications for the GSMA Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation program, which works to accelerate the delivery and impact of digital humanitarian assistance. She is extremely passionate about effective cross-sector partnerships, research and using evidence to bring dignified, commercially viable solutions to vulnerable people. While interning at the United Nations OCHA in New York, where she worked on projects in Iraq, Syria and South Sudan, Keeya-Lee realised that even the most incredible research lacked meaning if it wasn’t effectively communicated to the right people.

Adriel Cheng  
Senior Analyst, Agribusiness Intelligence IHS Markit (New York, USA)  
GradDipAgSc ’15  
Upon completing his Graduate Diploma, Adriel joined the agribusiness industry as a research analyst specialising in grains and oilseeds. His research interests lie in projecting supply and demand balances to identify trading opportunities for his clients. Today, that challenge is made considerably more complex by technological disruption, income gaps, a rapidly evolving international trading system, environmental considerations of commercial agriculture, climate change, and the pressure to increase productivity because of limited resources. Adriel believes that the market and prices are central and crucial for ensuring global food security.

Harriet Riley  
Screenwriter and Advocacy Consultant for UNICEF (Brooklyn, New York)  
BA(CommSt) ’09  
Harriet is a climate specialist and award-winning writer who now works for UNICEF. Before this, she was a senior strategist with Purpose, a consultancy advising NGOs such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Doctors of the World, and UN Environment. She was a consultant on Years of Living Dangerously, James Cameron’s Emmy-winning series about climate change, and has written five screenplays for TV/film projects about social and environmental themes. One of the most important opportunities UWA gave Harriet was the chance to study abroad at Copenhagen University as it prepared her for many other international experiences to come.

Anique van Lent  
Talent Development and Culture Manager, Nike (Amsterdam, Netherlands)  
BA, BCom ’11  
After finishing her double degree at UWA, Anique first taught children English in Costa Rica. She later joined Philips in the Netherlands in a team working on Culture Transformation, before being chosen to help redefine the identity (purpose and values) of the oldest part of Philips – the Lighting division. Now at Nike, Anique’s passion is all about sparking people’s individual talents and enabling them to be more engaged, happy and high performing in everything they do. She believes everyone has a special skill that is highly valuable to the world we live in, and makes them happy while doing it.
Venkatesh Parameswaran
Executive Coach, Author and TEDx Speaker
(New Delhi, India)
MBA ’16
Venkatesh has worked as a journalist, radio producer, documentary filmmaker and digital marketer, as well as a consultant to leading non-profits and community organisations. His long-term goal is to make a difference in alleviating hunger and food scarcity, as he believes ensuring every person on the planet has healthy, nutritious food is the most urgent form of social justice. To that end, he conceptualised a fundraising website for a non-profit that within three months raised sufficient donations to feed a million meals to underprivileged children. He intends to scale up that work through a global food collaboration backed by a robust online platform and real-world organisational alliances.

Chloe Dempsey
Master of Economics and Management at Yenching Academy of Peking University (Beijing, China)
Dip. Mod. Lang ’14, LLB and BA ’18
Chloe is a Scholar at the Yenching Academy of Peking University in Beijing, China; an interdisciplinary program that brings 100 students from over 40 countries to China’s top liberal arts university for an immersive two-year program. Her master’s thesis on Chinese consumer reactions to cultivated meat is supported by the Cellular Agricultural Society, where she is a Fellow. Chloe is passionate about exploring China’s emerging role in tackling issues of global importance like climate change and growing economic inequality, especially alongside the application of new technology.

Sarah Ong
Corporate Social Responsibility Leader, IBM Singapore and Malaysia
BA(CommSt) ’12, BA(Hons) ’13
Sarah leads IBM’s corporate social responsibility (CSR) efforts, applying technology to social impact projects. She loves that CSR is deeply embedded and largely supported by both employees and management at IBM, and is passionate about community engagement and improving the lives of underserved communities. Giving to others is an essential part of Sarah’s personal life. She not only commissioned an artist (with autism) from Very Special Arts to design her wedding invitations, posters and menu, but worked with two young girls from The Business Times Budding Artists Fund to design and paint her wedding outfit – their first wearable fashion project!

Michael Heldsinger
Marine Scientist, New Zealand Marine Studies Centre (Otago, New Zealand)
BSc ’19
Michael is studying a Master of Science at the University of Otago. A young, aspiring shark scientist, Michael is researching coastal sharks off New Zealand. He thinks our current understanding of, and approach to, sharks in Australia has much room for improvement. We rarely hear about their widely known decline and instead hear about rare and sometimes unfortunate encounters with humans. Michael’s overarching goals are twofold: first, to help develop shark conservation effectively through research; and secondly, assist with the development of smart harmonious mitigation strategies so that humans can find a way to peacefully coexist with sharks.
The UWA Boat Club celebrated its centenary in 2019.

Australia’s most outstanding footy club

UWA students aren’t just good at hitting the books – they’re also pretty handy with a football!

Since 1929, the University Football Club has collected an impressive 95 Western Australian Amateur Football League (WAAFL) premierships as well as four premierships in the Metropolitan Junior Football Association, in which the club played from 1954 to 1960.

This 99-premiership feat makes the club the most outstanding amateur football club in Australia – winning two more premierships than any other Australian football club in the nation.

Club Patron Neil Donaldson OAM attributed the club’s success to the lifelong friendships and far-reaching networks formed by players on and off the field.

“There have been some memorable presidents, executives, coaches and captains over the years. We must be one of the few footy clubs who can count among our alumni a state premier, a chief justice and a deputy governor, a Knight of the Realm, QCs and SCs, accountants, entrepreneurs, a university chancellor, deans and professors, mining executives, developers and stockbrokers!” he said.

Boat Club celebrates 100 years

2019 has been an exciting year for the UWA Boat Club as it celebrates 100 years of rich history and achievements.

The club kicked off its centenary celebrations with the 100 Years Afloat event on the water in April followed by a gala dinner at The University Club in July, attended by hundreds of past and present members.

The UWA Boat Club was founded in 1919 by a group of students competing in the intervarsity championships. In 1929, a single-storey weatherboard building was constructed and the UWA Boat Shed was opened. During World War II, the top floor of the boat shed was built by the US Navy to service the Catalina aircraft patrolling WA’s coastline. The club continued to grow, merging with UWA Women’s Rowing Club in 1980.

Over the past 100 years, the club has helped produce medallists in the Empire/Commonwealth Games and various world championships, and boasts seven Olympians to date. They include two-time Olympian David Dennis and exciting new talent Bronwyn Cox, who has qualified for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

To mark its centenary, the club has commissioned Professor Jim Wieland (BA Hons ‘73) to write the club’s history.

Jim, well-known to many in Western Australia as a champion athlete in the 1950s, is an accomplished writer and former academic. He is the author of published histories of the UWA Athletics Club and the University Football Club.

The illustrated history publication is well under way and there is still an opportunity to become a subscriber and have your name recorded in the book. For more information, go to revolutionise.com.au/uwaboatclub/product/3925/
1960s

KENNETH TELFORD (BE '62)
California, US
Engineering has always been in Kenneth’s blood, as his father was also an engineer. After graduating with a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering in 1962, Kenneth started building a career as an innovator in the global aerospace industry. Kenneth was involved with the NASA Shuttle project and the Delta II and Delta IV rockets. Kenneth’s latest venture was as part of Richard Branson’s Virgin Orbit team, which plans to provide launch services for small satellites.

“The thing I enjoyed most about my work was teaching young engineers,” says Kenneth, who attained accredited Senior Technical Fellow status during his career.

Having recently retired on his 80th birthday, Kenneth lives in California with his wife Julie. They travel frequently to The Hague in the Netherlands, where they love spending time with their grandchildren.

EDIT WOOD (née TURCHÁNYI) (BA ’65)
Perth, Australia
“I graduated from UWA with a Bachelor of Arts in 1965, and went on to work at the Commonwealth Bank and Child Welfare Department. I married fellow UWA graduate Michael George Wood (a geologist) in 1966, and together we watched our four children graduate from UWA in various disciplines.

“It was lovely seeing Nicholas, my oldest grandson, receive his Bachelor of Commerce degree in 2018. And now my granddaughter, Maddison, is due to graduate at the end of this year. The beautiful photo in this post is of Nicholas at his graduation, with his mother Jackie and me, making it three generations at UWA!” shares Edit.

1970s

DR DON ROBERTSON (BSc ‘72)
Perth, Australia
Emeritus Professor Robertson’s fondest memory is of third-year physiology laboratory classes conducted by Brian Johnstone, Evan Morgan and others. These extended hands-on classes, with full scientific report writing at the end of each block, were a marvellous entry into real experimental physiology. They inspired him to do honours and he subsequently travelled to McGill University in Canada to undertake a PhD.

Don says, “I was streets ahead of other graduate students in terms of my preparation and capacity for research. I attribute my overall career success to that early training at UWA and to the influence of those undergraduate mentors.” Don continues to assist in the supervision of honours and PhD students, and acts as a resource for colleagues in their research. He regularly acts as an examiner for honours and PhD theses.

1980s

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING CLASS OF ’83 REUNION
The Mechanical Engineering Class of 1983 held its first formal reunion in 2003 to mark the group’s 20th milestone, with subsequent reunions in 2008 and most recently in 2018. The 2018 reunion saw the
graduates meeting on campus to visit the engineering facilities, followed by lunch at the Tavern and a dinner with partners the next evening at The Weld Club.

UWA LAW SCHOOL BJURIS ’89, LLB ’90 REUNION
A group of 54 graduates reunited on August 31 to celebrate 30 years since completing their studies at UWA Law School. It was a brilliant night of catching up with old friends and reminiscing about student days.

1990s

DIANA DE VOS-BECK OAM (BA ’91)
Perth, Australia
“I have worked at Edith Cowan University (WAAPA) for 22 years as a Lecturer / Sessional Tutor in Classical Ballet, during which time I also completed a master’s degree. In that role my main interest has been with students studying for a Diploma in Dance and eventual transition to a BA degree course. In this time I was awarded an OAM for Services to the Performing Arts and later received a Fellowship of the UK Royal Academy of Dance (FRAD).

My years at UWA in the 1980s were a personal life-awakening experience, during which time I mastered the elusive art of learning. I remember particularly the inspiring atmosphere of the old and new buildings and gardens of the most beautiful university in Australia. In semi-retirement, I continue teaching at WAAPA and engaging in many activities in the arts in WA. I still engage with many of the friends I met during my years at UWA and keep up with University news through receipt of Uniview,” Diana shares.

JACQUI THOMAS (BE ’01)
Auckland, New Zealand
Jacqui graduated from UWA in Electrical/ Electronic Engineering in 2001. After graduating she worked at Motorola, before moving to Japan to work as an English language patent technology analyst in a patent and trademark attorney firm, where she was introduced to the world of intellectual property.

Jacqui’s passion is helping people and making a difference in the world through helping them to understand intellectual property and what it entitles them to.

2000s

DANIEL MULLER (PhD ’94)
Santiago, Chile
Daniel obtained his PhD from the geology department at UWA. He also holds a Habilitation degree from the Institute of Mineralogy, TU Bergakademie Freiberg in Germany. He has worked for more than 25 years exploring for metallic mineral deposits with international mining companies. He is now a principal geologist at QPX in Santiago, Chile, and recalls his time at UWA with great fondness. “I really enjoyed my time at UWA and I treasure my very good memories!” he says.

DIANNA BECK OAM (BA ’91)
Perth, Australia

DR THEODORA ISSA (MBA ’99, MgtRes ’04)
Perth, Australia
Theodora obtained two of her three master’s degrees from UWA, and currently works at Curtin University. Theodora and her four siblings (Touma, Tomayess, Tamara and Theodore) have joined forces to write a book to honour their mum, as 2 March 2019 marked the third anniversary of her passing. The book, titled *What Mum Taught Us: Valuable Lessons and Outstanding Hospitality, Including Precious Mesopotamian Recipes*, was published by NOVA Publishers in March 2019.

MATTHEW TITMANIS (BSc (Agr), BEc BCom ’06, GradDipEd ’11)
Perth, Australia
Matthew shares, “I am currently working as the STEM Program Coordinator at Ashdale Secondary College where I lead the development of Ashdale’s specialist technology program, as well as building capacity of staff to embed STEM skills in school learning.

“I vividly recall day one of Chemistry 101, when Bob (I think it was Bob) the
lecturer walked into the lecture hall and without talking, exploded the biggest hydrogen-filled balloon I had ever seen. You could feel the force impact on your chest from halfway up the rows. The best welcome to class you could have. I used that trick myself when I became a science teacher.”

STEVIANI TJANDRA (BCom ’06)
Indonesia
Steviani studied as an international student and said she would love to come and visit the campus again. For her, a UWA degree is a journey that she will always cherish and remember. She remembers participating in Guild clubs and forming connections that continued well after graduation. Steviani’s message for all students is: “You will never know where your path will lead you but for sure, study hard, have fun and make lots of connections when you are at UWA.”

KATARINA PALMGREN (LLB, BA ’07)
Victoria, Australia
Since graduating in 2007, Katarina has established a career in law and has spent most of her career working in courts as a legal adviser to the judiciary both in Australia and in international courts and tribunals. Since 2014 she has worked as a legal adviser in the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria.

In 2017, Katarina was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to explore internationally how online dispute resolution is used to resolve civil disputes and how to best integrate an online court into the Victorian public justice system to increase access to justice and relieve the overburdened courts. Katarina conducted her fellowship from May to August 2018, with her fellowship report published in November 2018. The report has garnered a lot of interest in Victoria, where Katarina has appeared on ABC Radio Melbourne and where the report has been made the course curriculum for the Litigation and Dispute Resolution class at Monash University Law School.

Katarina has also been invited to speak in jurisdictions outside Victoria, including New Zealand and South Australia.

ZARA TORRE (BDS ’07, LLB, BA ’14, MPH ’18)
Perth, Australia
Zara writes, “I have always had a profound curiosity for knowledge be it in my own field of expertise or another, and I have had such great memories of higher learning thanks to UWA (which is why I keep coming back). Even now, I’ve just begun a Graduate Certificate in Social Impact with a scholarship from the Centre for Social Impact.

“To some, I’m possibly the most overqualified dentist, yet to others I think I am emblematic of the modern professional, seeking new experiences, wanting to create better systems for re-imagining the world and the challenges we face together as a society. I am currently the Founder and CEO of The Difference, a non-profit organisation creating a round up microdonations platform for giving.

“My advice to anyone studying at UWA is to stay curious, follow your passions and keep learning. You can use these skills to discover new ways to contribute, whatever walk of life you are from,” Zara says.

PAUL LI (MEDRM ’08)
Hong Kong
After graduating from UWA, Paul decided to pursue a doctoral degree at the University of Hong Kong’s Faculty of Education where he focused his thesis on student engagement in the sub-degree sector in Hong Kong. Now working as a community college instructor and program administrator, Paul has a keen interest in understanding the forces driving student engagement in the sub-degree sector in the territory. His research aims to identify, examine and analyse the factors that contribute to or obstruct student engagement in the learning environment of a Hong Kong community college.

ALEX BUTTERWORTH (LLB, BA ’11)
New South Wales, Australia

Stay in touch or update your details: alumni-update@uwa.edu.au
Alex is Senior Legal Counsel at McDonald’s Australia in Sydney, leading the property legal team, while also working on legal issues around marketing, sponsorship, IT contracts, digital projects, copyright and trademark protection.

“At UWA I was passionate about changing student politics. A group of close friends, who are still friends today, started the UWA Student Guild political party that is now known as Launch. The friendships I made have continued to this day, and the lessons I learned from the campaign trail and campus life have been valuable in both my political and legal careers since graduation,” Alex says.

**DANIEL HUNT (MBBS ‘11, DMD ‘16)**
Perth, Australia

Dr Hunt is of Jaru and Indjibandji descent and grew up in regional and metropolitan WA. He graduated with a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery in 2010, and Doctor of Dental Medicine in 2016, both at UWA.

Daniel’s family has been involved with Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services (previously known as Perth Aboriginal Medical Services) for as long as he can remember. His mother, Kerry Hunt, was an Aboriginal health worker and now works in Indigenous mental health. His ultimate interest in Aboriginal health is to ensure equity and unqualified access to health services for Aboriginal people.

**ARJAN DOUGAN (BSC ’14)**
California, US

Arjan is currently the Director of Sport Performance at California State University, Los Angeles. In his role, Arjan provides educational, psychological and physical support services to athletes to help them achieve their goals for improved sports performance. He remembers wearing questionable outfits to PROSH, raising hundreds of eyebrows across Perth as a result.

Living in Los Angeles can make it hard to stay connected, but he keeps in touch with friends and colleagues from undergraduate days and always makes an effort to visit UWA whenever he is able to travel home.

**EDYSSA MAE PALER (BCom ’18)**
Perth, Australia

Edyssa is engaged with Fairway UWA as an alumni volunteer, attending their events and offering much valued mentoring to new students.

“My most memorable memory at UWA is my volunteering experience from different programs at UWA (Fairway UWA, UniStart, UniMentor, Aspire, and many more) that allowed me to help others while garnering skills, experience and friendship. I enjoyed helping students who aspired to achieve their dreams and engaged with other volunteers who shared a common purpose – to help others.”

News just in

UWA Fogarty Scholar and Bachelor of Philosophy student Luke Thomas has been awarded the prestigious New Colombo Plan ASEAN Fellowship.

Five other UWA students, four of whom are UWA Fogarty Scholars, have also been selected as recipients of 2020 New Colombo Plan Scholarships. Bachelor of Arts student Alexander McKenzie, along with UWA Fogarty Scholars Racheline Tantular, Amber Anderson, Luke Barber and Cassandra Howell, will study at universities across the Indo-Pacific region.

Get briefed

Share your story and you could see yourself featured in these pages.

Visit alumni.uwa.edu.au/grad-briefs and fill out the form.
CATHERINE HELEN IDDISON
(née CARMICHAEL) BA(HONS) ’50
26 September 1928 – 21 July 2018

Helen, as she was known throughout her life, was born in Toodyay and grew up on the family farm in Maya during the Depression. Her earliest education was delivered by the School of the Air.

Helen won a scholarship to attend Perth Modern, but contracted polio in her first year of high school. She made a remarkable full recovery, leading an active life into her 80s.

Helen attended UWA on a Commonwealth Scholarship, graduating with a BA (Hons). She taught history and languages at St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls, before travelling with her sister to England in 1953. For the next few years, she lived and worked in Winchester, making the most of the school holidays to travel throughout Europe.

Upon returning to WA in the late 1950s, she met a handsome lawyer, Roly Iddison (LLB (Hons) ’49) who was so taken with her that he proposed a week later! After living in York and Northam, the young family settled in Dalkeith in 1970. There, Helen taught Sunday School at St Lawrence Anglican Church in Dalkeith and Scripture at Dalkeith Primary School, and volunteered at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Music was always Helen’s passion. She played the piano and passed her love for music to her children, two of whom became musicians. For many years, she was the librarian at the Nedlands Wind Band and the Western Australian Youth Orchestra.

She never lost her love for UWA and was always a keen reader of Uniview. Two of her children and three of her grandchildren also attended UWA.

Helen passed away peacefully in July 2018, after a short illness. She is survived by her five children and 12 grandchildren.

Very generously, Helen remembered UWA in her will, which has allowed the University to establish the Helen Iddison Rural Music Students Grant. The grant aims to encourage rural and regional students to accept a place at the UWA Conservatorium of Music, and help ease their transition to Perth.
In the frame

Never a dull moment for our alumni, staff and students, snapped at some of the many UWA events recently.

Stay in touch or update your details at: alumni-update@uwa.edu.au

Local and global alumni mentored recent graduates and students with career advice and insights into what it takes to succeed after graduation

Australia Awards breakfast

PSB Academy/UWA 20th Anniversary (Singapore)

Plastic, plastic everywhere! Alumni attend research and graduate panel discussion on the plastic pollution problem (Singapore)

Career Mentor Link Awards
You, me and the big blue sea research dinner (Albany)

Graduate Research School community reception (featuring 3-Minute Thesis winners)

Sustainability Career Café

Alumni share their career journey in data science
A Foundation in Convocation

In 1913, Convocation was formed to bring together all graduates of The University of Western Australia in a legal part of the University – an insightful step by Sir John Winthrop Hackett.

Now over 100 years later, and with more than 130,000 graduates worldwide, Convocation has an increasingly important role to play within and for the University.

The University’s motto has always encouraged students to ‘Seek Wisdom’ – but how does the motto ‘Seek Wisdom’ apply to our graduates?

At the recent Spring Ordinary Meeting, I spoke on this topic and presented this visually as an opportunity to highlight how the University’s motto can take us beyond seeking wisdom while we’re students, to applying it after graduation – graduates applying their ‘Wisdom in Life’.

I also extended this message, suggesting that our many graduates contribute a rich foundation on which the University can build.

Convocation provides a valuable platform for initiatives that can advantage our members and the University, while preserving the high value of UWA’s undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. These initiatives are achieved with support from the University’s Senate, staff and students, and our own members, along with support from the wider community. In fact, the foundation and supporting pillars that contribute to the University’s success – past, present and future – are more closely connected and dependent than we might initially consider.

The University encompasses many and varied communities, based around its diverse student and staff communities, faculties, culture, sport, interests and so on. All of these communities are important to the success of the University, as the University’s success is important to them. A strong university leads to strength in culture, sport and social interaction across its many clubs and associations.

While the members of Convocation and its Council contribute one platform on which UWA can and must build, we are not a unique foundation.

The Senate, staff and students are similarly placed as legal parts of the University. Each has a foundation role in supporting the others, working together towards maintaining UWA as one of the world’s great universities in education and research. We can all help UWA to continue as the leader in Western Australia, as one of Australia’s leading universities (Group of Eight), and in its place in the top 100 universities internationally (Academic Ranking of World Universities).

UWA’s success has been, and will continue to be, dependent on collaboration across the University’s platforms.

Convocation is enabled by the dedicated voluntary contributions of its Council. Get involved with a strong Convocation as part of a successful university. Be sure to vote and consider joining the Council when you feel you can.

Speaker confirmed for Autumn Ordinary Meeting 2020

Convocation Council is thrilled to announce that the speaker for the March 2020 meeting will be Professor Tom Calma AO, Chancellor of the University of Canberra.

Professor Calma is an Aboriginal elder of the Kungarakan tribal group, a member of the Iwaidja tribal group, and a champion for the rights, responsibilities and welfare of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians. He is Co-Chair of Reconciliation Australia.

On 1 July 2016, Professor Calma received the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Flag Award on the 240th anniversary of the United States of America’s independence. In October 2018 he was appointed the inaugural Chair of the Atlantic Fellows for Social Equity program. Professor Calma was the first Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander man to become Chancellor of an Australian university.

Professor Tom Calma AO will be the guest speaker at the Autumn Ordinary Meeting 2020

Autumn Ordinary Meeting 2020

Date: Friday 20 March 2020
Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm start
Venue: Banquet Hall, The University Club of WA
Speaker: Professor Tom Calma AO
RSVP: events@uwa.edu.au
Recognising outstanding service

During Convocation’s Spring Ordinary Meeting at The University Club, two recipients were honoured with Convocation Medals.

Elliott Wallace

2019 Student Volunteer Award winner

Elliott Wallace was previously presented with a Convocation certificate during a presentation as part of National Student Volunteer Week, which culminated in a ceremony on August 15.

Elliott is a well-deserved recipient, who has dedicated considerable time to volunteering in recent years. He is the Volunteering and Community Engagement Chair on the Student Guild, which involves developing policies for the Guild Volunteering team, liaising with non-profit organisations and faculty societies to secure partnerships or arrange activities, and various other tasks.

Since 2018, he has also been a UniMentor, allowing him to assist new students in their transition to university life at UWA.

Outside the University, Elliott helped found and co-manages Coastal Clean Up Crew, a volunteer organisation which focuses on natural resource management. Clean-ups occur weekly in areas both north and south of the river.

On receiving his medal, Elliot said that volunteering develops soft skills and prepares you for a global career, but can also be good fun as well.

“I try and bring a lot of enthusiasm and fun into the role to show people the benefits of volunteering,” Elliott said.

Juanita Perez

Long-time Convocation Officer Juanita Perez was given a surprise Convocation Medal and certificate during the Spring Ordinary Meeting.

Juanita was recognised by the Convocation Council as the person who so capably operates behind the scenes to ensure that Convocation continues its fine legacy of service to UWA.

When Juanita first joined UWA in 2001, she commenced in what was then known as the Finance and Accounting Department, which later became the UWA Business School. She was appointed to Convocation in 2002 and served five years before being seconded to the Confucius Institute for three years.

Fortunately, she returned to Convocation in 2010 as the Convocation Officer and has provided immense support for the past nine years. During her time with Convocation, Juanita has worked with seven Wardens and has proved to be an invaluable resource, with deep knowledge of UWA’s financial systems, governance arrangements, election protocols, public relations requirements, strategic objectives and operational systems. Her ability to juggle many demanding tasks simultaneously with her wisdom and friendly nature make her a well-respected and dependable asset to UWA and Convocation.

Juanita has given 18 years of excellent service to UWA utilising the invaluable experience she has gained at top-level international establishments. Throughout her career she has supported and advised many who have received accolades while she so often melts into the background when it is she who should be receiving these commendations.

Warden of Convocation, Dr Doug McGhie presented the award to both worthy recipients.

Elliott Wallace and Juanita Perez receiving their Convocation Medals in recognition of outstanding service at the Spring Ordinary Meeting in September
The Convocation of UWA Graduates held its Spring Ordinary Meeting in the Banquet Hall of The University Club of Western Australia on Friday September 20.

The event was attended by 300 people, filling the room to capacity.

Following the regular business of the organisation, the evening was enriched by a talk from Professor Peter Veth, Director of the UWA Oceans Institute and Professor of Oceanic Archaeology. Professor Veth spoke about ‘A Deep History of Maritime Peoples from North-Western Australia’.

Professor Veth is one of Australia’s leading archaeologists with an international reputation for expertise in the study of maritime societies. This has included research on Barrow Island dating the oldest known Aboriginal coastal occupation through to leading the Australian Historic Shipwreck Preservation Project.

The audience was drawn into a fascinating journey, going back 60,000 years to when human habitation existed on Barrow Island at a time when it was not an island but part of mainland WA.

His team has unearthed artefacts dated to that time, and also established that a significant change occurred 7,000 years ago when sea levels rose, converting that small land mass into an island.

Professor Veth highlighted the excellent collaboration between the research team and the traditional landowners of the areas where the discoveries were made.

Prior to the meeting, Professor Veth displayed extremely rare and valuable glass artefacts from the study area. Those attending the meeting were enthralled.

Earlier in the meeting, Warden of Convocation Dr Doug McGhie emphasised the important role of UWA’s graduates as keepers of the corporate knowledge and history of the University, showing that the graduates and Convocation are a stable platform on which the University can continue to build its success.

Two proud members of Convocation were recognised at the Spring Ordinary Meeting. Our heartfelt thoughts are with their family and friends.

Astrid Boggs
At the Autumn Meeting we had the pleasure of hearing that while Astrid Boggs was a relatively recent and mature graduate of UWA, she loved being just that as a member of Convocation. She told us that while she was not well and may not have long to go, she enjoyed joining with other graduates at our regular Ordinary Meetings. Sadly, Astrid was correct and she did not make spring but was remembered at the meeting in a heartfelt obituary prepared for the local press by fellow Convocation member, Patrick Cornish.

Bruce Hartley
Bruce Hartley, always with his bushy beard, was another regular at our Ordinary Meetings. Bruce was a locally acclaimed scientist, a specialist in radiation safety (he studied Physics at UWA and obtained his doctorate in 1969) and above all else, a rugby nut. He was a legend of the UWA Rugby Club – not only was he the club’s longest serving player (1959-1997) and a two-time president, but also the glue that held the club together for many years. Bruce was lost to his family, rugby and Convocation just before the Convocation Spring Meeting. He will be dearly missed.
As a UWA arts graduate in the early 1970s, I’m forever indebted to the University for enabling me to become a professional opera singer against severe odds.

I was born near the Sydney Opera House site when my father was a singing student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, with Dame Joan Sutherland in his class. He said he was a better singer than she, a fact never fully acknowledged!

Having lived in the Sydney suburb of Leichhardt as a little kid, I attended school in Perth. I won a singing scholarship to Trinity College as a boy soprano in St Mary’s Cathedral Choir, as did my four brothers. My passions were football and music, and when I was forced to choose one upon admission to UWA, I chose singing as a treasure for life.

In those days UWA offered no practical courses in music – only theory and history, which I studied together with English Literature, German, Italian and Latin.

To pursue my passion, I embraced the spirit of UWA and took private singing lessons from Ms Lucie Howell at Musgroves music store in Murray Street, winning my fair share of festivals along the way. Sir Frank Callaway ran the Music Department at UWA and took great interest in my singing. In one masterclass, I sang an aria from Mozart to resounding applause, until the vocal master said, “Chris, that’s not your voice!” With absolute certainty, he told me I was a bass, not a baritone. So I stood up and sang it again, as a bass, and the foundations of my singing career were laid.

With the University’s support, I won a singing scholarship to study voice with the Master, Erich Vietheer, in London – which led me to a wondrous career as a bass soloist with WA Opera, Australian Opera and Studio, WASO, ABC, UWA and others. It was the greatest gift of which I could dream. I was singing the finest classical music ever written – all because UWA had been there to support and sustain me.

My success and profile as a singer enabled me to venture into other roles as well – culminating in my being a principal policy adviser to three premiers of WA in the arts and education sectors.

I know mine is a small achievement among all those that UWA can proclaim – but I’m proud and grateful for it. I recommend UWA with three cheers, knowing its culture and inspiration will never fail.

Leichhardt to London
Christopher Waddell

UWA Historical Society – public lecture

Join us for a public lecture by Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones for the UWA Historical Society.

From the establishment of a full-time Vice-Chancellor, through to the restructuring of the University Senate and the reimagining of Convocation, discover the implications of two reviews into UWA: an internal report conducted during 1939-40, and a Royal Commission conducted during 1941-42.

Topic: Two Reviews of The University of Western Australia, 1939-1942
Date: Tuesday 18 February 2020
Time: 5.00pm for 5.30pm start
Venue: Convocation Council Room, Irwin Street Building

To RSVP, email uwahs@uwa.edu.au or contact Fran on 0417 178 275.

For more information visit: web.uwa.edu.au/uwahs/events
Connections make a career

When you start a conversation, everybody wins

Career paths and success depend as much on who you know as what you’ve learned. Be part of the UWA career network to connect with other graduates, get advice and share your experience.

New to a city? Starting your career or changing paths? Have wisdom to share?
Contact alumnirelations@uwa.edu.au to start a conversation.