Possibilities in powerhouse Pilbara

By Lindy Brophy

The Pilbara – home of a massive minerals and energy industry, ancient landscapes and culture, and of course, the iconic Red Dog.

It might soon be another home for UWA.

The University is examining the possibility of establishing facilities in the Pilbara to bolster our research, professional development and undergraduate outreach and support but also to contribute to the region’s innovation, productivity and community development.

It is an expansive, hot, dry, cyclonic, sparsely-populated region but it is the heaving heart of the resources economy, with iron ore, oil, gas and other resources feeding the growth to our North that will make this the ‘Asian Century’.

A UWA Pilbara Taskforce is assisting Ben Killigrew from UWA’s Energy and Minerals Institute (EMI) to examine the many areas of the University’s research, professional development and outreach capabilities that could be delivered through UWA Pilbara. The taskforce is keen to discover all of our links to the region.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, recently toured the region with Dr Killigrew and EMI’s Tim Shanahan to get a feel for a possible UWA presence in the Pilbara.

Some areas include energy and minerals, the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, the School of Indigenous Studies, the Oceans Institute, the Centre for Social Impact, the Rural Clinical School of WA and Aspire UWA. “There is a bright future for the Pilbara,” said Dr Killigrew, who recently lived in the region for two years. “There is an enormous scope for industry-related research in energy and minerals, which is what the EMI, under the direction of Tim Shanahan, is already doing well.”

But that’s only part of the story.

“The Pilbara has a 2.9 billion-year-old landscape, the oldest in the world, and the rapid change occurring in the region due to resource exploitation and investment, although exciting for Australia, can put enormous strain on the communities and environment. The drive for economic diversification, preservation of the natural history, the social problems of the fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) workers, the health and well-being of Aboriginal people: the complexity of the Pilbara’s problems are such that they have been difficult to resolve,” Dr Killigrew said.

continued on page 2
Possibilities in powerhouse Pilbara continued from page 1

“With a UWA presence in the Pilbara, we are more likely to be able to apply our expertise in a wide variety of fields from off-shore foundation systems to anthropology and diabetes research to enable positive outcomes for industry, communities and the environment.”

Dr Killigrew aims to determine what facilities may be appropriate to engage the myriad of UWA’s activities in the region. Such a facility might include accommodation, meeting rooms, basic laboratories, and even conference facilities. As well as UWA research and professional development for industry leaders, the centre would enable our outreach programs to better support the region’s development and cater to its demographic.

“I see us supporting region-specific research initiatives, community engagement and collaborative partnerships with regional stakeholders;” he said. “UWA Pilbara would flag to industry and government that we are focused on and committed to the region and to the growing geopolitical influence of the North-West of Australia as it develops into a service centre for our northern neighbours.”

Dr Killigrew said the seeds of the idea were sown a few years ago, when the former Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, toured the Pilbara with the UWA Executive. “He visited a group of rock art students who had been camping for two weeks on the front lawn of a Rio Tinto employee’s house because there was no accommodation for them in Karratha.

“UWA performs a lot of research in the Pilbara and we realised then that, while resource-sector related projects might be easier to perform in the region, it is much more difficult to do so if your project is focused on rock art or community health or a range of non-resource related issues.

“A UWA-Pilbara facility could offer opportunities for students and researchers from all UWA disciplines, to spend valuable time in the region and positively impact on the region’s development.”

The proposed facilities would enable the building of multi-disciplinary, collaborative partnerships with industry, government, community and researchers, addressing a range of regional issues such as industry innovation and productivity, sustainability, rock art conservation, education, biodiversity, health, water, arid-zone agriculture, oceans research, and regional development.

Indigenous community participation would be a strong focus of a Pilbara presence, enhanced through many of UWA’s disciplines. Our research and engagement could, for example, assist Indigenous communities to document and protect their cultural identity and further enable them to benefit from the region’s development.

UWA Pilbara supports the State Government’s Pilbara Cities vision to develop diverse sustainable and vibrant places to live and work in the region. It is proposed that the University centre would set a benchmark for development in the Pilbara with architecturally and technologically advanced buildings and infrastructure, embodying the University’s long-term commitment to the region’s development.

Funding feat for the centenary and beyond

Despite anticipated cuts in research income, UWA has had great success this month with the annual round of major government funding.

We will receive nearly $48 million over the next three years from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to finance almost 100 different UWA projects.

Christine Casey, Associate Director Research Grants and Finance, said ARC grants had increased by $6 million on last year’s awards and NHMRC grants had gone up from $18 million to $26 million.

UWA received close to 77 per cent of the competitive ARC grants awarded to WA institutions, a total of $21.7 million.

As well as the single biggest Discovery grant in Australia for the Barrow Island Archaeology project, UWA has Early Career Researcher awards for applied mathematics and engineering to explore bone renewal methods and a system for early detection of osteoarthritis; research into honeybees from both the ecological and zoological perspectives; an exploration of how and why plants sense sound in their environment; and a study of residential rooftop solar power panels.

Nanotechnology is a big winner in the Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grants with funding of nearly $1.5 million across two awards, in partnership with other universities, the CSIRO and WA Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

NHMRC grants include funding of around $1.5 million each for studies into diabetes, preterm birth, the consequences of IVF treatment for the offspring and addressing the needs of unpaid carers of older Aboriginal people.

UWA won 39 Project Grants, three Research Fellowships, two Career Development Fellowships and four Early Career Fellowships from the NHMRC.

(See page 3 for details of our biggest grant.)
A new (and ancient) side to the oil and gas island

The unique archaeology of Barrow Island – much of it frozen in time 7,000 years ago – is the subject of the biggest ARC Discovery grant awarded in Australia this year.

The Federal Government this month announced research grants for 732 major projects and this one, led by UWA's Peter Veth, Professor of Archaeology in the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, is the richest, with $1,175,000 over three years.

Christine Casey, Associate Director Research Grants and Finance, said the project would have been assessed as one of the best in the country, with Professor Veth also awarded the Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award. He has worked previously on the archaeology of the nearby Montebello Islands and the Dampier Archipelago.

The Barrow Island Archaeology Project will examine ‘deep-time’ maritime societies in northern Australia, modelled to date back to earlier than 45,000 years ago.

Professor Veth explained that as sea levels rose and flooded access to the island from the mainland about 7,000 years ago, it appears not to have been inhabited again until American whalers and pearlers arrived in the early 19th century.

“It was essentially frozen in time and so provides us with an exceptional record of Indigenous occupation of one of the biggest islands off the northwest coast,” he said.

The people’s responses to changes in sea levels and climate, and isolation from critical resources on the mainland will be mapped, along with the reconstruction of important climatic and ecological records.

The labour history of Indigenous people and the pearling industry will also be profiled by an international group including experts in human behaviour ecology, archaeozoology, maritime archaeology, historical archaeology, arid zone archaeology and climate modelling.

Joining Professor Veth and UWA’s Professor Alistair Paterson are researchers from Stanford, California State, James Cook and Queensland universities, the Western Australian Museum and the Department of Environment and Conservation.

The group will address issues of national and global significance, including the nature and antiquity of Indigenous occupation on coastal landscapes of the North West Shelf; and the impacts on coastal groups of major climate change, drowning of the shelf, then isolation.

The oil and gas industry which has occupied Barrow Island since the 1960s has kept the caves on the western side largely isolated from visitors. “The island has been heavily quarantined which has rendered it a refuge for fauna – what we might call ‘Harry Butler country’,” Professor Veth said.

“During the 1800s, Indigenous people were forced by pearlers to work in the industry, then they were left on the island, virtually imprisoned in a slave labour camp known as Barracoons, until the pearlers returned the next season.”

Professor Paterson said: “We have found glass artefacts that have clearly been made by people from not only the Ashburton region, where we presume most of the indentured labourers would have come from, but also from the Kimberley and even Malaya. Were these people also drafted into this slave labour?”

Professor Veth said the traditional owners speaking for Barrow Island, the Thalanji people, had wanted this work carried out for a long time and were thrilled to be involved in the ‘deep time’ research.

The research teams will spend up to a couple of months a year working on the island, based on the purpose-built research vessel Whalesong 3, as accommodation on the island is stretched during the resources boom.

(Peter Veth has recently been appointed the inaugural Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art.)
UWA in the Australia-Asia-US strategic triangle

We are always delighted to welcome international visitors to our campus, but the recent visit of United States Secretary of State, Hillary Rodham Clinton, was a particularly special occasion.

She is the second US Secretary of State to visit our campus – the last was in 2008 when Dr Condoleezza Rice came following an invitation from one of our alumni, the then Federal Foreign Affairs Minister Stephen Smith.

Secretary Clinton was here on 13 November for the launch of the UWA-based Perth USAsia Centre, which I believe will quickly become a globally important institution, alongside UWA’s other renowned Institutes and Centres.

The Perth USAsia Centre will be a leading policy think tank on the Australia-Asia-US strategic and economic relationship, a teaching and research centre and a conduit for a deeper understanding of the United States in such areas as resource policy, foreign policy, security, business, history, culture and society.

That Secretary Clinton took time out of her busy and demanding schedule to visit our campus acknowledges that, on the eve of our Centenary, UWA is at the core of the Western Australian economy.

Our University plays a crucial role in driving research and innovation, and developing and sustaining international relationships with research partners around the world, in the US but also in Asia.

Senator Clinton’s visit certainly reinvigorated the friendship between our two nations – and especially the relationship between our State and the US.

Links between our two nations are forged through organisations such as the American Australian Association and the United States Studies Centre, but it is also a liaison strengthened by our own education and research links to US universities. Indeed, one of our University’s favourite sons, distinguished UWA alumnus the Honourable Kim Beazley, is the current Australian Ambassador to the United States.

The centrality of our University in this bond enables us to play a key role in the unfolding Australian-US-Asian relationship and in an alliance that will contribute to regional stability, security and peace.

Our University, and Perth, enjoy a location that gives us a genuinely unique perspective on the eastern rim of the Indian ocean and the western edge of the country.

Our location happens to place us in the time zone – give or take a few hours – of around 60 per cent of the world’s population, and the nations that offer the promise of the greatest economic growth of the 21st century. In recognition of this, we initiated the In the Zone series of conferences – and the 2012 ITZ is underway on campus this week.

Only 100 years ago, our University was preparing to welcome its first students – 184 of them – onto a makeshift campus known as ‘Tin Pan Alley’. That a century later we should be a major institution that attracts visitors of the calibre of Senator Clinton to the launch of a new Centre and the representatives of global corporations to a conference is laudable.

And it has come about because our University has been fortunate to have benefited from 10 decades of foresight and dedication by staff members since its earliest days.

Clinton visits UWA

A flying visit to Perth by the world’s most powerful woman, Hillary Clinton, included an evening at UWA.

The US Secretary of State, in WA to talk about defence, took part in the launch of the Perth USAsia Centre, a new UWA-based institution aimed at strengthening ties between the US, Australia and the Asian region.

Along with Federal Tertiary Education Minister Senator Chris Evans and State Premier Colin Barnett, Secretary Clinton unveiled a plaque commemorating the launch of the Perth USAsia Centre at UWA.

The Perth USAsia Centre will be a leading policy think tank on the Australia-Asia-US strategic and economic relationship, a teaching and research centre, and a conduit for a deeper Australian understanding of US business, culture, history, politics and foreign policy.

Chief Executive Officer of the US Studies Centre Professor Bates Gill said having Secretary Clinton launch the Perth USAsia Centre demonstrated the high level of importance the US administration placed on the future of the region and Australia’s role in it.

“The US Studies Centre is very pleased to launch this new initiative with UWA, and we look forward to working with Australian and American colleagues to deepen understanding of the United States in such areas as resource policy, energy and the environment, politics, foreign policy and security,” he said.

“The Perth USAsia Centre is a significant investment in intellectual capital which stands to benefit all stakeholders well into the 21st Century.”
An individual's problems can't be treated in isolation from that person's family, friends and community.

And, increasingly, social workers are now including the person's physical environment as well.

Eco-social work is a fairly new field and one which makes a lot of sense to Sue Bailey, a lecturer in Social Work and Social Policy, who introduced two groups of students to eco-social work practice this semester.

“It makes sense to extend social work processes to consider the environment,” Dr Bailey said. “It’s common knowledge that a healthy environment leads to healthy people. And, conversely, poor and marginalised groups are more likely to live in degraded environments, which perpetuates and contributes to feelings of despair, leading to social problems.”

Dr Bailey first thought about bringing together social justice and ecological justice while in the final stages of her PhD several years ago.

“My PhD research explored how social workers respond to terrorism. One of my participants suggested that humans’ exploitation of nature is a type of terrorism. He said that our perception of nature as separate to humans was almost psychotic, and indicated a detachment from reality. As he put it, you can’t destroy the systems that support life – nature – and expect to live a healthy life. So that, along with my own environmental work, was the trigger for my interest in developing an eco-social work knowledge and practice.”

Dr Bailey’s students in the Masters of Social Work second year unit Policy and Community devised and implemented four community projects, two incorporating the ecological dimension.

One group worked in partnership with the City of Joondalup to develop a Friends of the Bush community group in Kingsley, a northern suburb. The students had great success in attracting more than 54 people to a walk in the bush.

“The development of these community groups has ripple effects and contributes to the building of social capital beyond group membership. You can’t underestimate the impact on others in the community seeing the volunteers working in the bush,” Dr Bailey said.

“I was doing some weeding on a remnant bush block when an elderly woman, who struggled to walk, stopped to talk. She said she had watched which weeds were pulled out and would go back to her garden and do the same. While she was not involved in the activity, it provided her with a connection with people working in the bush and it encouraged her to get out into her garden, both of them good for physical and mental health.”

Another of the class’s four projects was linked to Anti-Poverty Week and focused on literacy.

“Staggeringly, 46 per cent of adult Australians don’t have the literacy levels to fully participate in and navigate through our complex modern society,” Dr Bailey said. “They are not illiterate, but they find some things difficult, such as filling in complicated forms at doctors and other services.”

Degraded environment leads to social problems

The students put together and delivered a workshop to first year social work students on how to recognise when people struggle with literacy.

“You think some clients are not interested or can’t be bothered, but often they are trying to hide the fact that they can’t read very well or are having trouble filling in questionnaires or forms.

“There is a lot of stigma and shame attached to it and it is not always easy for a social worker or any health professional to identify. We all tend to assume that, if you’re Australian (especially if you’re white and middle class), you are literate. But it is not so.”

The other two projects involved the development of a blog where people could discuss the gap between the rich and poor in WA as a result of the mining boom, and the beginning of a collaboration between social work and landscape design students on the Clifton Street campus.
Three of the four finalists for WA Young Australian of the Year are UWA Law students – and they are all friends who support each other’s campaigns.

Michael Sheldrick, Akram Azimi and Holly Ransom are all members of WA’s biggest Rotary Club, Crawley. As President of the Crawley chapter, Holly is the youngest Rotary Club president in the world.

She is a dynamic social entrepreneur who runs a public speaking consultancy, a company to develop leadership skills in young people and an initiative that links women with inspirational female role models and mentors.

Michael is a community activist who started campaigning against poverty and who now manages an international campaign against polio. His letter about polio to the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, prompted her to meet him, after which she agreed to put the End of Polio campaign on the agenda of the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting. The outcome was a $50 million contribution from the Australian Government and nearly $70 from other world leaders.

His best friend, Akram, is a dedicated mentor to young Indigenous people.

Arriving in Australia 13 years ago from Afghanistan, Akram went from being ‘an ostracised refugee kid with no prospects’ to becoming his school’s head boy and topping its tertiary entrance exam results. Last year he co-founded a student-run initiative that raises awareness of Indigenous issues in universities.

Three of the four finalists in WA’s Australian of the Year are also UWA alumni.

Winthrop Professor Kadambot Siddique is an outstanding agricultural scientist whose mission is to feed the world through improved yields and crop management.

Professor David Joske has been Head of Haematology at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital since 1994. In 2001, he launched the community-based healthcare organisation SolarisCare Foundation, which treats 7,000 Western Australians cancer patients in Perth and WA every year.

The writing of Kim Scott, twice winner of the Miles Franklin award, has brought the Noongar culture to Australian and international communities. He was awarded his PhD with distinction from UWA and is now a Professor of Writing at Curtin University.

The best research comes from the heart

Our medical scientists are doing their best to ensure we have healthy hearts.

Heart Foundation WA recently announced its 2012 fellowships of $530,000 and almost all of them went to UWA investigators.

One of these is Dr Helena Viola, who is working on preventing further damage to the heart following a heart attack. Dr Viola also won the Foundation’s Owen James Thomas Trust Fund Award. She is an exceptional researcher, who was awarded the UWA Robert Street Prize for the most outstanding thesis when she graduated with her PhD in 2010. She works under the supervision of Associate Professor Livia Hool in the Cardiovascular Electrophysiology Laboratory (School of Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology).

Dr Viola is adding to her PhD research in which she investigated the mechanisms associated with the development of cardiac hypertrophy (enlarging of the heart) that occurs after a heart attack.

“If the heart gets too big, it can’t function within a normal and healthy range and it starts to fail,” she said. “The patient is at risk of another heart attack and, more seriously, cardiac arrest.”

“I’m now investigating the efficacy of a novel drug in reducing the development of cardiac hypertrophy.”

Dr Viola said she was committed to pursuing the mechanisms involved in the development of cardiac disease.

“Cardiovascular disease, a term that describes all heart, stroke and blood vessel diseases, is one of Australia’s biggest health problems, claiming the
Two final year undergraduates have made paying tax seem like fun.

Jared Hill and Antoni Buccini won a national student competition to create a video for the Australian Taxation Office, to help engage young Australians and explain to them how taxation and superannuation systems support our way of life.

The young men, who will both have completed double degrees by the time you read this, were in a class of Dr Fang Liu, Associate Professor in Marketing in the Business School. She thought the project would be right up their alley as both of them are interested in film and video.

“It is the first time anybody from UWA has entered this competition and I am really proud of their achievement,” Dr Liu said.

Sam’s Excellent Adventure features Antoni as Sam, with Jared behind the camera.

“We spent weeks coming up with a good idea, then wrote it together,” said Jared, who studied Arts (majoring in Italian) and Business (majoring in marketing and entrepreneurship). “We’re close friends and spent an exchange year in Italy together, so we know how each other thinks – we’re a good team.”

Antoni (also majoring in Italian, with Business majors in marketing and management) said he and Jared would both love to work in the film industry but decided to “get an education first”.

Their four-minute video, now on YouTube, projects into the future of ‘Sam’s’ life, as a student, a graduate, a failed businessman (and later a successful one), a tree-hugger, a parent, an employee and a retiree, with the Government supporting his unemployment, medical treatment, children’s education and aged pension. It is a very entertaining look at how our taxes sustain Australians’ enviable lifestyle.

The friends shot the video over four days, with virtually no budget. “We went to op shops for our props and filmed in our homes and in public parks,” Jared said.

They won $2,500 worth of vouchers for Coles Myer which, as astute business operators, they “have liquidated” to provide cash for their next endeavour.

Sam’s Excellent Adventure can be seen at ATO on YouTube.

Making fun of the tax system

lives of nearly 50,000 people a year. That’s about 34 per cent of all disease-related deaths,” she said.

“My ultimate aim is to bridge fundamental yet vital cellular-based research to applied therapeutic intervention and, as a result, to develop improved treatment strategies for cardiovascular disease.”

Other UWA medical researchers who received National Heart Foundation fellowships include Winthrop Professor Hugh Barrett, Dr Hayley Christian, Dr Kristjana Einarsdottir (who also won the Bendat Family Foundation Scholarship), Lee Nedkoff and Professor Bu Yeap.

Winthrop Professor Daniel Green and Assistant Professor Natalie Ward had their funding renewed.

Screen shots from the winning video: (above) Sam hits hard times in 30 years; and (top) needs an ambulance.
Women were among the first students at UWA in 1913. Yet it was another 10 years before these graduates would be admitted into their chosen professions.

In 1923, Australia’s first female politician, WA’s Edith Cowan, introduced the Women’s Legal Status Bill in the WA Parliament, which allowed women to enter the professions.

That same year, the State’s first female medical doctor, Roberta Jull, formed, with 40 others, Graduate Women WA (GWWA). The group will celebrate its 90th anniversary while UWA marks its centenary.

They have kicked off their festivities early, launching a 12-month anniversary program at St Catherine’s College last month. The College exists due to the vision of Dr Jull, who saw the need for a women’s college for students attending the State’s only university.

The program includes the awarding of scholarships to female students at all WA universities, and the launch (at the end of next year) of the history of GWWA. Activities range from reflecting the achievements of young graduates, who will present their stories at an anniversary breakfast, to celebrating the 90th birthdays of two members.

“We have the first 50 years of our history written,” said Hilary Silbert, anniversary convenor. “We are now working on the next 40 years, which will be completed next year and dedicated to UWA graduate Dorothy Ransom, who was driving the history project but died earlier this year.”

GWWA is part of an international organisation of women university graduates. It is one of the few organisations which owns its headquarters, in Park Road, Nedlands. The members run an academic dress hire service that has produced thousands of dollars to fund prizes, awards, scholarships and bursaries.

Two UWA PhD candidates were awarded GWWA bursaries at the launch, which will add to the impact of their research.

Laura Masters is studying in the School of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Her research in microbiology and immunology is under the supervision of Dr Alec Redwood, Winthrop Professor Geoff Sheilam and Dr Lee Smith.

She won the Mary and Elsie Stevens Scholarship for $4,000 which will allow her to include experiments she would not otherwise have been able to afford.

“My research examines how natural genetic variation can affect the ability of murine cytomegalovirus (MCMV) to survive and persist in the host, in the face of a strong host immune response,” Laura said.

Cytomegalovirus (CMV) is an important infection in human populations. About 60 per cent of Australians are infected and this is as high as 100 per cent in the developing world. CMV causes serious disease in people with compromised immune systems, such as transplant recipients and HIV patients.

“Our laboratory uses mouse CMV (MCMV) to perform detailed and sophisticated studies of the host immune responses involved in protection from this viral infection,” she said.

“The extra work I can now do will greatly add to the understanding and impact of my research.”

Emma Dalziell won the Mary Walters Scholarship, also worth $4,000, which she will use to travel to field sites in Queensland or the Northern Territory.

Emma is studying the seed biology, distribution and functional ecology of Australian water lilies, in the School of Plant Biology. She is supervised by Permanent Visiting Winthrop Professor Kingsley Dixon, Dr David Merritt and Dr Renee Young.

“Increasing threats from human disturbance and climate change makes research necessary to ensure the conservation of the charismatic water lilies,” she said.

“With the scholarship, I can now extend my research and include a number of species not found in WA, which will increase my study to one of national significance.”
By Anke van Eekelen

Not all healing processes have happy endings.

Some wounds develop keloid scarring during healing, leaving the patient with a disfiguring growth. The phenomenon affects more people with higher levels of pigmentation in their skin. While Caucasian people are not as susceptible, Australia’s multicultural mix means that up to 20 per cent of the population is at risk of developing the ugly scars. They are the result of an uncontrollable and aberrant wound healing process. Most often seen on the upper body and neck and face areas, they present as scar tissue having overgrown a wound site. Besides being painful and functionally impairing, keloid scars can also affect mental health and quality of life. Injuries, as small as needle injection sites, insect bites or ear piercing can trigger keloid scarring in those at risk. The only treatment is surgical removal.

At Royal Perth Hospital, a new study will test a novel type of wound treatment after surgical removal of keloid scars to avoid the reoccurrence of a new one at the same site. This research trial was initiated by Dr Patricia Danielsen, a Danish dermatologist in training from Copenhagen University and current visiting research fellow at Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood’s Burn Injury Research Unit at UWA.

With the help of volunteer patients, her study aims to test the beneficial effects of a drug called Verapamil on wound healing in people with keloid scars. The drug is better known as anti-hypertension medication, widely prescribed to people with cardiovascular disease.

Fibroblast cells in keloid scars do not respect the boundaries between the injury site and the surrounding healthy skin. In closing the wound, they don’t stop growing and produce too much collagen. Verapamil will be used to relax these wound-healing cells. The drug is known to reduce tension between blood vessel cells to fight hypertension and in the keloid treatment study, Dr Danielsen anticipates that a similar effect will reduce the unstoppable growth of scar tissue cells and the amount of collagen they produce.

Normally, removal of a keloid is followed by local corticosteroid injections in the wound. Surgery alone to remove the bulk of the outgrowth is never enough and further treatment is needed to prevent a keloid from growing back, often even bigger than before. But corticosteroid injections come with the risk of significant, more systemic side effects throughout the body. In the new randomised trial, the effect of very low doses of Verapamil will be compared to regular corticosteroid injections in each study participant. Different injections on opposite sides of the new wound after keloid scar removal will allow volunteers with different skin types to take part. They will be their own control.

Professor Wood will operate on all eligible participants of the trial. Dr Danielsen needs volunteers with keloid scars to participate in this study, which is supported by the Fiona Wood Foundation.

For more information, please call 6488 8133 or visit www.fionawoodfoundation.com/pages/5178/research-projects

(An example of keloid scarring)

Patricia Danielsen at RPH
There isn’t a ticket in town that can match it.

A weekend pass for the Alumni Weekend (8 to 10 February next year) will open a world within a campus and start Centenary Celebrations with a bang … no, more than a single bang: an enormous delightful enchanting exciting brilliant explosion of arts, science, entertainment, friendship, history and fun.

From a cricket match to a sumptuous tea party; from one of the country’s most outstanding gathering of authors to breath-taking images projected onto Winthrop Hall: the Alumni Weekend will be one of the richest experiences you can imagine.

And UWA staff are invited – urged – to come along and be part of it. Hundreds of alumni from across Australia and around the world are coming together – many of them staying in the University’s residential colleges. And while volunteer staff are needed to help out over the weekend, you are all invited to simply enjoy the best our campus and our community has to offer.

The centrepiece of the weekend is LUMINOUSnight, a free program of continuous and moving performance and visual art that will fill much of the space between the Reid Library and Stirling Highway, including the Sunken Garden and the Somerville Auditorium.

And the star of LUMINOUSnight is the stunning projection of images onto Winthrop Hall. The pictures will tell the story of UWA in 20 minutes, and be repeated throughout the night, showcasing the brilliance of projection artist Cindi Drennan and her team from Illuminart, and made possible by generous sponsorship from TDC, the company which is supplying the 10 high-performance projectors which will create the light of 200 million candles.

Music performances around the campus will include ‘SWAT’ teams of musicians from the School of Music; the two bands of Clint Bracknell, the multi-talented musician and academic from the School of Indigenous Studies; the award-winning local band Split Seconds (whose lead singer’s father, Jeff Pollard, is a staff member at UWA); Fred Smith, alumnus, song-writer and folk singer extraordinaire; and the gipsy quartet Saggezza with Cathie Travers and Ashley Arbuckle.

Giant 3D projections of faces will loom out from the trees around campus; Peacocks, Crows, Lorikeets, a 20-minute dance to celebrate the birds on campus, has been created for the night by local choreographer Chrissie Parrot (this is not a joke); a century-old version of the film Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, will screen at the Somerville to a live score performed by the Nova Ensemble; and gRADS and the Undergraduate Dramatic Society will present plays and shorts scenes in the New Fortune Theatre.

Rene Van Meeuwen, from Architecture, Landscape and Visual Art, has developed an app for smart phones that creates an ‘augmented reality’. By looking through your phone at specific points around the campus, you will see amazing scenes unfold before your eyes.

At 10pm, everybody will come together on James Oval for the Fire Finale, a ground-level theatrical fireworks show featuring giant puppets.

Then the party begins again with music in the University Club’s amphitheatre until late into the night.

LUMINOUSnight was born of an original idea from Ted Snell, Director of UWA’s Cultural Precinct, and has been brought to fruition by Ian Lilburne, arts administrator and UWA staff member. As well as the University’s centenary fund, the event has been generously supported by Lotterywest and the State Government.

A ticket for the Alumni Weekend, which includes all activities, tours, lectures, performances, the cocktail party on the Friday evening and morning and afternoon teas during the weekend, costs $75.

The LUMINOUSnight celebrations are free for the general public. Bookings, including reserving a place at specific events, can be made at centenary.uwa.edu.au.

Some of the images that are part of the amazing light show

A CENTURY OF ACHIEVEMENT 1913-2013

UWA NEWS 26 November 2012

The University of Western Australia
Special staff celebration

The Alumni Weekend will be an inspiring showcase for all the best the University has to offer – as well as a darn good party.

Some of our most respected academics and high-profile alumni will present their work and their lives in a lecture series that features international businessman and Rhodes Scholar, Sir Rod Eddington, Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall, Everest adventurer Patrick Hollingworth and Director of ICRAR, Winthrop Professor Peter Quinn.

Writers who have been nurtured at UWA and feted nationally and internationally will present a Writers’ Corner all weekend in the Undercroft. They include Emeritus Professor Dennis Haskell, Professor Brenda Walker, dual winner of the Miles Franklin Award Kim Scott, Deborah Burrows, Winthrop Professor Ian Reid, Assistant Professor Ambelin Kwaymullina, Nicholas Hasluck, Robert Drew, Associate Professor Delys Bird, Professor John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, Dr Lucy Dougan, Professor Van Ikin and Dr Tess Williams.

Tours of buildings, highlighting the state-of-the-art Business School and the Science Library, gardens, colleges and historical sites, including what is now Shenton House (formerly Crawley Park House) are on the program, along with debates, lunches, College barbecues, panel discussions and the Arts Tea Party of the Century.

The Alumni Weekend marks the beginning of the Centenary of students at UWA.

But the staff – as always – started work before the students arrived. They were hard at it in 1912, preparing the courses for the first university entrants in WA.

So we, the staff, have a special event to celebrate our own Centenary – the Celebration of a Century – where we will toast our achievements over 100 years and celebrate the festive season.

Make sure to look your best when you come to Prescott Court from 3pm on Friday 14 December for the party because a photographer will be there to capture as many images of staff as possible, which will go into a mosaic collage next year. (If you can’t make it to the party, you will be able to send a photo – details of this next year.)

Everybody is also asked to bring a Christmas gift for The Smith Family charity to distribute on our behalf.

Good music, company, snacks and drinks will end the year on a sparkling note and put us all in the mood for the big Centenary year.

While the big weekend in February is the main event, the Centenary will be marked in several ways throughout the year.

On the eve of the Alumni Weekend, the Manning Clark House Day of Ideas will run all day on Friday 8 February at the University Club. It will bring together architects, historians, computer scientist, musicians, writers and other artists to look at the luminous ideas that have shaped the contemporary world and the possibilities for tomorrow. The new ideas that will shape the next 100 years will be the focus.

UWA Gives Back is a program of taking our people, ideas and projects out to rural WA. Schools, communities and industry will be engaged with every faculty targeting a different project in a different region.

The University will fund 100 opportunities for disadvantaged school students under the Fairway scheme, to help them complete their schooling, and support them as they start their tertiary studies.

Cultural projects, funded by Centenary grants, will continue throughout the year, under the watchful eyes of the man who started it all, Sir John Winthrop Hackett.

A marble bust of our benefactor will be on loan to the University for 2013, from the WA Museum.

The long (anticipated) weekend

The Alumni Weekend will be an inspiring showcase for all the best the University has to offer – as well as a darn good party.

Some of our most respected academics and high-profile alumni will present their work and their lives in a lecture series that features international businessman and Rhodes Scholar, Sir Rod Eddington, Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall, Everest adventurer Patrick Hollingworth and Director of ICRAR, Winthrop Professor Peter Quinn.

Writers who have been nurtured at UWA and feted nationally and internationally will present a Writers’ Corner all weekend in the Undercroft. They include Emeritus Professor Dennis Haskell, Professor Brenda Walker, dual winner of the Miles Franklin Award Kim Scott, Deborah Burrows, Winthrop Professor Ian Reid, Assistant Professor Ambelin Kwaymullina, Nicholas Hasluck, Robert Drew, Associate Professor Delys Bird, Professor John Kinsella, Tracy Ryan, Dr Lucy Dougan, Professor Van Ikin and Dr Tess Williams.

Tours of buildings, highlighting the state-of-the-art Business School and the Science Library, gardens, colleges and historical sites, including what is now Shenton House (formerly Crawley Park House) are on the program, along with debates, lunches, College barbecues, panel discussions and the Arts Tea Party of the Century.

Centenary gifts to the University and the community will be launched: a beautiful Venetian glass mosaic sundial designed by Academy Award-winning artist and graduate Shaun Tan; a new history of the University, Seeking Wisdom (see page 12); the UWA Centenary Plant, Hakea laurina, launched by celebrity gardener Sabrina Hahn; and Luminosity, a CD of musical treasures composed and recorded by UWA alumni and current students.

The University Club will be open all weekend for alumni and staff to catch up with their friends, old and new.

Bookings, including reserving a place at specific events, can be made at centenary.uwa.edu.au. For any inquiries, please email events-alumni@uwa.edu.au or call 6488 4773.
Jenny Gregory makes no apology for the people or events that may have been left out of the Centenary history she has edited.

“With more than 100,000 graduates and 100 years of history, you just can’t cover everything, much as you’d like to,” she said.

Seeking Wisdom, nearly 500 pages of the history of UWA, is written largely from the perspective of academics. “So there is very little on the tea ladies and chauffeurs of the 1960s – and yes, we did have them!” said Winthrop Professor Gregory, Head of the School of Humanities.

“The biggest challenges in bringing together the story of the State’s first university were deciding its shape and structure and sourcing the right people with the right expertise to research and write each chapter. I’m very grateful to the historians and other academics who worked on the project with such commitment,” she said.

“Fred Alexander did a great job covering the first 50 years up to 1963 in his Campus at Crawley,” Professor Gregory said. “UWA had just 4,065 students and 450 academic staff then, compared to 23,792 students and 1,400 academic staff in 2011.

“So it is not possible to publish a ‘blow by blow’ history as Fred did. This book is written by a team of academics, from the perspective of this generation and the questions generated by the society we live in today. They are very different from Fred’s questions.

“Whatever point of view you adopt, it will always be different from somebody else’s, depending on whether you are a student, an academic, a professional staff member, a graduate or a historian.”

The history is written in two parts: Looking inwards and looking outwards. “It became clear during the research that a key aspect of UWA’s history is our relationship with the outside world – looking outwards to the local, state, national and international communities,” she said.

As a part-time student in the 1970s, Professor Gregory did not have much involvement with the student community and says that, through this history, she has learnt a lot more about student politics and has a better understanding of the range of student experiences.

Everything you wanted to know about the Centenary … or a good excuse for cake!

All staff are invited to a forum at 10am on Friday 30 November in the Webb Lecture Theatre to find out what's happening, why it's important and how you can get involved.

Special centenary cupcakes will make this event all the sweeter. Come and hear from all the people who have been working hard on the Centenary: how you can volunteer; how you can brand your publications and correspondence; how you can use Centum to inject some fun into all your projects.

Branding and marketing resources will be explained and projects including the sundial, designed by Shaun Tan, the book, the CD and the Centenary plant will be introduced to staff.

Centum is the name given to the 100 numerals that have already started popping up around campus and in publications (see page 11). Staff are invited to use the University’s range of polystyrene numbers (all 100 but in different sizes) to dedicate an activity to the centenary. There may be an exhibition towards the end of next year of photographs of Centum.

Find out more at the staff forum and hear about the fantastic Alumni Weekend planned for February, in which all staff are invited to take part.

If you’d like to volunteer during the weekend, please contact Ian Lilburne (ian.lilburne@uwa.edu.au) to help out on Friday night, 8 February. To volunteer during the day, please contact Shelley Jackson on 6488 4773 or shelley.jackson@uwa.edu.au or Meredith Eddington on 6488 7946 or meredith.eddington@uwa.edu.au
A workforce of good sports

UWA staff did it in Gangnam Style.

The fifth annual Staff Sports and Fun Day opened with the parade of competitors stopped in its tracks by the Business School’s performance of the South Korean pop star’s dance – which fellow South Korean, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, has dubbed “a force for world peace.”

After a rousing call from the Vice-Chancellor (“In the spirit of Lance Armstrong, may the best laboratory win!”) and the lighting of the cauldron by Registrar Peter Curtis, the games began, with soccer, volleyball, table tennis, netball, bocce, tennis and a fitness challenge in the gym.

After lunch, the inaugural Dean’s Dash was run, with Deans, Head of Schools or their representatives having to jump through hoops, suck up the budget, walk the line and other challenges associated with leading a school or faculty.

Then it was on to promoting world peace again with a Gangnam Style warm-up before the novelty events.

The Engineers won the tug-of-war, there was a photo-finish for the under-35 men’s VC’s Dash and the traditional Indigenous game of Fly was once again a highlight.

Staff from UWA Sport and Recreation Association did a brilliant job organising, setting up and running the day, while Fiona Taylor and Louise Pollard (Registrar’s Office) ably presided over the organising committee, with help, on the day, from Fiona’s Labrador puppy Amber.

Thanks to Keith Rappa and Belinda Ireland for recording the day in photographs.
By Francesca Robb

The genes associated with common eye diseases such as glaucoma and myopia are the focus of a unique collaboration between three of the world’s top ophthalmologists.

Winthrop Professor David Mackey, Managing Director and Chair of UWA’s Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science and head of the Lions Eye Institute (LEI), Professor Chris Hammond from King’s College London, and Professor Terri Young from Duke University in the United States have been collaborating for almost 10 years on a range of research projects. Their current focus is the genetics of glaucoma and myopia looking at the measures associated with these diseases in several cohorts including the UK and Australian Twins Eye Studies and the WA Raine Eye Health Study.

“When I started my work in myopia genetics I was pleased to be able to collaborate with Chris – the world leader in eye studies of twins, and Terri – the world leader in myopia family studies,” Professor Mackey said.

Professor Hammond and Professor Young have just completed an intensive series of lectures and student teaching programs at UWA as Raine Visiting Professors.

Professor Hammond’s lecture focused on the TwinsUK Cohort – the most phenotyped and genotyped cohort in the world involving more than 6,000 subjects. He discussed his work on glaucoma – the most common untreatable cause of blindness in the world affecting 10 per cent of people over the age of 80 – using data from TwinsUK.

Professor Young is Professor of Ophthalmology, Paediatrics and Medicine at Duke University in North Carolina. Her laboratory has identified several genes involved in myopia.

Her Raine lecture focused on myopia genetics with near-sightedness – the most common refractive error eye disorder in the world.

High-grade levels of myopic refractive error are associated with an increased risk of other serious eye disorders, including premature cataracts, glaucoma, retinal detachment and macular chorio-retinal degeneration.

Professor Hammond said the trio were looking to identify the genes for common eye disorders such as glaucoma and myopia.

“The numbers of people needed to detect the role of different genes in diseases like glaucoma and myopia are massive,” he said.

“We are trying to determine how much the development of these diseases is inherited and how much is environmental, as well as the environmental factors that may switch on genes for a certain disease.

“Using identical twins allows us to test the nature versus nurture theory – whether a condition is caused by genetics or environment and we are making very good progress with over 40,000 participants in our current studies across the world.”

Professor Young said collaborations on such a scale required a generosity of spirit and a willingness to share data and research.

“David is an exceptional collaborator and very well-known internationally because of that.”

Professor Mackey said both UWA and the Lions Eye Institute were fortunate to enjoy a partnership with such exceptional researchers.

“It was an incredibly productive three weeks where we managed to have one paper published online, one paper accepted in Nature genetics and another submitted as part of a major international consortium.”

Recruit online

A new online recruitment system (e-Recruit) will be implemented throughout the university in February 2013.

e-Recruit will provide UWA Human Resources with an opportunity to improve and streamline recruitment processes.

The new system will help monitor and reduce recruitment costs, create a positive experience for all applicants and build a strong and contemporary employer brand for UWA. It will bring the University in line with other contemporary employers as all job applications will be submitted online.

A series of workshops has already introduced e-recruit to stakeholders. The next steps include system testing and user training.

If you would like further information or have any questions, please contact Mark David in Human Resources on 6488 2144 or at mark.david@uwa.edu.au
Winning a Pritchard Francis scholarship seems to ensure employment after graduation.

On the 10th anniversary of the awarding of this civil engineering scholarship, it was noted that all the previous winners had chosen to work at Pritchard Francis despite there being no requirement to do so after winning a scholarship. Even more surprising is that all of them are still employed with the civil engineering company.

This year’s winner, Nicholas Barbaro will, like his predecessors, receive funding to complete his studies and the opportunity of work experience with the company.

All the previous winners were at the anniversary dinner, including the 2004 winner, Chris Tyler, who has recently become a director of the firm, and was named WA’s Young Professional Engineer last year.

Arthur Psaltis, Managing Director of Pritchard Francis, said their retention of UWA-trained engineers was testament to the high calibre of UWA students. “They have a sound understanding of fundamental engineering principles and are able to transition into the workplace with the qualities required of young professional engineers,” he said.

Dean of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, Winthrop Professor John Dell, said the faculty was extremely proud of its graduates and grateful for the opportunities that companies such as Pritchard Francis provided to its students.
RESEARCH GRANTS

Grants awarded between 29/10/2012 and 12/11/2012

ARC DISCOVERY EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER AWARDS

Dr Pascal Buenzli, Computer Science and Software Engineering (School of): ‘Foundations of the Osteocyte Network in Bone Matrix’—$375,000 (2013-15)

Dr Duc Dau, Social Sciences (School of): ‘The Songs of the Victorian Literature and Culture’—$295,363 (2013-15)

Dr Monica Gagliano, Animal Biology (School of): ‘Understanding Sound Communication in Plants’—$375,000 (2013-15)

Dr Brett Hirsch, Humanities (School of): ‘Reproducing Renaissance Drama - Editing and Publishing the Plays of Early Modern England 1742 to 2012’—$330,042 (2013-15)

Dr Lori Lach, Plant Biology (School of): ‘Assessing Pollination Services of Honey Bees in Native Ecosystems of Australia’—$375,000 (2013-15)

Dr Einar Johnsson, Assistant Professor Chumbo Ma, Agricultural and Resource Economics (School of): ‘Social Learning - The Diffusiveness of Residency rooftops’—$372,000 (2013-15)

Dr Jeremy Shaw, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences: ‘The Secret of Bee’s Nectar - Magnetic Field Sensitive Cells in the Honeybee Apis Mellifera’—$375,000 (2013-15)

Dr Simon Smith, Mathematics and Statistics (School of), Sydney Uni: ‘Permutation Groups and their Interrelationship with the Symmetry Groups Codes and Geometric Configurations’—$345,000 (2013-15)

Dr Etienne Laliberte, Dr Francois Teste, Professor David Warde, Assistant Professor Paul Kardol, Dr Benjamin Turner, Plant Biology (School of), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute: ‘The Role of Soil Foul Feedback to Biodiversity Maintenance along Fertility Gradients from Patterns to Mechanisms’—$260,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Harvey Millar, Plant Biology Energy (ARC Centre for), ‘Defence Gene Expression in Arabidopsis linked to Melabolic Maintenance Along Fertility g radients’—$335,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor James Whelan, Dr Julia Lark, Dr John Hammond, Dr Alexander Kourtev, Materials Science and Engineering (School of): ‘Automated System for Bone Texture Analysis of Osteoarthritis in hand Teeth’—$285,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Colin Raston, Dr Keith Stubbs, Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of): ‘The Challenges of Organic Chemistry 2012-2014’—$440,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Colin Raston, Dr Mathew Mewes, Dr Sebastian Bize, Professor Christophe Salomon, Physics (School of), Ecole Normale Superieure (ENS), Humboldt University, Berlin, Observatoire de Paris - SYRTE, Swarthmore College: ‘Precision Measurement to Test Fundamental Physics’—$490,000 (2013-15)

Dr Joseph Tomkins, Animal Biology (School of): ‘Threshold traits: conditionality, instability and broken symmetry’—$324,000 (2013-15)

Professor Peter Veth, Associate Professor Alastair Paterson, Professor Mark Basgall, Professor David Zeaah, Dr Tiltian Danne, Dr Christa Placzek, Dr Brian Codding, Coriolis Souter, Social Sciences (School of), Stanford University, University of Queensland, James Cook University, WA Museum, California State University, Sacramento: ‘The Barrow Island Archaeology Project: the dynamism of maritime societies in northern Australia’—$1,175,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Kenneth Clements, UWA Business School: ‘Analysing Global Consumption Patterns with a Large Number of Commodities’—$263,201 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Mark Bush, Dr Brian Lown, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), ‘Selective Laser Melting of Bulk Metallic Class’—$480,000 (2013-15)

Professor Richard Hobbs, Plant Biology (School of): ‘Ants, plants, diversity and function: trophic interactions and ecosystem function in a large-scale restoration experiment’—$305,000 (2013-15)

Associate Professor Martha Ludwig, Associate Professor Tammy Sage, Professor Rowan Sage, Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of): ‘The Australian endemic grass tribe Neuraurnieae – a new paradigm to investigate the evolution of C4 photosynthesis’—$335,000 (2013-15)

Professor Gillian Rhodes, Psychology (School of): ‘Fitting the mind to the world: Adaptive processes in face perception’—$629,101 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Liang Cheng, Assistant Professor Hong Min Zhao, Associate Professor Tongming Zhou, Scott Draper, Hongwei An, Professor David White, Civil and Resource Engineering (School of), University of Western Sydney: ‘Local Scour below Offshore Pipelines on Calcareous Sediments’—$330,000 (2013-15)

Professor Nicholas Harney, Social Sciences (School of): ‘Neoliberalism Migration and – a Comparative Ethnographic Analysis of their Intersections in Australia Canada and Italy’—$125,000 (2013-15)

Professor Gerard Docherty, Professor Paul Foulkes, Faculty of Arts, University of York: ‘The social Dynamics of Language – a Study of Phonological Variation and Change in West Australian English’—$320,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Ba-Ngu Vo, Dr Reza Hoseinnezhad, Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering (School of), RMIT University: ‘The Stochastic Geometric Framework for Bayesian Sensor Array Processing’—$350,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Daniel Green, Sport Science, Exercise and Health (School of): ‘Healthy Vascular Aging in Humans: Defining the Direct Effects of Exercise on Arterial Adaptation’—$339,000 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Hong Hao, Dr Ying Wang, Assistant Professor Chin Lui, Civil and Resource Engineering (School of), Deakin University: ‘Development of Steel Fibre Reinforced Concrete SFRC – a Novel Class of Fibres’—$315,000 (2013-15)

Professor James Whelan, Dr Daniel Daley, Plant Biology Energy (ARC Centre for), ‘An Integrative First Scale Multi Model Approach to Assess the Response of Aquatic Systems to Environmental Change’—$360,000 (2013-15)

Professor Tim Sercombe, Assistant Professor Guang Zhang, Professor Jurgen Eckert, Mechanical & Chemical Engineering (School of), Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research: ‘Selective Laser Melting of Bulk Metallic Class’—$480,000 (2013-15)

Professor Tim Sercombe, Assistant Professor Guang Zhang, Professor Jurgen Eckert, Mechanical & Chemical Engineering (School of), Leibniz Institute for Solid State and Materials Research: ‘Selective Laser Melting of Bulk Metallic Class’—$480,000 (2013-15)

For further information, please contact: Dr Shane Langford or Jeannette McQueen, Suite 202, 184 Brown St, EAST PERTH WA 6004 (08) 9235 1500 | www.savant.net.au

Data Collection Services

SAVANT specialises in fast, accurate, and cost-effective data collection using the latest in sophisticated technology.

SAVANT services include:

- Research Design, Question Development, Questionnaire Design
- Paper Questionnaire Printing and Distribution
- Scanned Copy Data Collection (1000 double-sided pages/hour)
- Online Data Collection (see www.savant.net.au/exampe)
- Statistical Analyses and Reporting

SAVANT specialises in paper and online surveys and clinical data sheet collection.

SAVANT has assisted with over 50 NHMRC, ARC, UWA-funded and postgraduate research projects.

For more information, contact: Dr Shane Langford or Jeannette McQueen, Suite 202, 184 Brown St, EAST PERTH WA 6004 (08) 9235 1500 | www.savant.net.au

16 | UWA NEWS 26 November 2012

The University of Western Australia
ARC LINKAGE INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT FACILITIES
Professor Timothy St Pierre, Dr Robert Woodward, Professor Michael Johns, Winthrop Professor John Delli, Dr Killugudi Swaminatha lyer, Associate Professor Mark Ogden, Doctor Massimiliano Mantegazza, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), Physics (School of), Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of), Faculty of Engineering Computing and Mathematics, Curtin University of Technology: “High Sensitivity Superconducting Quantum Interference Device Vibrating Sample Magnetometer” — $320,000 (2013)
Winthrop Professor David Sampson, Winthrop Professor Lorenzo Farano, Winthrop Professor Yining Liu, Winthrop Professor Colin Raston, Professor Martin Saunders, Professor Craig Buckley, Dr Deepangshu Chaudhury, Professor Birger Rasmussen, Professor Arie van Riessen, Dr Zhonghan Xie, Dr Manickam Minakshi, Dr Chun-Yang Yin, Dr Ravinder Anand, Dr Robert Hough, Electronic, Electrical, and Computer Engineering (School of), Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of), Microscopy, Characterisation Ctr (00012), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University, Curtin University of Technology. CSIRO Exploration and Mining: “Returning Western Australian Characterisation Capability to the Cutting Edge – High Resolution Analitical Transmission Electron Microscopy” — $980,000 (2013)
Winthrop Professor David Sampson, Associate Professor Peta Clode, Dr Kingsley Dixon, Associate Professor Daniel Murphy, Dr Killugudi Swaminatha lyer, Professor Richard Thompson, Dr Zhonghan Xie, Dr Chun-Yang Yin, Winthrop Professor Dongke Zhang, Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering (School of), Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of), Microscopy, Characterisation Ctr (00012), Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University, WA Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Kings Park): “A World Class High Resolution Scanning Electron Microscopy Facility for West Australian Researchers” — $470,000 (2013)
Professor Shaun Collin, Professor Carol Du Plessis, Dr William Arkinke, Associate Professor Barry Marshall, Professor Kathryn Heel, Dr Melanie Ziman, Dr Manish Sharma, Dr Elin Gray, Professor Richard Thompson, A/Professor Una Ryan, Dr Philip Stumbles, Patricio, and Laboratory airplane (School of), Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (Centre for), Animal Biology (School of), Murdoch University, Edith Cowan University: “Extending Capability in WA Flow Gyrometer for Earth Oceans Environmental and Biomedical Science - State of the Art Four Laser and 12 Colour Analysis” — $160,000 (2013)
AUSTRALIAN SYNCHROTRON COMPANY LIMITED
Professor Giacinta Parish, Electrical, Electronic, and Computer Engineering (School of): “Surface Chemistry of AlGaN and GaN Surfaces for Sensor Applications” — $235,000 (2013)
CURTIN UNIVERSITY EX AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL LOW EMISSIONS COAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT Winthrop Professor David Lumley, Dr Jeffrey Shragge, Earth and Environment (School of): “Advanced Geophysical Data Analysis for the South West Hub Harvey 1 Well Site” — $69,486 (2012)
NHMRC AUSTRALIAN EUROPEAN URBAN COLLABORATION Winthrop Professor Nigel Laing, Medical Research (UWA Centre for): “Neuroimaging: Application of Next Generation Sequencing to Neurogenetic Disorders in Australia” — $799,392 (2013-16)
NHMRC CAREER DEVELOPMENT FELLOWSHIPS
Dr Juliana Hamzah, Medical Research (UWA Centre for) (2013-16)
Winthrop Professor Yun Lee, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of) (2013-16)
NHMRC EARLY CAREER FELLOWSHIPS
Dr Senta Walton, Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of) (2013-16)
Dr Monique Robinson, Population Health (School of) (2013-16)
Gavin Pereira, Child Health Research (UWA Centre for) (2013-16)
Dr Fred Chen, Ophthalmology and Visual Science (School of) (2013-16)
NHMRC RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
Winthrop Professor Lin Fritschi, Medical Research (UWA Centre for) (2013-16)
Winthrop Professor Peter Eastwood, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of) (2013-16)
Professor Trevor Mori, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of) (2013-16)
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE SARDI EX DSEWPC
Associate Professor Matthew Hipsey, Earth and Environment (School of), Ecohydrology (ARWA Centre for): “Monitoring and Evaluation Reporting on the Environmental Health of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Use in South Australia during 2011 to 2012” — $33,100 (2012)
UWA SUPPLEMENTARY TRAVEL GRANT
Dr Stefan Davies, Medical Research (UWA Centre for): “UWA Supplementary Travel Grants – Melbourne Victoria – 10 – 12 December 2012” — $750 (2012)
WA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE INNOVATION INVESTMENT FUNDMENT PROGRAM IIFP
Winthrop Professor Peter Leedham, Medical Research for Earth Oceans Environmental and Biomedical Science (School of), Edith Cowan University: “A Commonwealth Cooperative Research Centre for Diabetes” — $52,000 (2012)
WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REGIONAL CITIES ALLIANCE
Professor Matthew Tonts, Professor Paul Plummer, Earth and Environment (School of): “Western Australian Regional Cities Research Partnership – Administered by Office of Development and Alumni Relations” — $26,000 (2013-15)
NHMRC PROJECT GRANTS
Dr Graeme Zosky, Professor Peter Henry, Dr Shelley Gorman, A/Professor Leonie Layte, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of), Child Health Research (UWA Centre for), Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center: “Vitamin D Lung Growth and Chronic Lung Disease” — $618,108 (2013-15)
Winthrop Professor Leon Flicker, Winthrop Professor Osvaldo Almeida, Winthrop Professor Paul Norman, Professor Bu Yeap, Associate Professor Kerian McCaul, Surgery (School of), Medicine and Pharmacology (School of), Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences (School of), Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR), “Successful Ageing in Older Men – Thriving Not Just Surviving in the Health In Men Study” — $607,107 (2013-15)
Associate Professor Livia Hool, Dr Killugudi Swaminatha lyer, Associate Professor Ben Corry, Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of), Anatomy, Physiology and Human Biology, Murdoch University, Australian National University: “Optimising Efficacy of a Peptide Derived against the Alpha-Interacting Domain of the L-type Calcium Channel in Reduction of Ischaemia-Reperfusion Injury” — $390,999 (2013-15)
Winthrop Professor Ming Zheng, Surgery (School of): “The Role of SPARC in Tendon Homeostasis and Tendinopathy” — $564,694 (2013-15)
Professor Stephen Wilton, Professor Matthew Belgard, Professor Susan Fletcher, Dr Roberto Barrero, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Murdoch University: “Enhanced exon skipping to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy” — $433,167 (2013-15)
Dr Anthony Kicic, Dr Stephen Stlick, Dr Darryl Knight, Associate Professor Andrew Mathers, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Child Health Research (UWA Centre for), University of British Columbia: “Defective Cell Migration as Mechanism of Dysregulated Asthma Airway Repair” — $595,431 (2013-15)
Dr Brittia Regli-von Ungern, Adjunct Associate Professor Graham Hall, Dr Guicheng Zhang, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of), Child Health Research (UWA Centre for), Paediatrics and Child Health (School of): “Risk, Early Recognition and Assessment of Respiratory Complications in Paediatric Asthma” — $449,811 (2013-15)
Dr Timothy Jones, Professor Paul Foumier, Associate Professor Kym Guelfi, Sport Science, Exercise and Health (School of), Child Health Research (UWA Centre for): “Glycemia Rising Effects of Spriting in Type 1 Diabetes” toward the Validation of Clinical Guidelines for Hypoglycaemia Prevention” — $579,939 (2013-15)
Winthrop Professor Ming Zheng, Assistant Professor Nathan Pavlos, Dr Tak Sum Cheng, Surgery (School of): “Molecular Characterisation of cAMP/ATPase V0 Domain Subunits a1 and d2 in Osteoblast” — $539,619 (2013-15)
Bad breath can affect both business and personal relationships as well as the sufferer’s self esteem. But thankfully ‘malodour’ can be successfully treated using new knowledge and techniques as well as the sufferer’s self esteem. But thankfully ‘malodour’ can be successfully treated using new knowledge and techniques.

**Call now for a consultation 9389 1482**

**HAMPDEN ROAD DENTAL CARE NELANDS**

**Experience the difference**
Professor Zoltan Hantos, Dr Andrew Gill, Women’s and Infants’ Health (School of): ‘Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia – Identifying Cardiorespiratory Consequences and Targets for Prevention and Intervention’ – $1,326,937 (2013-17)

Assistant Professor Archax Fox, Professor Charles Bond, Medical Research (UWA Centre for): ‘Structure-function relationship of long noncoding RNA-protein complexes’ – $375,935 (2013-15)

Professor Charles Bond, Assistant Professor Archax Fox, Chemistry and Biochemistry (School of): ‘DBHS Protein-protein interactions in gene regulation’ – $428,031 (2013-15)

Winthrop Professor Bruce Robinson, Winthrop Professor Michael Millward, Adjunct Professor Richard Lake, John Alvarez, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of): ‘Novel Surgery Chemotherapy Immunotherapy Approaches for Lung Malignancies’ – $639,873 (2013-15)

NEW STAFF

18 October to 14 November
Alastair Bryant, Chief Executive Officer, Natural and Agricultural Sciences
Helen Daniels, Research Nurse, Medicine and Pharmacology
Cassandra Davis, Administrative Officer, Vice-Chancellor
Johanna Duyvesteyn, Graduate Research Assistant, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Associate Professor Joanna Elfving-Hwang, Associate Professor, School of Social Sciences
Adam Fort, Operations Manager, Student Residences
Cynthia Gregory, Graduate Research Assistant, Medicine and Pharmacology
Rosalind Howard, Assistant Director, Information Services
Kate Hutchinson, Examination and Prize Assistant, Student Services
Dr Catherine Kelly, Assistant Professor, Law
Bradley Law, Business Continuity Manager, Facilities Management
Dr Su Leong, Research Assistant, Professor, Medicine and Pharmacology

Associate Professor Clare Mouat, School of Earth and Environment
Zuleika Narvasa, Accounts Officer, Institute of Advanced Studies
Anne-Christine Pequignet, Research Associate, School of Environmental Systems Engineering
Anna Richter, Graduate Research Assistant, School of Surgery
Claire Smith, Development Officer, Development and Alumni Relations
Jodie Usher, Science Education Officer, Faculty of Science

New Staff

Friday 7 December, 2012.

Applications should be sent to Robert Farrelly, Director human Resources by Friday 7 December, 2012.

Final issue ... This is the final issue of UWAnews for 2012.

The staff at Public Affairs have enjoyed bringing you the latest news and views every fortnight of the academic year.

We will be back next year with our first (Centenary) issue on 4 March. The deadline for that issue will be Wednesday 20 February.

If you have news tips, ideas for stories or would like to write a column for the back page, please get in touch. We would love to hear from you.

Have a great summer.

Lindy Brophy, Editor, UWAnews
Old memories of young students are joyous ones

Pauline Ibbs
Rector (retiring), St Thomas More College

As J.K. Rowling once observed, “Youth cannot know how age thinks and feels. But old men are guilty if they forget what it was to be young.”

I often feel that those of us who work with young adults should be made to recite that mantra at least 20 times a day. In my many years at St Thomas More College I have often had cause to remember that one should never pass judgement without first reflecting on one’s own youth.

So, what is it like to spend 17 years working in a co-ed residential university college? The short answer is wonderful. While our academic colleagues see them at their studies, we in the residential sector see them at both work and play.

My recollection of the early nineties, when I was first introduced to College life, is of a strong party culture both within the Colleges and the greater University community, with alcohol consumption a (if not the) primary focus. And this was a large part of what was commonly called ‘Tradition’.

If 17 years have taught me anything, it is that ‘Tradition’ is often just a lack of imagination, and the inability to conceive of a new event to take the place of the tired but tested.

Orientation was also very different back in the early days. Freshers were there to be humiliated by Seniors, and expected to acknowledge their lowly status for the year with the promise of a chance to do the same to someone else the following year.

Fortunately, over time, attitudes have changed. Orientation is no longer a dreaded experience, but rather a time when residents are welcomed into what is about to become their new home in an inclusive and convivial manner. The week is crammed full of fun activities, with the guarantee that they will know all their fellow residents by the end of week one.

One of my own favourite highlights is the inter-college dragon boat racing, which sees staff and students paddling furiously for College glory. This sets the tone for a year of inter-college rivalry, not only on the sporting field, but on a variety of stages, including cultural nights, talent shows, and even Master Chef bake-offs. The modern student is nothing if not a competitor.

Although still more than ready to have a good time, our students also seem to focus more on their studies and academic achievement these days. We hear and read so much about the binge drinking culture among young people but I have found that over time this has improved, not worsened.

These days there is an emphasis on Responsible Service of Alcohol training and students now easily recognise a standard drink – no more wine glasses full of port! Residents at Tommy More can all tell you about Pauline’s scale for the safe and sensible consumption of singing syrup.

Once students enter College, they develop a strong sense of community and family. They become part of the College Tribe, and it is in this environment that they forge friendships that last a lifetime. One student was recently heard saying that he felt sorry for all those who don’t get to experience college life.

Much is written these days about the folly of youth, and the unacceptable behaviour that society lays at its door. I can, with all confidence, say that is not true of the ‘Tommy Family’.

Our students have a great zest for life, and a strong sense of social justice and community. Their generosity and enthusiasm seem almost boundless, and reach far beyond the borders of UWA. For example, this December 20 of our residents will travel, self-funded, to Cambodia to do voluntary work in a village and local school.

The memories are countless, but the enduring one I will carry always is of the students themselves, and the absolute joy and happiness that is this wonderful community. I have considered it a privilege to have worked with them, and I am so lucky to have had such a special experience in my life.

Will I miss it? Too right!