Student enterprise goes international

By Lindy Brophy

‘Mama Shujaa’ is on the way to make life better for families living in the slums of Kenya.

The Swahili phrase meaning ‘warrior woman’ is the brand name for small business enterprises that UWA students are helping Kenyan women to set up.

The team from SIFE UWA (Students in Free Enterprise) has taken on its first international project. The team is managing the newest African project for Perth-based charity BE Kids Australia.

BE Kids Australia is an initiative designed to improve the lives of children in the poorest parts of Africa. Calvin Coyles, Strategic director for SIFE UWA, says the rights of women and children are closely linked.

“If we can help their mothers to run successful small businesses, the children and their quality of life will benefit,” he said.

Calvin along with Project Coordinator, Holly Ransom, spent two weeks in Kenya during February, running workshops for a group of 20 women, targeted by BE Kids Australia.

“We have worked with Indigenous people here in WA and we knew that progress would be similarly slow, steady and considered in Africa. But we were amazed how much we – and the women – were able to achieve during our first visit.”

Calvin and Holly ran eight workshops ranging from goal setting and leadership to business planning.

This gave the women, who had previously never received a primary school education, the tools for future business success.

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The Rotary Club of Crawley has supported BE Kids Australia with a $7,000 grant for the Mama Shujaa project.

These funds are to be used to set up and run four different small businesses: a general shop, a fruit and vegetable shop, a taxi service and a hair braiding salon.

“The women will take turns working in the businesses and looking after the children,” Calvin said. “So a child care business may also eventuate.”

The students are now meeting with their mentors in the Business School to plan the next step. “If all goes to plan, the businesses will be up and running by the end of the year,” Calvin said. “The businesses will be branded and recognised as part of the Mama Shujaa Business Hub, which we hope the community will support.”

SIFE is an ongoing international volunteer program in which students learn to set up and run small businesses that benefit the community. The majority of UWA students who are involved are studying in the Business School but the program is not limited to the business field.

“I often quote Will Smith: ‘If you are not making someone’s life better, you’re wasting your time’ and for me that really resonates with what SIFE’s all about,” Calvin said. “All the students involved are so keen to use our skills to help others and I believe that’s why we’ve been so successful.”

SIFE teams compete nationally and internationally and their projects are judged by CEOs from successful businesses. UWA students have been extraordinarily successful, winning the Australian championships three years in a row and competing overseas in the international finals.

Assistant Professor Doina Olaru is the SIFE students’ Faculty Advisor and Dr Donella Caspersz is a regional coordinator for SIFE Australia. They are both in Management and Organisations in the Business School.

The SIFE students thanked them and their key sponsors, the Vice-Chancellor and the Business School.

For more information about the Mama Shujaa project and SIFE UWA please visit sifeuwa.org

Harmonious conversations

Courageous Conversations about Race are opening people’s eyes and ears to prejudices they did not know they were harbouring.

The staff audience at the Harmony Week celebration at the University Club heard a panel of staff and students discuss, among other things, the effects of seemingly harmless words and phrases.

A question such as “Where are you from?” may seem harmless enough but can be hurtful and offensive to somebody who was born in Australia but does not fit traditional European perceptions of the Australian population.

The Conversations program has helped 2,000 UWA staff and students over the past two-and-a-half years to gain a deeper understanding of the issues of race, cultural diversity and community harmony.

Malcolm Fialho, senior diversity officer, has run the program, and its achievements were celebrated on Harmony Day. Conversations has spawned Indigenous Dialogues, another push towards achieving cultural competence among both staff and students.

And complementing these programs is a Cultural Diversity and Inclusive Practice Toolkit. This resource has been available to UWA staff for the past year, but was formally launched by Winthrop Professor Denise Chalmers (Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning) on Harmony Day.

The toolkit supports staff in their interactions with students and colleagues in areas of cultural competence and inclusive practice.

Cultural competence is one of the principles underpinning both the University’s Operational Priorities Plan and New Courses 2012.

Reverend Richard Pengelley moderated a Courageous Conversations about Race panel discussion, with Pippa Worthington (Office of Development), Sade Afuwape (Masters student in Pharmacy), Associate Professor Jenny Bazen (School of Dentistry), Marco Cuevas-Hewitt (PhD student in Social Sciences) and Assistant Professor Clinton Bracknell (School of Indigenous Studies).

Each panellist related a personal experience relating to race or cultural diversity issues and how they had been affected by their experience.

The most moving story came from PhD student Sade Afuwape, who recounted her experience of a lecturer who used a word which was offensive to her. While the lecturer was initially defensive about the issue, he later acknowledged her concerns and demonstrated a willingness to change and learn from the experience.

The panel’s reflections provided an enlightened view, even for the wholly supportive audience.
As the world’s resources are stretched to their limits, Carlos Duarte sees solutions in our oceans.

The new director of the UWA Oceans Institute, Professor Duarte (pictured above) encapsulated his vision: ocean solutions for humanity’s grand challenge.

“That challenge is fast approaching. There will be nine billion people on this planet by 2050 and the world’s capacity to deliver energy, water and food will be severely tested.

“But we can’t sit by and wait for 40 years and then say ‘I told you so’. We need to start doing something now. And the answers lie in the oceans of the world,” he said.

Professor Duarte, one of the world’s leading oceans researchers, said that some scientists believed that we should be looking towards other planets to support human life once we have exhausted this one. “I too think we should go up into space, but not to search for alternatives to Earth. I suggest we look from space to Earth and see how blue our planet is. That blue is the oceans and they are an untapped resource.

“Life itself starts with water. We have to stop turning our backs on the water surrounding us and search for resources that can help us,” he said.

“We are undergoing a shift in human history in the way we relate to our planet. Man first learned thousands of years ago how to harness the resources of the land. Now, in the 21st century, we must learn to harness the resources of the oceans.

“We can’t let this happen serendipitously and we don’t want to repeat the major mistakes our forebears made in unsustainably harvesting resources from the land.”

Professor Duarte said he was deeply frustrated by the things that were going wrong with the world’s oceans. “I am sick of documenting the problems caused by dredging, climate change, pollution, oxygen depletion, over-fishing, the impact of ultra violet light…

“Instead of being a notary of the demise of oceans, I want to deliver solutions. They are solutions that must engage society because they will provide positive outcomes for all people.”

He said the Oceans Institute gave him the capacity to achieve these outcomes. “I am honoured to serve as Director of the Oceans Institute. The mix of disciplines is quite unique in the world and together we have the opportunity to overcome humanity’s greatest challenge.”

Professor Duarte is dividing his time between UWA and the Spanish Council for Scientific Research. His research focuses on the effects of global change in aquatic ecosystems. He is also leading the Malaspina 2010 Expedition, a Spanish circumnavigation of the world’s oceans to examine the impacts of global change on ocean ecosystems and explore their biodiversity.

He will choose a deputy director for the Oceans Institute from among its researchers, to lead the research while he is involved in his Spanish research. “That person will complement my capabilities. We will be stretching our research very broadly and I don’t have all the strengths we need.”

He said his joint appointment would be of benefit both to UWA and to his institute in Spain. “I bring to UWA a huge network of international collaborators, which will exceed the value of six months of my presence here each year.”
Graduates play a vital role in civil society

We are very proud that another of our graduates, Dr Malcolm McCusker AO QC, is to be the next Governor of Western Australia. As the recipient of a UWA Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws and well known for his commitment to championing justice in the community, Dr McCusker is an outstanding choice as Governor.

He will take over in July from His Excellency Dr Ken Michael, also a UWA graduate.

Dr McCusker exemplifies the University’s principle of service to the community. In addition to his legal interests, Dr McCusker has been involved in many community causes and with his wife Tonya (also a UWA Law graduate), he is well-known as a leading philanthropist.

At about the same time as the announcement of Dr McCusker’s appointment, possibly the oldest student to receive a PhD graduated from our University during the latest round of graduations.

Along with Dr Marcia Foley (aged 87) whose PhD thesis concerned mental health issues, more than 3,000 graduands were presented with undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Among them were students from as many as 80 different countries around the world. And their ages ranged from the late teens to Dr Foley’s 87 years.

If ever there was proof that our University is indeed a University for the community – whether that community be local, national or international – this was it.

During a period of heightened international awareness as a result of natural disasters in Japan and increasing tension in North Africa, the Middle East and the Gulf region, universities are more essential than ever before in the history of humankind.

Universities and their graduates will play a vital role in contributing to a civil society. The range of skills and accomplishments represented by our graduates exemplifies the breadth of the University itself, where we are fortunate to have leaders in every field of human endeavour.

Dr Foley’s thesis “From Social Policy to Social Work: the Antecedents and Origins of Mental Health Social Work in Western Australia” will serve as an invaluable record for present and future practitioners aiming to help those people suffering mental illness. And her fellow graduands, from every Faculty, will likewise make positive differences in communities around the world.

Another UWA graduate, former Premier Geoff Gallop, writing recently about the University’s centenary, noted that education is arguably the greatest wealth and wellbeing creator of all. This autumn, our graduation ceremonies celebrate a major milestone for our graduates who are well-placed to add to the wealth and wellbeing of people everywhere.

Local impact on movie gold

After the glitter of the Academy Awards, UWA graduate Shaun Tan has had time to reflect on the influence of UWA on the career that has won him an Oscar.

Artist Len Zuks, who now works in the Facilities Management workshop, had the pleasure of helping hone Shaun’s extraordinary talents in his formative years when Shaun attended gifted and talented arts classes in high school.

“Wow Shaun, what an achievement,” said Len, whose unique raw sculptures have also won him international acclaim.

“Recognition for your quirky and mischievous creative mind. As a student at Balcatta Special Arts Course, you were pretty quiet, but there was a smouldering strong core within you. In the passage of years since, you have released the magic to the world.”

Shaun responded by saying how an award like the Oscar made one pause and reflect on a career history, from childhood to the present.

“It’s a lot to think about: all the disparate influences, from high school art classes with inspiring tutors like Len, UWA academia, and years of pottering about in my parents’ garage,” he said. “At the end of the day, you’re just trying to find the right personal path, but hey, quite unbelievable to find a gold statue suddenly appear in the middle of it!”
Introducing the new Juris Doctor postgraduate degree, growing the Law School’s research output and improving links to the local legal profession are three of the challenges facing new Dean of the Law Faculty, Stuart Kaye.

Winthrop Professor Kaye, an international law expert, joined UWA in July last year from the University of Melbourne, where he was Chair in Law. He took up the position of Dean this month from Winthrop Professor Bill Ford, who is retiring.

With the University due to implement the New Courses from 2012, Professor Kaye will be able to offer valuable insights from his experience at Melbourne University.

“It’s an interesting time to be at UWA. Melbourne has gone through a very similar process so I’ve had the opportunity to see how they’ve approached it,” he said.

Professor Kaye said the new Juris Doctor at UWA reflected an international trend to offer professional degrees at a postgraduate level.

“What I would like to emphasise is that the quality of the program is not going to change. We are changing our structure and logistics but it will not impact on the quality of the professional teaching and staff.”

Professor Kaye said he was very keen to ensure that the Juris Doctor program was going to be a “rip-roaring success”.

“We need to make sure that people understand what we’re trying to do and appreciate that it’s going to be a program that’s going to enhance the student experience through its structure and be beneficial in terms of the maturity our students will have gained.”

Entry to the new course would depend either on a student’s high school results, or based on previous university results, he said.

“Next year we won’t be taking in any first-year law students but we will be offering two new majors in Law and Society and Business Law…and that will keep us busy until our new students start in 2013.”

Another priority for Professor Kaye is to grow the research output of the faculty.

“Promoting the faculty’s research is very much a key thing that I will be focusing on over the next three to four years. It must improve and we must do more to engage with other law schools nationally and internationally to help promote research,” he said.

“I believe we have the resources in place to achieve that. We’ve got great strengths, as a result of recent appointments, in international law.

“We have assets in a number of areas, and with Mark Israel joining us last year we have greater strength in criminology. We also need to build links and undertake interdisciplinary work with other faculties and there are opportunities for that. I’ve already been able to build some links to the Oceans Institute, which is most encouraging.

“Alez Gardner is involved in a large research proposal related to using his skills in environmental law and water law and that’s the kind of link we want to try to grow more of because we can add value to a lot of other UWA research.”

Professor’s Kaye research expertise in international law covers maritime boundaries and offshore oil and gas projects as well as enforcement of law offshore, and law and naval warfare.

He also holds the rank of Commander in the Royal Australian Navy Reserve, serving as a legal officer.

“The Royal Australian Navy has had an academic on its books to provide specialist international law advice since the Vietnam War. I’m there to give international law and constitutional law advice on what a range of operational matters, “ he said.

Another key goal for the Law School was to improve its links to the local legal profession, Professor Kaye said.

“Whatever else the Law School does, we have to continue to produce good lawyers and good relations with the profession to understand its needs and to help our students find opportunities both within WA and the wider world.

“There are some encouraging signs – obviously we have good links to the profession at present so we need to maintain those but looking for great opportunities for collaboration is important.”
Breathing in smoke can lead to flu

Most of the people admitted to hospital after the Kelmscott fires were suffering not from burns, but from smoke inhalation.

Acrolein, a toxic chemical in smoke, was once trialled for chemical warfare, which gives some indication of its devastating effects.

Pharmacologist Phil Burcham has spent several years studying acrolein, its effects and treatment. “Acrolein causes the lungs to be flooded with liquid – it’s one of the worst effects of smoke inhalation,” he said.

Professor Burcham and colleague Professor Peter Henry from the School of Medicine and Pharmacology last year supervised an Honours student, Ferrer Ong, and his research on acrolein.

Ferrer presented his work at a pharmacology meeting in Melbourne recently and won two prizes.

“The ASCEPT meeting is the major annual conference for pharmacologists and toxicologists in Australia,” Professor Burcham said.

“It is very competitive and it is 20 years since a student from UWA has won a prize.”

Ferrer won the Robert Whelan Prize for the best Honours presentation from a field of more than 50 students, then won a special interest group toxicology prize, in which he was competing against PhD students.

His project examined whether people with a one-off exposure to acrolein (such as the victims of a bush or house fire) were more susceptible to respiratory problems such as an influenza viral infection.

“We worked with mice, and two days after exposure to acrolein, we found increased inflammation and mucous in virus-exposed mice,” Ferrer said.

“So my findings supported Professor Henry’s theory.”

Professor Henry extrapolated that, after exposure to smoke, people should take extra precautions to avoid contracting flu.

Professor Burcham is still working on treatments to reduce damage by acrolein.

Ferrer, an international student from Singapore, paid tribute to his supervisors and credited them for his award-winning research. He is now going to work for Professor Paul Foster as a research assistant in his laboratory at the University of Newcastle’s School of Biomedical Science and Pharmacy.

“The Reader’s corner allows graduates to revel in literary news and events, showcase their published work, find out what’s on offer each month from UWA Publishing, link up to reader resources and discuss their latest reading or their own published book with fellow graduates around the world.

To tell us about the book you’re reading, your favourite author, or the book you’ve published sign up to alumniConnect and check out Reader’s corner.

For more information please visit www.ac.uwa.edu.au or email alumniconnect@uwa.edu.au

The University’s Alumni Relations office is calling all bookworms to gather online and visit the new Reader’s corner on alumniConnect.
D’Arcy Holman likes to keep things in the family.

As a young medical student, Professor Holman, who holds UWA’s Chair in Public Health, shared his studies with his mother. Dr Janet Holman was studying Medicine decades after completing a Bachelor of Arts at UWA.

“Janet was in fifth year when I was in first year,” Professor Holman said. “I went forward with great admiration for her capacity for life-long learning and knew that taking on a new and different professional qualification later in life was not something to fear.”

But he did not expect to be studying law at the same time as his step-daughter, Gillian Bailey.

“Just as I inherited a hand-me-down skeleton and stethoscope, so Gill has had a few hand-me-down Law texts,” he said.

Professor Holman graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) with First Class Honours last month from Murdoch University, receiving the Francis Burt Chambers Law Medal for the most outstanding academic performance. His step-daughter graduates this week with a LLB from UWA.

Just as Professor Holman’s mother inspired him, Gill’s family has inspired her. Her father, Stephen Bailey, is a senior corporate lawyer, and her mother, Belinda, married to Professor Holman, was also doing law studies at a graduate certificate level while D’Arcy and her daughter were studying for their LLB.

Professor Holman said he chose to study at Murdoch University because he wanted to keep his life as a student separate from his professional life in the UWA School of Population Health.

“And with Gill studying Law at the same time, and living with us, it was good to avoid the complexities of being in the same classes,” he said.

He took seven years to complete his LLB and he and Gill finished at the same time.

“I don’t intend to seek registration as a legal practitioner,” he said. “But I’ve been using my legal knowledge for several years now, particularly in my work as a director on the board of HBF, as independent chair of the Road Safety Council of WA and in teaching health administration, including health law.”

Professor Holman led the Western Australian Data Linkage System for the first 12 years of its development and his Honours dissertation was on a closely related legal topic, Anonymity and medical research.

Gill has done a lot of work with Legal Aid and native title, including a voluntary position as a paralegal with a desert community. She is now a judge’s associate to Justice Christopher Pullin in the WA Supreme Court of Appeal.

“I’m considering going into insurance law and developing my advocacy skills in the future,” she said. “In the Court of Appeal, I get to see a bit of everything. Eventually, I expect to follow in the family footsteps with further studies.”

This season of autumn graduations is one of the biggest ever at UWA, with 3,137 graduands presented with their degrees. The number includes 97 PhDs, nine professional doctorates and hundreds of Honours, Masters and other graduate degrees conferred.

The 10-night season began on 22 March and will conclude next Monday 11 April.

Continuing the trend, the Bachelor of Commerce has the biggest number of graduating students, 481. With science degrees offered across two faculties, with dozens of different majors, the various Bachelor of Science make up 533 of the total number of graduands. They include degrees in adult sleep science, forensic science, infectious diseases, urban and regional planning, marine and coastal management, and petroleum geoscience.

UWA also swelled the ranks of professionals with 41 dentists, 191 medical doctors, 159 lawyers and 100 teachers graduating.
Bones were very much in the minds of five doctors who took part in The West Australian Great Bike Ride last month.

Winthrop Professor Ming Hao Zheng accompanied two final year medical students and two young graduate doctors on a bone-shaking 240-kilometre cycle to raise awareness of bone and tissue donation.

Professor Zheng is an orthopaedic pathologist whose professional life is focused on bones and all the team were keen to promote the work of the Perth Bone and Tissue Bank, a partner of DonateLife WA.

“Most people are aware that they can donate their organs but not so many know that they can also donate bone and tissue,” Professor Zheng said. “Tissue includes bone, tendons, ligaments, corneas, heart valves and skin. Transplanted corneas are the only cure for blindness so they are a very valuable donation.

“Other tissue, such as heart valves, can substantially reduce the cost of life-saving surgery. Bone grafts enable surgeons to help patients with bone tumours, adolescents with spinal deformities, and those patients requiring complex joint replacement surgery.

“The great thing about bone and tissue donation is that these can be removed from a body up to 36 hours after a person has died and it is not necessary for the donor to have died in hospital.

“Organ donation needs to occur where the death has happened in a hospital, and as soon as possible after death is pronounced. This means that a lot of people who would like to have given their heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and so on, or have given consent for donation of their relatives’ organs, end up being unable to donate them because of the circumstances in which they died,” he said.

“The Bone Bank also has a living donor program whereby patients undergoing hip replacement can donate the ball part of their hip which is removed at the time of surgery.”

The Great Bike Ride is a nine-day cycling and camping holiday around the South-West. But Professor Zheng and the young doctors could spare only three days, and cycled from Manjimup to Margaret River.

Getting to and from their destinations was not a problem as they all rode folding bicycles. They use their bikes for commuting and taking away on conferences and trips. They can be carried on buses and trains and checked in as normal-sized luggage on planes. The latest folding bikes have suspension systems that meant a 240km bike ride on rural roads felt much the same as it would have on a regular bicycle.

Andrew Webster was doing his final year elective unit in China earlier this year when Professor Zheng visited him and they went to a Chinese New Year banquet together.

“There were no taxis outside the hotel after dinner, so we decided to walk back to the hotel and both of us wished we had our bikes,” Andrew said. “Ming Hao told me about his folding bike and I bought one while I was in China.”

His friends Rob Henderson (another final year medical student), Pasqualina Coffey (a doctor in Darwin), and Andrew Baldi (working in NSW) are also fans of the folding bike.

“They are great to take to conferences, so you can get around quickly and easily,” Rob said.

They hope their ride will encourage people to think about bone and tissue donation and to sign onto the Australian Organ Donor Registry either at www.medicareaustralia.gov.au or at their local Medicare office.

To learn more about bone and tissue donation or to donate to research, visit the Bone Bank’s website at www.perthbonebank.com

More information about organ and tissue donation can be found at www.donatelife.gov.au
A 10-metre branch from a towering lemon-scented gum tree came crashing to the ground last month, injuring a student.

An Asian Studies student was walking by the tree near the Reid Library when he heard a crack. He started running, but the branch struck him and broke two bones in his left arm.

David Jamieson, UniGrounds manager, was working nearby and called an ambulance immediately.

Library employee David Thatcher attended with a first aid kit, blanket and pillow to find that two passing students, a nurse and a young man with first aid training, were already looking after the student. Staff from Student Services, Safety and Health, Security and UniGrounds waited with the student for an ambulance to arrive.

“I had no idea what the loud crack was,” said the student. “I thought it might have been a thunderclap, but I just felt that it was the right thing to do to get out into the open, on the grass. I was so lucky.”

Grounds staff quickly cordoned off the tree and removed some more branches, including those from a nearby pine tree that was damaged by the falling branch.

Independent assessors examined the gum tree the following morning. “We appreciate the gravity of what happened, so we are taking a considered approach,” Mr Jamieson said. “We will make a decision on the future of the tree when we have all the facts.”

The tree is believed to be 40 to 50 years old and, along with all the big trees on University properties, it is regularly checked by grounds staff, in an effort to prevent branches falling unexpectedly.

Falling tree branch injures student

A postgraduate Physics student was rewarded for his work at a global meeting of gravitational wave, astronomy and astrophysics experts.

Shaun Hooper (right), whose PhD is supervised by Associate Professor Linqing Wen and Winthrop Professor David Blair, presented his work to the Gravitational Wave Physics and Astronomy Workshop at Milwaukee and won an honourable mention for his poster.

The poster described a new approach to detecting gravitational waves in real time, to enable prompt follow-up observations.

“My goal is to be able to filter the very noisy detector data stream for the presence of known gravitational waveforms in near real time,” he said.

“This will enable fast-moving robotic telescopes such as the Zadko telescope at Gingin, to slew to a position in the sky and observe the rapidly fading electromagnetic counterparts of gravitational wave events.”

Shaun worked on his filter with a team of researchers from UWA and Caltech, in the US.
About 2,500 first year students were faced with mathematics lectures in their first week at University. These are young people studying science, psychology and economics, many of whom did not realise that these fields of study needed a solid grounding in maths.

“Maths is always perceived to be the hardest subject at school. This perception carries through to a tertiary level, where students from many different areas must be equipped with a certain set of skills,” said the University’s first Numeracy Skills Adviser, Adrian Dudek.

“This fear of maths can be overwhelming for some students, and sometimes they need various levels of support to keep them going,” he said.

Adrian has joined the STUDYSmarter team in Student Services, to help these students get a grip on mathematics and, in some cases, to change their attitudes towards maths.

In his first week, Adrian, a UWA Mathematics Honours graduate, was contacted by 30 students and expects to see many more in the next few weeks.

He is running three drop-in study sessions and two workshops each week as well as one-on-one appointments with students who need immediate assistance. Through STUDYSmarter, he is publishing survival guides, workshop notes, podcasts and other online materials.

“It can be hard to study maths on your own, so the drop-in sessions from 10am to 12 noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday provide a place for students to sit down and do their work, knowing that I’m there to help them if they need it,” Adrian said.

His Tuesday afternoon workshops are repeated on Thursday afternoons and he adds new skills to the students’ repertoire each week.

“If you start university without the requisite mathematical skills, it can be a challenge to keep pace with your course,” he said. “It is important to bridge the gap that leads to mathematics at a tertiary level. Sometimes this can be as simple as talking to the students so that they understand what is expected of them.”

Adrian produces worksheets that aim to provide a link between the students’ skills and the lecturers’ worksheets.

“Teachers are under pressure to deliver so much in a curriculum, but I have the time to spend with students, finding a way of explaining and illustrating problems that they can relate to.

“Rather than making myself look smart, I aim to teach in ways that make the student feel smart. You have to give them the enthusiasm and confidence to work independently. It’s about engaging the student rather than just delivering the material. STUDYSmarter aims to develop independent learning.”

With no formal teaching training, Adrian tutored about 50 high school students during his undergraduate days and became the ‘go-to’ man for his fellow university students when they were having problems.

Now, in the University’s Year of Mathematics, his position has been formalised. The Numeracy Skills Advisor is funded by equity funding from the Federal Government.

Adrian is planning to do his PhD in sieve theory in the UK in the near future. “Nobody in Australia teaches or researches in this area, a branch of analytic number theory,” he said.

Staff who would like to know more about the program can contact Adrian on 6488 1289 or at adrian.dudek@uwa.edu.au or check out STUDYSmarter through the Student Services website.
Who owns music and why should you care?

Downloading tunes off the Internet is a simple procedure, but the Intellectual Property and Copyright Law that governs it is very complex.

Professor Anthony Seeger, a leading ethnomusicologist in the field of intellectual property rights and archiving at the University of California Los Angeles, explained the intricacies recently to a diverse audience at UWA, including musical performers, lawyers and librarians.

Professor Seeger, nephew of the legendary folk musician Pete Seeger, used the Woody Guthrie song This Land is Your Land, to illustrate how legal constructions from the 19th century have become a double-edged sword, both protecting and impeding musical creativity.

He highlighted how many groups, including Indigenous people, have been exploited or ignored by this highly Eurocentric capitalist late 19th century view of ownership.

“it was a great coup for UWA to present such a distinguished speaker,” said Professor Jane Davidson, Callaway/Tunley Chair in Music. “Professor Seeger’s discussion was very elegant and stimulated debate on emerging concepts such as voluntary controlled sharing and creative commons licences.

“This is timely, as archives and libraries around the world face times of economic stringency and can benefit from strategies relating to collaboration and co-operation.”

Professor Davidson said UWA’s Callaway Centre Archive would benefit from discussions with Professor Seeger on ways in which the Archive’s collection could be shared with a wider audience.

Graduates full of bright ideas

Three graduates are among 26 Australian Fulbright Scholars for 2011.

Anna Rakoczy, a senior associate in a law firm, is the 2011 Fulbright Western Australia Scholar. She will use her scholarship to complete a Masters in Law at Berkeley Law School.

Her aim is to make practical recommendations regarding the delivery of the Australian Employment Covenant (AEC), a national initiative which plans to place 50,000 Indigenous people into sustainable employment. Since its launch in 2008, Ms Rakoczy has been working with the AEC as its only lawyer.

“If successful, the AEC has the capacity to break the cycles of unemployment, welfare dependency and disadvantage suffered by many Indigenous Australians,” Ms Rakoczy said.

Stephen McAnearney has recently completed Bachelors of Science and Engineering degrees with First Class Honours. He is a Fulbright Postgraduate Scholar and is planning to study for a PhD in the United States, to develop small medical implant devices for cancer detection and monitoring.

“One of the main challenges in minimising the impact of cancer lies in early detection,” Mr McAnearney said. “A new focus in cancer research has been on the monitoring and detection of tumours through devices small enough to fit into the bore of a biopsy needle.”

Gar-Wing Truong is the Fulbright Postgraduate Alumni (WG Walker) Scholar and the Fulbright Telstra Scholar. He will further his Physics PhD research in high-sensitivity measurements of gas properties using a novel optical analysis technique based on laser spectrometry at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland, US.

“This research is of particular significance to Australia, if it is to take the lead in global warming abatement policy and research,” Mr Truong said.

The prestigious Fulbright program is the largest educational scholarship of its kind, created by US Senator J. William Fulbright and the US Government in 1946. Aimed at promoting mutual understanding through educational exchange, it operates between the US and 155 countries.
It is dusk, after a hot summer afternoon in 1973. Les Lauder, the feisty Fremantle community activist, is returning to his home in Ellen Street ... He is in for a shock."

It reads like an exciting mystery novel, but it is the story of the Fremantle Society, and how a group of passionate citizens saved the life of the historic port town.

Fighting for Fremantle is the first joint project of Fremantle husband and wife team Ron and Dianne Davidson, both UWA graduates and former staff members of the University.

Ron is a psychologist who worked in the UWA Department of Psychology for nearly 30 years, after switching from a short career in journalism. Dianne is a historian who also taught at UWA in the late 1970s. Both of them have had previous publications short-listed for the WA Premier’s Book Awards.

Fighting for Fremantle, published by Fremantle Press, is packed full of stories about graduates and staff from UWA who helped save the character-filled port city from the bulldozers which changed the personality of Perth forever.

Current staff member, former Premier and Federal Member for Fremantle, Professor Carmen Lawrence, was an Honours student in Psychology when Ron Davidson first met her.

She features in the book, as does current Premier and member of the Fremantle Society, Colin Barnett, who studied Economics at UWA. Former Geography lecturer and Federal Member for Perth, Ian Alexander, is president of the Society.

The foreword is written by Professor Geoffrey Bolton, who taught Ron English at UWA. Photographer Michal Lewi, whose images feature in the book, is also a UWA graduate. The crowd at the first meeting of the Society included UWA lecturer in architecture, John White, and lecturer in English, Neville Teede. And Les Lauder, the driving force behind the Society and a Fremantle City councillor, is a UWA psychology graduate.

So what was the shock waiting for him back in 1973?

“A red rooster lies headless, in a pool of blood, on the front step. Its message is clear: aggravation is to be stepped up against those opposing the erection of a 16-storey glass tower near the Fremantle Town Hall. The recently-launched action group, the Fremantle Society, is to be targeted.”

Fighting for Fremantle is full of lively anecdotes such as this. The authors saw it all happen first hand and their book is modern history in the making.

It is available from the Fremantle Society (email secretary@fremantlesociety.org.au) for $39.95.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
Associate Professor Jeannette Taylor, Assistant Professor Chun-Yuan Wang, Assistant Professor Masao Kikuchi, Professor Jonathon West, Professor Danny Reyes, Dr Lucy Beh, Professor Chung-an Chen, Professor Evan Berman, Professor Irving Huang, Professor M J Moon, Social and Cultural Studies (School of): ‘Drivers of Government managers’ job productivity in Asia Pacific’— $4,500 (2011)

ARGENTINA PORK LIMITED
Dr Sasha Jenkins, Professor Anthony O’Donnell, Winthrop Professor Lynette Abbott, Earth and Environment (School of): ‘Development of microbial indicators of soil quality to quantify the benefits and risks associated with applying piggy by-products to arable land’— $279,097 (2011-14)

CRC FOR DEEP EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES
Winthrop Professor Arcdya Dyskin, Professor Elena Pasternak, Dr Igor Shufrin, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), Civil and Resource Engineering (School of): ‘Fundamentals of Rock Fragmentation’— $542,777 (2011-13)

CANCER COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Winthrop Professor Yun Lee, Dr Jenette Creaney, Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology (School of): ‘Fibroblast Growth Factor-9: Novel Target for Mesthela’— $90,000 (2011)

CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY EX NHMRC PROJECT GRANT
Professor D’Arcy Holman, Population Health (School of): ‘Policy translation of an Australian evaluation of computed tomography (CT) Scanning’ — $268,000 (2011-13)

GASTROENTEROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
Dr Anita Chuah, Medicine and Pharmacology (School of): ‘Busheil Postdoctoral Research Fellowship The Role of Haem in Colorectal Carcinogenesis’ (2011-13)

GRAINS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Professor William Erskine, Assistant Professor Janine Crosier, Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (Centre for): ‘Visiting Fellowship Award – Dr Monika Lulstorff (UWA) – The application of in vitro techniques to generation acceleration in legumes’ (2011)

GROUP OF EIGHT DAAD GERMAN FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (NRP)
Professor Donald Robertson, Associate Professor Wilhelmina Mulders, Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences (School of), Animal Biology (School of): ‘Molecular Changes in the Central Nervous System Associated with Inner Ear Trauma’ — $186,180 (2011-13)

HEART ASSOCIATION RESEARCH PROGRAM (NRP)
Professor Dr Kim Carter, Child Health (School of): ‘Testing novel rtms stimulation for cerebral palsy: rodent and primate models’— $89,143 (2011-12)

Institute for Child Health Research: NHMRC Practitioner Fellowships (2011-13)

NATIONAL OIL RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Winthrop Professor Bill Giles-Corti, Population Health (School of): ‘Density, housing, equity and open space’— $30,000 (2011)

NEUROTRAUMA RESEARCH PROGRAM (NRP)
Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Dr Rachel Sherrard, Winthrop Professor Sarah Dunlop, Winthrop Professor Alan Harvey, Anatomy and Human Biology (School of), Animal Biology (School of): ‘Optimising Treatment of Secondary Degeneration With 67G/mm Red Light’— $190,842 (2011-12)

Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Dr Rachel Sherrard, Winthrop Professor Sarah Dunlop, Winthrop Professor Alan Harvey, Anatomy and Human Biology (School of), Animal Biology (School of): ‘Optimising magnetic fields to promote repair and recovery from neurotrauma’— $56,000 (2011-12)

Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Dr Bruno Meloni, Animal Biology (School of), Australian Neuronal Research Institute: ‘Testing novel TMS simulation protocols to improve neuroprotection and functional recovery following stroke in large animal models’— $203,583 (2011-12)

Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Dr Kim Carter, Child Health (School of): ‘Role of gene regulation by micro-RNA sequences during central nervous regeneration’— $203,583 (2011-12)

Assistant Professor Jennifer Rodger, Dr Kim Carter, Child Health (School of): ‘Role of gene regulation by micro-RNA sequences during central nervous regeneration’— $203,583 (2011-12)
Research (UWA Centre for), Animal Biology (School of): ‘The role of gene regulation by micro-RNA sequences during central nerve regeneration’ — $203,583 (2011-12)
Dr Stuart Hodgeats, Anatomy and Human Biology (School of): ‘NRIP – Mid-Career Fellowship’ (2011-13)

RETINA AUSTRALIA
Winthrop Professor David Hunt, Winthrop Professor Shaun Collin, Animal Biology (School of): ‘Role of a novel miRNA in the dominant syndromic disorder of macular dystrophy and split hand and foot malformation’ — $30,000 (2011)

RIO TINTO
James Sedman, Social and Cultural Studies (School of)/Rio Tinto Rail Upgrade Harding to Kaoa — $175,310 (2011)

UWA RESEARCH COLLABORATION AWARDS
Dr Monica Gagliano, Animal Biology (School of), International Laboratory of Plant Neurobiology: ‘Good and Bad Neighbours – an Investigation into Plant Electrical Communications’ — $15,000 (2011)
Associate Professor Peta Clode, Professor Jonathan Erez, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: ‘Towards a Mechanistic Understanding of Grain Communication – a Bio Geochemical Approach’ — $15,000 (2011)
Dr Sandra Saunders, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences (School of), Plant Energy Biology (ARC Centre for), Plant Biology (School of), Stanford University: ‘Molecular Mechanisms of Karrin Mode of Action in the Control of Plant Growth’ — $15,000 (2011)
Dr Boris Baer, Plant Energy Biology (ARC Centre for), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology: ‘Evolutionary Proteomics – Understanding Bee Immune Diversity on the Molecular Scale’ — $15,000 (2011)
Dr Aleksandra Filippova, Professor John Mattick, Dr Tim Mercer, Medical Research (UWA Centre for), University of Queensland: ‘A Complete Map of the Human Mitochondrial Transcriptome’ — $10,000 (2011)
Winthrop Professor Jane Davidson, Andrea Embery, Music (School of), University of Washington, Indiana University, University of California, Berkeley: ‘Developing the Research Potential and Practices of the Callaway Centre Archive Through International Archival Collaborations’ — $15,000 (2011)

Winthrop Professor Jane Davidson, Andrea Embery, Music (School of), University of Sydney, Australian National University, University of Melbourne, University of Washington: ‘The Music We Live By – Developing Musical Arts Education for Remote Indigenous Australians’ — $18,000 (2011)
Assistant Professor Tuan Phan, Dentistry (School of)/Oral Health Centre, Nanjing University, University of Leeds: ‘Tissue Regeneration in Oral Health’ — $15,000 (2011)
Dr John Fitzpatrick, Animal Biology (School of), Uppsala University: ‘Genital Evolution in Mammals’ — $9,500 (2011)
Winthrop Professor Jacqueline Fritsch, Associate Professor Alison Reid, Professor Kristian Aronson, Medical Research (UWA Centre for), Queens University (Ontario): ‘Consolidating a Collaboration on Shiftwork and Cancer’ — $10,000 (2011)
Winthrop Professor David Lloyd, Assistant Professor Jonas Rubenson, Sport Science, Exercise and Health (School of), Stanford University, University of Queensland, University of Auckland, Griffith University: ‘Creating Human Subject Specific Neuromuscular Skeletal Models’ — $16,000 (2011)
Assistant Professor Richard Van der Waath, Computer Science and Software Engineering (School of), University of Cambridge: ‘Bayesian Analysis of DNA Samples in Gene Doping Detection’ — $11,000 (2011)
Winthrop Professor Daniel Green, Sport Science, Exercise and Health (School of), University of Oxford: ‘Does Stimulation of Deep Brain Nuclei Using Implanted Electrodes Modify Arterial Function and the Control of Blood Pressure’ — $10,500 (2011)
Winthrop Professor Sarah Dunlop, Dr Killuigedi Swaminatha Iyer, Assistant Professor Lindy Fitzgerald, Winthrop Professor Alan Harvey, Animal Biology (School of), Stanford University, University of Cambridge: ‘Nano technology for Neural Repair – Stabilisation and Delivery of Therapeutic Enzymes’ — $15,000 (2011)
Winthrop Professor Karl Miller, Associate Professor Adam Wittek, Mechanical and Chemical Engineering (School of), Swiss Federal Institute of Technology: ‘Biomechanical Modelling of Brain Diseases’ — $10,000 (2011)
Winthrop Professor David Mackey, Dr Cathy Williams, Dr Jeremy Guggenheimer, Ophthalmology and Visual Science (Centre for), University of Bristol, Cardiff University: ‘Comparisons and Mutual Replication Studies Between ASLPHC and Raine Eye Health Study Using Vision Related Data’ — $11,000 (2011)
Associate Professor Martin Forsey, Professor Matthew Tonit, Assistant Professor Elaine Sharpin, Professor Carl Bagley, Social and Cultural Studies (School of), Earth and Environment (School of), Faculty of Education, University of Durham: ‘Schools and Sustainable Rural Communities – International Perspectives’ — $9,000 (2011)
Professor Andreas Wicenek, Associate Professor Paul Bourke, Physics (School of), University of California, Davis: ‘Interactive Volume Visualization and Geochemical Approach’ — $15,000 (2011)
Assistant Professor Paul Bourke, Professor Andreas Wicenek, Physics (School of), University of California, Davis: ‘Does Stimulation of Deep Brain Nuclei Using Implanted Electrodes Modify Arterial Function and the Control of Blood Pressure’ — $10,500 (2011)

UWA NEWS classified
Visualisation of Astrophysical Simulations and Image Spectral Data Cubes from Radio Astronomy Observations — $9,900 (2011)

Professor Hans-Gerhard Meurer, Dr Tobias Westmeier, Physics (School of), Johns Hopkins University, University of Cape Town: ‘Multi Wavelength Studies of Large Galaxies’ — $15,000 (2011)

Winthrop Professor Caroline Baillie, Environmental Systems Engineering (School of), University of Oxford: ‘International Engineering Thresholds’ — $15,000 (2011)

Dr Thomas Wemborg, Winthrop Professor Gary Kendrick, Professor John Bolton, A/Professor Robert Anderson, Plant Biology (School of), University of Cape Town, Dept of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries: ‘SHARC: Southern Hemisphere Algal Research Coalition’ — $17,000 (2011)

Associate Professor Kerrie Unsworth, Winthrop Professor David Morrison, Psychology (School of), UWA Business School, Griffith University, Queens University (Ontario), Nanjing University, University of Leeds: "GOing Your Organisation – Building Collaborations with an International WUN Network of Green Behavioural Scholars" — $12,000 (2011)

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE EX DEEWIR AUSTRALIAN INDIA INSTITUTE
Dr Michael Gillan, UWA Business School: ‘India and the Age of Crisis — The Local Politics of Global Economic and Ecological Fragility’ — $20,000 (2011)

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG EX ARC LIEF
Professor Sirimon Treepongkaruna, UWA Business School: ‘Financial Crises, Volatility and Sovereign Ratings: Do Ratings Really Matter When They Are Needed Most?’ — $40,000 (2011-12)

WA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD (DAFWA)
Professor Neil Coles, Ecoscology (AFWA Centre for): ‘Development of Hydr implicit tool to consolidate Water Quality and Bore Site Metadata from MS Excel spreadsheets and MS Access databases’ — $40,000 (2011)

WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION HEALTHWAY – HEALTH PROMOTION RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS
Assistant Professor Lisa Wood, Population Health (School of): ‘Promoting Mental Health and Social Connectedness Through the Built Environment and Community Environments and Settings’ (2011-13)

WATER CORPORATION WA
Associate Professor Anas Ghadouani, Environmental Systems Engineering (School of): ‘The Stude Profiling Project Part II — $30,000 (2011)

WOUND MANAGEMENT INNOVATION CRC
Assistant Professor Hilary Wallace, Winthrop Professor Michael Stacey, Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood, Surgery (School of): ‘Genetic markers of susceptibility of chronic wounds and hypertrophic scarring’ — $499,279 (2010-15)

NEW STAFF
24 Feb to 23 Mar 2011
Dr Prarthana Abeyweera, Lecturer, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences
Marim Ahmad, Dental Clinic Assistant, Oral Health Centre of WA
Dr Rafitza Alexova, Super Science Fellow, ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Energy Biology
Janine Blackstock, Senior Graphic Designer, UniPrint
Dr Amanda Bowan, Associate Professor, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Dr Petra Buergelt, Research Associate, Psychology
Renee Carey, Project Officer, Centre for Medical Research
Rowena Cheng, Injury Management Consultant, Human Resources
Dr Tina Choo, Associate Professor, Dentistry
Wagner de Moura, Library Officer, Library
John Dobosz, IT Support Officer, Information Technology Services (ITS)
Andrew Duirs, Senior Counsellor, Student Services
Roland Farrelly, Technician, Physics
Suria Fernandez, Administrative Assistant, UWA Business School
Jessica Gordon, Administrative Assistant, Public Affairs and Office of Development
Emma Greeney, Administrative Officer, Student Services
Christian Jack, Plumber, Facilities Management — Maintenance Workshop
Samuel Kelly, Research Associate, Vice-Chancellor
Christina LeVaillant, Research Associate, Anatomy and Human Biology
Heurtin McCarthy, Co-Ordinator, Student Services
Karen Mitchell, Client Services Assistant, Student Services
Tam Nguyen, Technician, Physics
Bernard O’Hara, Assistant Professor, School of Indigenous Studies
Tracy Parker, Strategic Analyst, UWA Business School
Dr Timothy Perkins, Research Assistant Professor, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences
Research Associate Professor Christopher Power, Research Associate Professor, Physics
Laura Shearwood, Research Assistant, Population Health

Adrian Walker, Assistant Professor Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care
Stephen Wallace, Senior Electronics Technician, Coffs Harbour System
Dr Thomas Wallis, Research Associate, Psychology
Debbie Williamson, Library Officer, Library
Raheela Zahir, Research Assistant Professor, School of Earth and Environment

CLASSIFIEDS
HOME EXCHANGE
HOUSE SWAP/OXFORD UK: Academic visitors to UWA seek house swap or rental in the Perth/Fremantle region for a 6 week period from Nov-mid Dec 2011. Our house in Oxford has one double and one single bedroom, two bathrooms, and is 10 minutes walk from town centre. Car swap also possible. References and further details available on request. For more information email: dorothy.bishop@psy.ox.ac.uk

ACCOMMODATION
FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2011: Visiting fellow Professor Terry Walter wanting to rent a furnished two-bedroom home or apartment during a study leave at UWA. Preferably within walking (or public transport) distance of the university. Must be clean, well-appointed and attractive. Would be an ideal tenancy for the fussy and proud homeowner. Email contact terry.walter@uts.edu.au

TO LET
QUINDALUP: A charming, recently renovated, fully self-contained redbrick cottage only 400m from beautiful Geographe Bay and 2km from Dunsborough township. Located at the end of a private road, this cottage offers privacy and security, a lovely natural vista out over Toby Inlet Reserve, and is a great cottage for all seasons. Please go to www.quindalup.net.au for further information.

COMO: Fully furnished, 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom house in Como, 15 mins drive from UWA. For 1 year in first instance, starting March 2011, $550 per week, excluding utilities. Contact: vruOptionsResolvers1948@gmail.com

IN A CAMPUS EMERGENCY
DIAL 2222
Friends of the Library
Tuesday 12 April 2011 at 7.30pm
The University of Western Australia Science Library
Meeting Room – Third Floor
Recording and Records in the Roman Empire
Professor David Kennedy

The Romans did not invent record keeping but they extended and developed it to a remarkable degree. Many millions of individual documents were generated on every topic from simple receipts through private letters to census returns. Although most have been lost irrevocably, millions still survive as an invaluable source for the Roman world.

Professor Kennedy will look at what was recorded and how, what survives and what it was for.

Free for members — $5 for non-members
For information contact: 6488 2356

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Disasters highlight what is really important

At the end of a summer marked by natural disasters, UWA’s Jeff Pollard reflects on the one that most affected him.

Sitting on my verandah enjoying lunch in the Kelmscott Hills a few Sundays ago I noticed a distinct smell of burning in the air.

The wind was howling around, spreading a large pall of smoke in every direction. I decided to take a stroll across the road and see if I could determine where it was coming from.

Imagine my alarm when I found some neighbours in the process of packing their belongings into their trailer and heading off. I thought it might be a good idea to check the FESA website and see if there were any fire warnings for my area.

There was one which told me to evacuate my property or prepare to defend it. As this was the standard warning I wasn’t too concerned but I started to accumulate a few things just in case. On my way out the drive I met my wife and daughter returning from the Kalamunda markets. My daughter had been trying to get back to her house on the other side of Brookton Highway but had been stopped by a road block.

Grabbing our dog Louie we decided to head for my mother-in-law’s apartment in Gosnells. She is in her nineties and has a one-bedroom flat.

The next two nights were spent listening to the radio news, watching the television and sleeping on the floor. We watched the fires on TV.

My daughter saw a house burning and said that it looked just like the one at the end of her road. I reassured her that a lot of houses looked like that in the hills and I was sure her house was safe.

Unfortunately I was wrong.

The next day’s papers had an aerial photograph of a block of houses and we could see her house with the car still in the drive. It was just a pile of ash. The day after that there was a full size photograph of what was left of the car and house and some SES guys clearing up around it.

Meanwhile I was frantically dialing the answering machine at my house to see if it would pick up. Luckily it did. If we still had power and a telephone line I was convinced there was a home to go back to.

We attended the meetings at the Armadale Recreation Centre to find out who were the lucky ones who still had their homes. Our house wasn’t listed as destroyed but unfortunately my daughter lost everything.

We were allowed back to our home a few days later. The house across the way has gone, along with another three within 50 metres of us. The bush opposite is a burnt-out mess.

The funny thing is that when I listened to the messages on my answering machine there was an early one from a friend of ours asking me if I was burning the toast again. If only that had been true.

My daughter is now living with us until she gets back on her feet again. I guess my message to everybody reading this is that possessions are just that and can be gone in an instant. Value your family and friends: they are what’s important.