Bright yellow balloons and T-shirts, a flash mob and a Lip Dub with 120 students – and a horse – welcomed in UWA's second century.

After the official announcement of Australia's biggest philanthropic gift to kick off the New Century Campaign, the packed media conference and the glittering dinner in Winthrop Hall with the Prime Minister, the Governor and the Premier, this was the campus community launch.

And the clouds rolled away for hundreds of staff and students to hear the Guild President, the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor, and to enjoy the entertainment and lunch in the Great Court.

The New Century Campaign could not have had a better launch than the announcement of the Forrest Foundation.

Media saturation has ensured that most people know mining magnate Andrew Forrest and his wife Nicola, via the Forrest Family Foundation, have given an extraordinary $65 million over 10 years for higher education.

Although $50 million is going into a pool to be shared among WA's five universities, the Foundation will be administered by UWA and, given that UWA currently receives about 80 per cent of the competitive research funding allocated to WA, it is expected that most Forrest Scholars and Forrest Fellows will be here in our University.

continued on page 2
Brilliant start to the next century  continued from page 1

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, said that $100 million of the $400 million would go to support students, to open up opportunities, especially for students from regional and rural WA and those for whom financial hardship might prevent a University education.

“You are the future of WA and this nation and we want you to realise your potential,” he told students at the launch.

“Join this campaign and be part of creating the future.”

The first recipients are expected to start at UWA next year.
The Foundation will build up to funding a constant and constantly renewing community of 25 PhD Scholars and six post-doctoral Fellows.

Their home, Forrest Hall, will be a $15 million residential and research centre, built near and affiliated with St George’s College.

While UWA faculties have been touring the State this year as part of the UWA Gives Back Centenary program, the New Century Campaign has been building, starting with this spectacular example of UWA graduate Andrew Forrest giving back.

But the Forrest Foundation is just the start of a campaign to raise $400 million.

As Chancellor Dr Michael Chaney told staff and students at the campus launch, $180 million of that has already been raised by the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. “I have made a personal commitment because my time here, my two degrees from UWA, set me up for the rest of my life,” he said.

Philanthropy doesn’t have to mean just giving money. You can donate your time, your expertise … even your blood.

The Christmas and summer holiday period always puts pressure on blood supplies, as more people party and travel and more accident victims need blood donations.

Chris Leighton, information architect in the University Website Office, has been donating blood just before Christmas for the past few years and he urges other UWA staff to join him.

“We are usually given a paid half-day off on the last working day before Christmas, and I think that’s a great time to think about doing something for others, rather than becoming too caught up in all the last-minute shopping and celebrating,” he said. “I go to the donor centre in the city but there are lots of different centres where you can donate.

“I’ve been taking that opportunity, and I’ve noticed a few UWA staff do the same.

“If this large organisation is good enough to give us all half a day off, we should put it to good use.”

You can find out all about donating blood, see if you are eligible, become a donor and make an appointment online. Type Red Cross blood donation Perth into your search engine or call the Red Cross on 13 95 96 and join Chris to give a very special gift this year.

(The half day off before Christmas is at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor.)

Become a blood buddy
Unless they live in isolation from other children and technology, Generation Z will want to play video games at some stage in their lives.

So investigators from health promotion and sport science are working towards developing a system to rate active video games to help parents make informed choices about the games their kids play.

“Our over-riding philosophy is that we’d prefer to see kids out in the park,” said Associate Professor Michael Rosenberg from the Health Promotion Evaluation Unit in the School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health.

“We’d like to see them really throwing a ball instead of pretending to throw one. It’s not only better exercise but also better for socialising and interacting with other people.

“But kids want these games and the consoles they play them on. The games are promoted as being active, but sometimes it’s hard to tell the level of activity, so the best thing we can do is to provide a health rating system so parents and grandparents can choose games based upon independent analysis of the potential health benefits,” he said.

More than 200 upper primary school children have been monitored playing 15 active games across three genres over the past couple of years. There is an active video gaming lounge set up in Sport Science and the research team also takes a fully-equipped van to primary schools during term time, visiting two different schools several times each semester.

A/Professor Rosenberg said they had tested sports, dance and adventure games, that involve children using their bodies to dodge and move through different settings and scenarios.

They are rated by the amount of energy the player uses; the type of movements they use; and the socialisation associated with each game.

“Part of the socialisation rating is based on how violent the game is,” he said. “We do not support violence in games, so any game in which the purpose is to hurt an opponent (virtually) is rated very low, which includes sports such as boxing and martial arts.”

The research group won one of Healthway’s biggest research-into-translation grants: $750,000 over five years. The research work will start to be translated to a publically available rating system next year.

“We plan to set up a website and a smart phone app so parents can use it while they’re shopping to make the most informed choices,” A/Professor Rosenberg said.

“Most games reward players for a movement which may not be much like the ‘real’ movement in say, throwing, hitting a ball or jumping. Kids very quickly learn how to move in ways that are rewarded in the game, even if the movement is different from what they would do in real life.

“We found that a sensor was a very powerful tool to help objectively measure children’s movement. In the same way that the sensor captures movement and incorporates it into the game, we can use the data to determine how often and how well children move.”

Two Microsoft Kinect sensors are set up at the side of each games console in the gaming lounge to capture a skeletal image of the player, which allows the research team to see exactly what movements are being employed during gameplay.

“It objectively assesses the kids’ movement skills, something that we were unable to do so easily when we first received the grant,” Professor Rosenberg said.

Included in their research grant is funding for a small community campaign linking with the Heart Foundation and the Cancer Council to promote the rating system.
Our University will become a hub for breakthrough research and solutions to the greatest challenges facing the State, the nation and the world, thanks in part to an act of inspirational generosity.

Andrew and Nicola Forrest’s $65 million donation – believed to be the biggest philanthropic gift in Australian history – provided a marvellous boost to our New Century Campaign, a campaign which will help to ensure that in the next 100 years UWA can contribute even more towards making ours a ‘smart State’.

For 1983 UWA economics graduate and chairman of Fortescue Metals Group Ltd, Andrew Forrest, our University is a special place – an excellent example of what universities can grow to.

His Forrest Foundation – inspired by the successful Rhodes and Gates Cambridge scholarships and administered by UWA – will attract the world’s best minds to the State, leading to an ongoing rollout of success.

As Andrew said, when academic excellence is added to any economy, the benefits are returned manifold.

The Foundation will enable us to teach and attract the most productive local and international minds for the betterment of Australia and the world.

The Forrests’ extraordinary contribution echoes the foresight of Sir John Winthrop Hackett who founded our University 100 years ago with almost $40 million in today’s money.

The announcement of the Forrest gift coincided with the start of our $400 million fundraising campaign at a gala dinner attended by Prime Minister Tony Abbott, the Premier Colin Barnett and the Governor Malcolm McCusker.

The campaign, with the slogan Create the future, has some important aims.

One is the provision of student scholarships, along with financial support to ensure broad-based access to our University for young people from around the State and beyond.

Another is the creation of new research chairs, postdoctoral fellowships and a research endowment fund to support world-class exploration and innovation.

We are also about to share a bold vision for a new Indigenous cultures museum earmarked for the northwest corner of the campus. It is being planned to provide access to the acclaimed Berndt Collection of Aboriginal art and artefacts, and will also house the prestigious Centre for Rock Art Research and Management.

And we have plans for cutting-edge infrastructure for interdisciplinary and applied solutions in a new UWA Engineering Zone.

I hope many of you will be part of our New Century Campaign so that, together, we will create the future.

We have a great opportunity in our hands – to invest in inquiring minds and to transform lives through education. We have the opportunity to invest in academic leadership and to collaborate with the world’s best.

Together we can tackle the problems faced by people everywhere – from feeding the world, to cleaner energy supplies, to better health and medical care.

Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

New SDVC named

The gender balance of UWA’s executive will get a boost with the new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

Professor Dawn Freshwater, currently at the University of Leeds, will take up her new position as SDVC towards the end of March next year.

Her appointment was made after an international search to find a replacement for Professor Bill Louden who retires at the end of this year.

At present, Professor Freshwater is the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Organisational Effectiveness at the University of Leeds.

She is responsible for leading organisational change and academic planning and performance.

She has been a key contributor to the Leeds international strategy, working with the British Council in Asia, and through WUN.

She has led the development of an equality and inclusion strategy and staff development framework. She has also spent four years on the Council of Deans for Health UK while serving as Head of the School of Healthcare.

Professor Freshwater has spent nine years as editor of the International Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing.

She is also the co-editor of the International Journal of Mixed Methods Research.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Paul Johnson, describes the new SDVC as a distinguished, internationally recognised researcher in mental health, with a significant international track record.

“Dawn has previously spent a good amount of time in Perth and already has a working relationship with colleagues in UWA,” he said.

“She will be an extremely valuable addition to the University’s leadership team and I look forward to welcoming her back to Perth.”

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“She will be an extremely valuable addition to the University’s leadership team and I look forward to welcoming her back to Perth.”
Professor Blair and his colleagues have been testing that theory with 11-year-old and 16-year-old students. A program with children from Rosalie Primary School proved they could cope with physics thought too hard for children to grasp.

“We explored the history of ideas about space from Pythagoras to Newton to Einstein. We discussed the meaning of a straight line and learnt that the path of a light beam is the only arbiter we have for straightness.

“The students drew triangles and traced the paths of parallel lines on balloons. They saw that some of the Euclidean concepts that they had already learnt were only true if space was flat.”

Professor Blair said that our modern understanding of the universe was based on two theories of physics developed by Einstein – the theory of gravity, called General Relativity, and the theory of particle interactions called Quantum Mechanics.

“We owe it to our children to teach our best understanding of reality instead of false ideas. It’s 90 years since we knew definitively that space is curved: surely this is long enough for schools to catch up.”

Professor Blair said his experiment with the children showed that 11-year-old brains could easily assimilate these new ideas, often better than older brains could. And his PhD student found the same with Year 11 students at Shenton College when he taught them about quantum mechanics.

“But we are not setting a high bar here – we are not trying to turn pupils into young physics geniuses. The curriculum material and videos in our programs show that you don’t have to be a physics boffin to understand the world.

“Later they can learn that the classical ways are useful approximations. But for now, we are simply taking the trouble to find appropriate and fun ways to introduce students to the real world of physics.”

Half Centenary for Einstein advocate

Fifty years ago this month, physicist David Blair gave his first lecture in UWA’s Ross Lecture Theatre.

He was just 16 years old and the winner of the Science Teachers’ Association Talent Search. He spoke to science teachers and family members for 10 minutes about his winning project, the design of a robot.

Half a century later, Winthrop Professor Blair is still delivering lectures in the Ross LT – and he is still pushing the boundaries of science, as he did with a robot in 1963.

“I’ve come full circle in those 50 years,” said the eminent researcher, lecturer and Director of the Australian International Gravitational Research Centre.

He has come from a school boy being honoured by his teachers, to a teacher who is honouring school students with having more aptitude for physics than their education system believes.

One of the many projects that have been occupying the great mind of Professor Blair in recent years is the teaching of Einsteinian theory to young people.

He recently wrote in The Conversation: “School students today are taught physics based on obsolete theories and outmoded ways of thinking. Instead of the truth, most learn a naive simplification – the 300 year-old Newtonian physics, itself based on disproved 2,300 year-old Euclidean geometry.

“The thinking has long been that one can’t learn the truth without first learning the old theories as a foundation. Only a select few go on and learn the correct theories at university.”
The three Rs in scientific research have nothing to do with reading, (w)riting and (a)rithmetic.

They refer to reduction, replacement and refinement in animal-based research work.

And research associate Tracy Mann has won a boost in research funds with the 3Rs Animal Ethics Award for 2013.

Mrs Mann and Professor Peter Henry in the Pharmacology, Pharmacy and Anaesthesiology Unit of the School of Medicine and Pharmacology were awarded $5,000 to supplement their research into the prevention of influenza.

They take extremely good care of their laboratory mice and are committed to the three Rs.

Presenting them with their award, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robyn Owens, said that Mrs Mann and Professor Henry had reduced animal usage by a staggering 81 per cent without compromising the strength of their data.

“This reduction was due to careful refinement of experiments as data from progressive studies was analysed, and through the combination of three impressive measures,” she said.

First, they reduce the number of mice used with a highly methodical approach to selecting the most relevant target receptor. This resulted in specific knock-out mice being imported from Melbourne, and a collaboration being established with renowned neuroscientist Professor Xinzhong Dong at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, where Mrs Mann worked on an additional knock-out model.

The team also developed a novel ex-vivo system which enabled them to maintain viable mouse tracheas for four days after euthanasia.

“This innovative system allowed them to study the effects of Influenza A infection, and its prevention, in the tissue of most relevance (the trachea) without subjecting whole mice to the unpleasant systemic effects of having the flu,” Professor Owens said.

Finally, human ethics approval was obtained from The Mount Hospital and from Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital so the researchers could use fresh human lung tissue, superfluous to pathologists needs, from patients undergoing surgical lung resection.

Their project is studying the hexapeptide SLIGRL-amide and how it prevents Influenza A infection by activating antiviral pathways in the host. A hexapeptide is a compound made of a string of six amino acids.

The team and their project was selected by the Animal Ethics Committee based on impressive forward-thinking strategies and innovative experimental design which allowed them to collect conclusive, solid data while demonstrating a strong commitment to the three Rs.

They are now investigating whether or not SLIGRL-amide can also prevent Influenza A infection in human airways and if so, if this protection could extend to other respiratory tract viruses that cause so much havoc in the wider community.

Mrs Mann said that linked to the award was the Unit’s responsible conduct in learning and research, implemented by Associate Professor Lynette Fernandes.

“This approach is embedded in the pharmacology undergraduate curriculum right through to Honours level,” Mrs Mann said.

“Students are exposed to a variety of ethical issues including the use of animals in research and teaching. This content has been well received by students and staff alike and is felt to be an important part of training the next generation of biomedical scientists.

“In this light, it is particularly pleasing to receive acknowledgment of the commitment of Pharmacology researchers to the three Rs.”
A little preposition can make a big difference.

French students can be either students FROM France or students OF French. And they are very different.

In an innovative project in European Languages and Studies, French language students are getting help with their conversational skills from French exchange students, studying in a variety of disciplines at UWA.

They have learned more than just the correct use of prepositions.

Students from one of the five groups in the pilot project all said their conversational skills had improved after spending a session a week with a French national.

The project, developed with a Teaching and Learning Fellowship by Sabine Kuuse and Associate Professor Bonnie Thomas, aims to reinforce the University’s internationalisation policy, celebrate cultural diversity and create for the students a learning community.

“I thought it would be a good idea to bring together local and international students to improve their cultural, language and conversational skills,” Sabine said. “And we think it has worked really well.”

With the help of Study Abroad, they recruited five French students on exchange at UWA this semester. They came from different disciplines and universities in France: Sciences Po Paris, Sciences Po Grenoble, Sciences Po Lille, ESSEC Paris and Business School Dijon.

After training workshops, five intercultural and conversational classes per week were offered to first and second year students of French. “These sessions were offered on different days and times to accommodate as many students as possible and ran for 10 weeks. The response was very positive: more than 50 local students participated and benefited from this opportunity,” Sabine said.

“During the sessions, French exchange students had the opportunity of sharing their culture and language with our local students in an informal and friendly environment. In return, our local students provided an invaluable source for new friendship and cultural and language assistance for the students from France.”

Both local and French students said they could see great improvement in their language skills, confidence in speaking and intercultural understanding and competence.

Anna-Marie Machabee, a native of Montreal whose family now lives in Perth, is planning to return to Quebec when she graduates to teach English and literature. Penda Namundjebo hopes to study medicine and work in humanitarian projects in developing African countries where French is the local language. Both of them said the conversation class had been a boon.

“We are hoping to extend this pilot project to other languages and faculties next year and to foster a better intercultural education and a true spirit of internationalisation on our multi-cultural campus,” Sabine said.
Champions of simple language will often say there is no need for formality other than in legal documents.

The good news for fans of plain English is that even the lawyers are now pursuing this all-but-lost art.

Five final-year Law students have scooped the prize pool in the Law Society of Western Australia’s Plain English Drafting Competition, taking out five of the six prizes.

The annual competition requires students to draft a letter of advice to a fictional client using plain English, and was judged by senior representatives from some of Perth’s leading law firms.

The competition winners were all enrolled in the Law unit Commercial Practice in first semester where they learnt the importance of clear and precise use of language and honed their letter writing techniques.

Commercial Practice is coordinated by UWA graduate and recently retired Supreme Court Justice the Honourable Narelle Johnson QC, with Faculty teaching award winner Assistant Professor Tracey Atkins.

“Plain English drafting focuses on the use of clear, precise language which is appropriate to the reader. A client letter or legal document written in plain English should state complex information clearly, without unnecessary jargon,” A/Professor Atkins said.

Ms Johnson said the use of plain English language meant that all the documentation necessary to the legal system could be more easily understood.

“The necessary clarity and precision is better achieved by plain English than with jargon, complex and repetitive language and overly long sentences. These devices simply distance members of the community from a system intended for their benefit,” she said.

“University students need not be taught to write in plain English. They simply need to be encouraged to use it and to avoid the trap of using language which only legal practitioners can read or understand.”

The winning students agree. “People definitely expect you to write in an overblown way,” said Kate Galea. “I much prefer writing plain English to using jargon,” said Danielle Atlas.

“Young lawyers often want to show people how clever they are when they first graduate, to they use all the words they’ve learned at University,” A/Professor Atkins said.

“They end up with correspondence and documents that nobody understands.

“The success of our students in this competition illustrates well the strengths of the UWA Law School – outstanding student achievement, opportunities within the curriculum to combine both theoretical and practical skills, recognition by the profession of the quality of our graduates and teaching by eminent members of the legal profession.”
An optical lattice atomic clock doesn’t actually go tick tock at all.

It doesn’t even look like a clock, at least, not to most people. To ARC Future Fellow, Associate Professor John McFerran, it looks like the future.

The Yb lattice clock UWA is currently building has such an increased capacity for accuracy that it makes a normal atomic clock look like a sundial.

The field of optical atomic clocks is responsible for some of the astounding developments in technology that we take for granted. These include GPS and satellites as well as various telecommunication systems.

But if Professor McFerran has his way, optical atomic clocks will also be used to test the fundamental laws of physics.

After spending several years overseas, he has returned to the lab where his work began in the School of Physics.

He earned his PhD in the field of optical frequency synthesis at UWA in 2003, and worked across the globe from Boulder, Colorado to Paris, France.

In 2011 Professor McFerran won an ARC Future Fellowship and returned to UWA. He is now working to build a Yb lattice clock by 2016.

That’s the deadline for researchers all over the world if they want to participate in ACES, the Atomic Clock Ensemble in Space. Funding for the UWA Yb lattice clock project and link to ACES comes through an ARC Linkage, Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities grant, led by Professor Michael Tobar.

According to the European Space Agency (ESA) the goals of its ACES program are to probe our knowledge of the fundamental laws of physics governing the Universe and to perform space-to-ground and ground-to-ground comparisons of best available atomic frequency standards.

The program is being run primarily by the ESA along with the French Space Agency (CNES). They will send two atomic clocks to the International Space Station. These clocks will be used to test which atomic clocks on the ground have the most constant ticking rates (set by the cycles of laser light set in tune with resonances inside atoms). It is part of a worldwide consortium searching for the most suitable clock (or clocks) that will most likely one day redefine the unit of time, the second.

Professor McFerran is also interested in another side of ACES; testing the fundamental laws of physics, for example, by searching for present day variations in certain fundamental constants.

Fundamental constants are numbers that set the scene for how our Universe behaves and evolves. It is assumed that they are constant, however there are theories to suggest that the fundamental constants may be susceptible to very slight variations. “A discovery like this would shake up the world of physics,” Professor McFerran said. “It would represent a key characteristic of our universe and another piece in the jigsaw for theorists to grapple with.”

Professor McFerran is working with PhD scholar, Nikita Kostylev, to ensure that the Yb lattice clock is finished in time to participate in ACES, and other space-clock missions.
Physics made practical and pleasurable

“I loved all the lectures. PAY HIM MORE!!! He was able to pass on his love of physics to his students. Change nothing, never fire this guy, he is UWA’s greatest asset.”

This comment from a first year student in a SPOT survey a few years ago says it all. It explains why Associate Professor Peter Hammond has won an OLT teaching award for “sustained, inspirational and enthusiastic teaching illuminating the real world relevance of quantum physics and inculcating a love of science across all year levels.”

He has received 5,337 SPOT (Student Perceptions Of Teaching) reports in the 12 years since he arrived at UWA from Manchester, UK.

“That’s an awful lot of people you’ve influenced,” he said. “When you stand in front of a class, you really are in a privileged position of influence and you can either encourage or discourage the students.

“Being a scientist, I went through the SPOT surveys and analysed them and made them into graphs,” he laughed. All the graphs are top-heavy with positive comments.

“But you also get a good idea of what students don’t like. And at one stage, I suspected they were less keen on Power Point presentations and very professional stylised lectures. So I started writing on paper during the lecture, and projecting it onto a screen. They can see me working things out – and they love it when I stuff up! It keeps them alert, and they can keep up with me and write notes at the same pace. The trouble with some Power Point lectures is that there is too much for the students to write down and they tell me that they struggle to know what’s important, but when I’m writing it in front of them, they’re able to see what’s important, as well as being able to keep up.”

Professor Hammond scans his hand-written notes and diagrams and includes them in the online version of the lecture, along with recommended pre- and post-reading and non-assessed questions, detailed notes, some history, some fun animations and even links to biographies of relevant scientists.

“Individuals have played very important roles in science but it’s important for the students to know that they all lived normal lives as well.”

He always tries to connect physics theory with examples to which the students will relate and make units discovery-based.

“For example, when I’m teaching radiation theory, we talk about hot spot technology, used in cricket matches to ascertain whether the ball has actually hit the bat or the player’s pad. When a ball hits a bat and it changes direction, there must be heat, so radiation is emitted. Hot spot technology uses this radiation.”

He modestly said that anybody in the School of Physics could have won an OLT Citation.

“We all want to find ways to help students to understand complicated ideas: that’s what all the teachers across the University want,” he said.

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Professor Hammond likes to use examples from simple texts to help first year students grasp the outcomes of concepts and fundamental research.

“One of my favourites is a Readers Digest publication, The Eventful (20th) Century Inventions that Changed the World”. It’s simple and fun. I also recommend the acceptance speeches made by Nobel Prize winners because they are written for and delivered to non-scientists, making them ideal for first year students.”

Although the advent of online material has made a lot more work for lecturers, Professor Hammond said it had helped him to teach to all abilities. “I put plenty of extension materials on the lecture site and the very able students do it all. Others can pick and choose what they wish to do.”
Lisa Cluett possibly has Generation Y’s dream job.

She spends much of her day using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube to build community among UWA students.

And she has won a national award for her sustained and innovative influence on student learning and engagement through the development of leadership networks and these online communities.

She initiated the Networking Online to Diversify Engagement (NODE) project in 2006, to find out how UWA students used technology, what devices they owned (phones, laptops) and how they wanted the University to use technology to communicate with them.

The NODE survey has run every year since then and Dr Cluett uses the data about what social media, online platforms, devices, games and networking tools students use to design and deliver the Student Services Communications strategy.

“We know they love Instagram (and subsequently we have access to thousands of photos of students learning, connecting and graduating on campus),” Dr Cluett said. “We also know that they are happy to interact with the university on Facebook when it comes to aspects of student life but not for course and assessment delivery.”

With Dr Judy Skene and Assistant Professor Mark Pegrum, she won an ALTC Leadership Excellence Grant in 2010 for their Viral Leadership Project. “It allowed us to explore and then explain the ways that staff prefer to learn and apply emerging technologies; something that continues to have importance when considering how we use online delivery in a sustainable yet innovative way.”

Dr Cluett established and now coordinates regular meetings of UWA social media managers, and hosts development and support sessions for staff and students working in online community building.

“It means the engagement is sustainable and is it easy to build a community. We match what the students like. And we work hard not to overburden them with messages.”

The online communications strategy is much more than just social media. Student Services tailors email messages going to very large numbers of students so that the all-students email service (which goes to 25,000 students) can be used appropriately. And messages are personalised, starting with ‘Dear Melanie’ or ‘Dear Heng’ and can contain information specific to each recipient.

Dr Cluett gave an example of how communications can be layered together. “In mid-2013, the Student Systems, Enquiry Management and Student Administration teams worked with me to give students a more personalised and high quality experience when receiving their exam results.

“We used our social media channels to prepare students, answer questions and follow-up issues and used askUWA to capture queries from students. It meant that students received one email from the University containing their exam results and that other channels were used for conversation and questions.”

She says there is still a lot of work to do, collaborating with the International Centre, Information Services, Student Administration, the Guild and other areas of the University who need or want to interact ‘outside the classroom’ with large numbers of our students online.

“I love my job because I get to talk to students almost every day. We have a genuine commitment to student engagement. The students can tell that it’s genuine and they very much respond to that.”
The Fairway ‘demolition squad’ is nearing the end of its second successful year.

The team in Student Services has been demolishing the barriers that stand in the way of high school students entering university.

UWA’s Fairway program, run by co-ordinator Dr Umneea Khan and project officers Helen House and Dr Tristan Fidler, began as a pilot project last year to help Year 12 students with the primary criterion of financial hardship to aspire to – and reach – university.

The first cohort is now studying at UWA and other WA universities and the second cohort – 84 high school students – are about to sit their final exams, then take part in the inaugural Fairway graduation ceremony.

The students, from 28 schools including four in regional centres, were also assessed against criteria such as an unsupportive study environment, excessive family responsibilities, a disrupted migrant or refugee passage to Australia, severely disrupted schooling due to relocation and other difficulties.

Students from all schools in WA are eligible for the Fairway program but UWA targets schools in the very successful Aspire project.

The Fairway team does much more than demolish the barriers; it builds up skills and confidence in these students, most of whom never thought they would get a tertiary education.

The program during their final year at school includes residential camps at UWA, master classes, programs to help them cope with stress, a free online tutoring service, mentoring by a UWA student and online learning exercises to increase their skills in critical thinking, research and note-taking, to help them with their school work, as well as prepare them for university.

“We continue to support them while they are studying here,” Dr Khan said. “We offer transition (from secondary to tertiary education) programs, study skills and a non-residential program with St Catherine’s College which allows them access to tutoring and facilities for group study.

“Not a week goes by when one of them doesn’t pop in to see us,” she said. “They all did so well in first semester – we’re very proud of them.”

Ms House said 32 school students completed the program last year and all but one (who was waiting for Australian citizenship) was offered and took up a place at a Perth university.

“Of the 31, 15 of them had an offer from UWA. Some deferred, so we have 11 current Fairway students finishing their first year,” she said.

“The main aim is to inspire them to aim for university, ideally UWA. For many reasons, some choose other institutions. If they come here, the support continues.”

The 2013 cohort will celebrate their graduation at a ceremony at the Business School towards the end of November.
Most people tend to agree that the idea of ‘do unto others …’ is a good maxim for treating others.

But, faced with an increasingly diverse community, it turns out that it might not be the best idea.

Beverley Hill, Associate Director, Equity and Diversity, pointed out that that particular behaviour guideline assumes that all people want or need to be treated as you do.

“It is always dangerous to assume that one size will fit all,” Ms Hill said.

She and her colleagues are preparing for the Equity Practitioners in Higher Education Australasia (EPHEA) conference at UWA next month.

It will bring together equity practitioners from universities around Australia, New Zealand, the UK and Canada to share professional knowledge. The aim is to strengthen and support equity and inclusion programs for students and staff in higher education.

“The University has been recognised for more than a decade for our access and inclusion initiatives,” Ms Hill said. “And a particular focus has been on widening participation and creating aspiration in communities traditionally underrepresented within our student cohort. I think our equity services for students are particularly well developed but where we still struggle is in the adequate representation of women in academia, along with all the other Go8 universities. We have also just launched a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Staff Plan to ensure that the many staff who come here from diverse backgrounds are supported to achieve their full potential.”

She said UWA had success with rethinking ways of doing things for students. “We recognise that students at UWA have a diversity of learning styles that we need to accommodate. In addition, our students also come from many cultures, and backgrounds. We know that students are more likely to thrive when they feel included and their particular needs are met. For staff, we have also developed good work practices and support initiatives such as flexible work practices, parental leave, and campus child care. But we can always do more to assure staff that they can bring all of themselves to work – and not leave parts of their identity in the car park!”

Winthrop Professor Jill Milroy, Dean of the School of Indigenous Studies, will be the opening keynote speaker at the conference. She will be talking about the future for Indigenous students and staff, with reference to the recommendations of the 2012 Behrendt Review: the review of higher education access and outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Professor Bob Wood, Director of the Centre for Ethical Leadership at the Melbourne Business School, will address the conference on his Centre’s work on unconscious bias.

Fresh insights into the role that racial identity plays in education will be provided by Glenn Singleton, founder of the Pacific Educational Group, whose mission is to transform educational systems into racially conscious and socially just environments that nurture the spirit and infinite potential of all learners.

And Professor Mustafa Ozbilgin, Chair in Organisational Behaviour at Brunel Business School in the UK, will speak on the paradox of leadership for diversity and leadership diversity in higher education.

One of the invited speakers is gender consultant Dr Jen de Vries, who helped develop UWA’s highly successful Leadership Development for Women project.

The conference is at the University Club from Wednesday 27 November to Friday 29 November. It is jointly organised by UWA, Curtin, Murdoch and Edith Cowan universities.

You can register for the conference or individual days or sessions at http://tinyurl.com/EPHEA2013 or contact Anneli Strut on 6488 3873 for more information.
More than 50 years after his first refereed publication appeared in print, Emeritus Professor John Scott continues to produce innovative scholarship at world-class level.

Since retiring in 1997 he has maintained a momentum of research and publishing that inspires – and occasionally defeats – younger colleagues.

To celebrate the most distinguished Italianist in the southern hemisphere, colleagues and friends gathered last month in the Callaway Auditorium, to launch a volume of essays written to honour Professor Scott on his 80th birthday, Legato Con Amore In Un Volume (Bound Together With Love in One Volume).

Editors Professor John Kinder (European Languages and Studies) and Professor Diana Glenn (Dean of Humanities at Flinders University) spoke warmly of a mentor who has inspired generations of scholars in Australia and is still in demand at conferences and meetings around the world.

“This volume collects essays on Dante Studies, from the foremost Dante scholars at universities in four countries: Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, Notre Dame, Rome, Florence, Pisa and Sydney,” Professor Kinder said. “It is a tribute from colleagues, who have honoured John by producing a collection of essays that break new ground and set new standards in Dante scholarship.”

The title is a line from Dante’s Paradiso. Dante looks down on the scattered pages of the created universe and sees how the divine intelligence has “bound them in love in one volume”.

Among the well-wishers was poet John Kinsella, a UWA Research Fellow like Scott, and recent recipient of the 2013 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for poetry. Kinsella’s 2008 work Divine Comedy: Journeys Through a Regional Geography is what he calls a ‘distraction’ on Dante’s masterpiece.

The Italian translation of Dr Kinsella’s English distraction will be published in January with an introduction by John Scott, who also has three refereed articles in press.

Bound together with love in one volume

John Kinder, John Kinsella, John Scott and Diana Glenn at the launch

More than 50 years after his first refereed publication appeared in print, Emeritus Professor John Scott continues to produce innovative scholarship at world-class level.

Staff Sports Day

The Staff Sports and Fun Day is NEXT FRIDAY 8 November.

It is only a half-day this year, so we hope most of you can find the time to come along. Register online at: uwa.edu.au/sportsday2013

It is only $5 to register and if you can’t join the games, come along to the opening ceremony at noon or join us for food and drinks from 5pm.

Donations by alumni will help to realise 11 projects across the University next year.

The Alumni Annual Fund (AAF) Grants received 89 applications from 14 areas and faculties. The AAF Grants Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, chose to support 11 applications, awarding more than $210,000 to projects and activities that will enhance the student experience and the University community.

The 11 projects awarded funding ranged from student-led projects to faculty- and University-wide initiatives. Faculties, including Law, Science, Arts, ALVA, Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and the Business School have all received funding, along with Student Guild groups and areas such as Finance and Resources, the Registrar’s Office and the Albany Centre.

The diverse projects include: promoting student mental health on campus, placing students in remote Aboriginal Art Centres, creating a Pathology Education and Learning Centre, supporting an Albany Camp for Kids, promoting internationalisation on campus and developing a UWA app for student engagement.

The new AAF Grants program would not be possible without the generous donations of our alumni through the Alumni Annual Fund, a fundraising program run by the Development and Alumni Relations office to raise money for scholarships, student support programs and other inspirational projects across campus. The Alumni Annual Fund is spearheaded by a team of talented student callers, who engage with our alumni, update them on campus events and seek donations to support current and future students of the University.

The end of this year will see the realisation of these new projects, and the grant donations from our generous alumni, making a significant difference to our students and the campus community.

The next round of the Alumni Annual Fund Grants will start at the beginning of Semester 1, 2014. For more information about the Grants please visit development.uwa.edu.au/donate/annual/alumni-annual-fund-grants.
A distinguished criminologist is how a cheeky white collar villain might describe himself.

But in reality, it is the perfect description of Emeritus Professor Richard Harding, who has just been awarded the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology’s Distinguished Criminologist Award.

This is only the second time it has been awarded to somebody “who has demonstrated outstanding, significant and sustained contribution to Australia or New Zealand criminology in … teaching and scholarship, advancing international appreciation of criminology through research and publications or involvement in criminology in public life.”

The award is made in recognition of the recipient’s lifetime contributions.

“I am particularly gratified that the award is framed in terms that encourage contributions to public life to be acknowledged,” Professor Harding said. “I have always believed that in the end the value of one’s work must show up in its practical utility.”

Professor Harding arrived at UWA in 1965 as a senior lecturer in the Law School, a former Fulbright Scholar and the top law graduate from University College London, progressing through the ranks to Professor and Dean of Law in 1982 and 1983.

In 1984 he moved to Canberra as Director of the Australian Institute of Criminology.

“I have always believed that in the end the value of one’s work must show up in its practical utility.”

Returning to UWA, he obtained $4 million from the State Government to set up UWA’s Crime Research Centre. “At that time data from police, courts, prisons and community corrections were collected according to different criteria and in an uncoordinated way. Longitudinal research to identify criminal career paths and evaluate the impact of criminal justice policies was thus impossible,” he said.

Under his guidance the Centre set up a pioneering data linkage model enabled Centre personnel to develop the most complete longitudinal studies on recidivism, as well as provide the foundation for other important research projects.

In 2000 Professor Harding left UWA to become the inaugural Inspector of Custodial Services for Western Australia. His mandate was to establish independent external scrutiny for correctional services within the State. “It is in this role that I was able to make my greatest contribution to public life,” he said.

Professor Harding has been actively involved with international crime and justice policy at the United Nations level and, since 2008, has been working with the campaign for Australia to ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. He has advised the Australian Human Rights Commission and been consulted in all states of Australia on prison projects.

Professor Harding’s links with UWA and the world of research are still strong. He teaches a course in the Master of Criminal Justice program, and currently participates in two ARC Linkage projects.

One, led from Monash University, is on human rights issues in closed institutions in Australia; the second is with Griffith University, on the special factors to be taken into account when assessing the impact of imprisonment on Aboriginal prisoners.
As summer approaches, most people at least think about getting fit, perhaps losing some winter weight. But it can be hard to motivate yourself to do it on your own and not everybody wants to go to a gym. The solution is right here on campus – and it's free, if you're an HBF member.

HBF Outdoor Fitness is an annual program run by HBF and presented by LiveLighter. Two weekly sessions are run by professional trainers at 18 locations around Perth and regional WA and this year the program includes UWA. On campus and in West Perth and a few other locations, the trainers are UWA staff from the School of Sport Science Exercise and Health (SSEH).

The sessions are cardio-based and designed to improve strength, endurance and overall fitness in an environment that is fun. They are tailored to all fitness levels from couch potatoes upwards.

The program started in mid-September and will run until the end of March, with a five-week break over the Christmas New Year period. About 30 people have started the program and more are expected – and encouraged – to join.

Sessions are held in the outdoor lab of SSEH on Wednesdays from 5.30 to 6.30pm and Saturdays from 7.30 to 8.30am.

Staff who are not HBF members are welcome to join the group for a very small fee. It costs just $95 for 12 weeks, which works out at less than $4 a session.

Head of School Winthrop Professor Tim Ackland said the sessions were the right fit with the program run by UWA’s Health and Rehabilitation Clinic, in the School.

“It is a good opportunity for HBF and us to showcase best practice in the industry and offer people a safe environment in which to exercise,” Professor Ackland said. “Our accredited exercise physiologists provide high quality instruction and we are able to screen people for chronic conditions and find the right type and intensity of exercise for each individual.”

To register go to hbffitness.com.au

UWA staff took nine trips around the world over the winter – without taking leave from their work.

The 2013 Global Corporate Challenge (GCC) inspired 455 staff to walk a total of 367,404 kilometers (or nine trips around the world) over the four months from May to September.

Sarina Radici, Health and Wellbeing Officer, said the University had its biggest ever GCC contingent for the Centenary year and participants achieved a commendable 12,000 daily step average. The University ranked as the seventh most active Australian university out of 27 participating in the Challenge this year.

“This year’s Challenge motivated a lot of healthy activity, with the percentage of staff hitting the target of 10,000 or more steps daily for good health more than tripling, from 20 per cent before to 67 per cent after the event. Participants also reported weight loss, decreased stress levels, and improvements to their energy and productivity levels,” Sarina said.

“It’s great to see people building healthy habits, and also enjoying the social interaction and team-building that the Challenge encourages.”

“Congratulations to the most active UWA team in 2013, Sole Ambition from Human Resources, who picked up a $100 University Club voucher and BUPA packs for their efforts.

“Congratulations also to the teams in the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, the area with the highest step average, who will enjoy massages as a reward.

“All this year’s entrants enjoyed a celebratory lunch in the Undercroft last week, with our Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Alec Cameron and GCC representative Lauren Cammiss.

“A special thanks also to the University for subsidising staff entry to the event again this year, as well as to the University Club and UWA Sports for their continued support of the event.”
Sue Boyd was crawling around in nappies while May Tannock was helping to found the Liberal Party and was already a Dame of the British Empire.

But the two women are linked by their connection to the UWA student Guild: May was the first female Vice-President and Sue was the first woman to become Guild President.

Each of them has a room in the Guild Village named after them but it was not until recently that their stories have been made widely known to students, with the installation of plaques which record their history.

“The Guild has a rich history but it’s often not as well presented as it could be,” said Jonathon Zahra, business manager and Centenary executive officer.

“The Guild Centenary Committee wanted to ensure that its history was not lost to future generations and we wanted to specifically recognise two very special individuals whose instrumental involvement helped to shape the Guild into what it is today.

“We hope that reading Sue’s and May’s plaques might make students a little more humble in the knowledge that they belong to an organisation that is older and perhaps wiser than themselves,” Jonathon said.

“This will hopefully instil a responsibility to the ongoing legacy.”

Sue Boyd, who is now a company director in her 60s, was a teacher, a journalist, a diplomat and a UWA Senator. She joined the Australian diplomatic service after graduating from UWA with degrees in Arts and Education, and a place in history as its first female Guild President.

She served for more than 30 years in Europe, North America, Asia and the Pacific region. Sue has also volunteered in Zambia and Brazil.

She is an independent trustee for the Argyle Diamond Mine Trusts and for the Traditional Landowners in the East Kimberley.

UWA conferred an honorary doctorate on Sue in 2002 for meritorious service to the University and the nation through international relations.

She currently chairs the UWA Senate Centenary Planning Committee.

May Tannock, born Elizabeth May Ramsay Tannock in Geelong, and known as Dame Couchman (her married name) by the time of her death in 1982, was one of the first cohort of UWA students, in 1913.

She became the Vice-President of the Guild in 1914.

May studied political science, economics and constitutional law and returned to a political career in Melbourne after graduation.

She was one of four National Council of Women representatives at the Industrial Peace Conference in Canberra in 1928; she became a Justice of the Peace in 1929; in 1932, the first female member of the Australian Broadcasting Commission; and, in 1934, she was in the Australian delegation to the League of Nations.

May was knighted and became Dame Couchman and was a co-founder of the Liberal Party. Sir Robert Menzies described her as “the greatest statesman of them all.”

On the first day of November, University staff will be invited to hear from a trio of leading female health professionals about key health issues affecting all women, particularly breast cancer, exercise and healthy eating.

Winthrop Professor Christobel Saunders, Professor of Surgical Oncology at the University and Consultant Surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital and St John of God Hospital, will provide a summary of the latest news in breast cancer research and prevention.

Dr Bonnie Furzer, Exercise Physiologist and Co-ordinator of the UWA Health and Rehabilitation Clinic will outline the exercises every woman should prioritise for optimal health, and dietician Sonia White will be sharing her expertise on how busy mums can raise healthy families.

The Women’s Health Forum is from 11.30am to 1pm in the Woolnough Lecture Theatre on Friday 1 November. Both women and men are welcome.

To register for this event or find out more contact wellbeing@uwa.edu.au or visit safety.uwa.edu.au/wellbeing
From cracked teeth and old fillings to more serious concerns, oral health issues experienced by people in their middle years require special care to conserve a youthful, natural smile. Dr Chai Lim and his team have a special interest in dentistry for baby boomers.

Centum was lucky enough to make the trip to the MCG last month for the Dockers’ first AFL Grand Final appearance.

UWA student James Mazza and his father, UWA graduate Rob Mazza added Centum to the purple haze, but by half time, when this photograph was taken, his mood had turned considerably darker.

Centum at the Grand Final

Oral health for baby boomers.

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Friends of the UWA Library
Tuesday 12 November 2013
Reid Library Meeting Room (Ground Floor)
Doors open and refreshments: 7pm
Talk commences: 7:30pm

Life on the Eastern Goldfields in the 1890s
Exploring some traditional images and perspectives
Lenore Layman

We are familiar with the traditional, often romanticised images and stories of prospectors, diggers, up and down on their luck, rushes into the wilderness, mining mates, camp life and lonely deaths in the bush. ‘The rush to be rich’ lured a multitude of people to the fields – travelers and observers, itinerants and settlers, builders and speculators. This period and place has been fertile ground for the proliferation of myths and legends. Some myths have passed comfortably into history. Do we see different things and things differently when we re-look at the historical evidence from the perspective of the 21st century?

Dr Lenore Layman is a Murdoch University historian who researches widely in Western Australian history. She has recently published 110° in the Waterbag: A History of Life, Work and Leisure in Leonora, Gwalia and the Northern Goldfields; and Powering Perth: A History of the East Perth Power Station and the Electrification of Perth.

Members: Free
Non Members: $5 donation
Further information: contact 6488 2354 or email susan.oconnor@uwa.edu.au

Convocation of UWA Graduates
Annual Elections 11 March 2014

Nominations for the following positions open on Friday 8 November 2013 and close 12 noon on Wednesday 11 December 2013:
• THREE members of Senate
• Warden and Deputy Warden
• SEVEN members of Council of Convocation

All these positions will be vacant in March. Bill Biggs, Simon Dawkins and Hilary Silbert will complete their terms in the Senate; Warren Kerr and Paul McCann will complete their terms as Warden and Deputy Warden; and all seven members of Council will also complete their terms.

Nomination forms are now available from the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) by contacting the Returning Officer, WAEC, Level 2, 111 St George’s Terrace, Perth; or by email: convocation@uwa.edu.au Please include your postal address.

All graduates of UWA are automatically members of Convocation and entitled to vote and/or nominate for positions in these elections.

For more information, please go to: www.convocation.uwa.edu.au

Nominations must be received by the WA Electoral Commission by noon on Wednesday 11 December 2013.
History after tea and cake

The Fly-Out Fly-In Professor, Reg Appleyard, will be flying in at a different time for the annual lecture of the UWA Historical Society.

Emeritus Professor Appleyard’s lecture was postponed from 8 October to Tuesday 26 November. So anybody who thought they had missed it now has another chance to hear him in conversation with Business School colleague Winthrop Professor Paul McLeod.

The event will start with afternoon tea at 4pm, courtesy of Convocation, in the magnificent dining hall of St George’s College, with the talk beginning at 5pm.

To book for this, one of the last Centenary events for the year, please go to: www.development.uwa.edu.au/friends/historical-society/events

CLASSIFIEDS

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QUINDALUP: nashiesnannup@yahoo.com.au
Sue on 0422 069 545 or email: veranda and listen to birds. Contact the South West or relax on back
Make Nannup the base to explore peaceful Nannup, just a short stroll
NANNUP: edu.au

TO LET

MOUNT CLAREMONT: Large, older style fully furnished and equipped family home in Mt Claremont. Available from 1 November to 31 January. From $800 per week. 5 bedrooms, sleeps 7; large living areas and big back garden. Pets welcome. Please contact Louise: louise.brice@uwa.edu.au

NANNUP: “Nashie’s Cottage” in peaceful Nannup, just a short stroll into town. Cosy timber cottage, self-contained with all you need for a comfortable stay. Sleeps four. Make Nannup the base to explore the South West or relax on back veranda and listen to birds. Contact Sue on 0422 069 545 or email: nashiesnannup@yahoo.com.au

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 this cottage offers privacy and security, a lovely natural vista out of Toby Inlet Reserve, and is a great cottage for all seasons. Please go to www.quindalup.net.au for further information.

CORNWALL: Writers retreat – looking for a quiet location to finish your book? Two bed cottage with garden in historic fishing village, Polperro, Cornwall, United Kingdom. Available February to June 2014, dates flexible. Price negotiable. Contact caroline. baillie@uwa.edu.au

LONDON: Two bed apartment in London available for sublet, February to June 2014, dates flexible. Converted factory warehouse, 24 hour security, swimming pool, gym, restaurant, shop, close to transport, 15 min central London. 400GBP per week plus utilities. Contact caroline. baillie@uwa.edu.au

HOUSE SWAP WANTED

Senior academic from Vancouver BC Canada coming to Perth in early 2014, is interested in a house swap arrangement for up to one or two years. Vancouver, 4400sq ft home, 5 bedroom, 5 bathroom, study, living, dining and family rooms, modern kitchen, TV room, bar, sauna and outdoor pool, on the north shore (West bay/Dundarave area) with view south towards Stanley park and the city. Excellent local schools. Easy access to UBC, SFU and downtown. Car (2010 Santa Fe van), included. Pool maintenance and gardener arranged. Looking for 2- or 3-bed accommodation; Perth region, good access to UWA. Contact j.challis@utoronto.ca

Classified advertisements are FREE for all UWA staff.

Send your ad to: staffads@admin.uwa.edu.au before each monthly deadline.

IN A CAMPUS EMERGENCY

DIAL 2222

Security staff will call the emergency services, direct them to you and come to help you while waiting for their arrival.

The University of Western Australia
The campaign’s driving force

Jo Agnew
Director, Development and Alumni Relations

I have been planning the launch of the New Century Campaign since I started two years ago as Director, Development and Alumni Relations.

Of course, it wasn’t called that back then. It wasn’t even talked about much. It has taken an enormous amount of vision and work to bring it to life. I credit our Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor for the vision, and my incredible team for much of the work.

At the outset, I recall very clearly saying that, if we were going to be successful, we needed strong leadership from our Chancellor. Today, I can say without hesitation and with a tremendous amount of gratitude that he has come through in spades. Not only has he personally supported the campaign with a donation but, as Campaign Chair, he has put in countless hours poring over documents, brokering meetings, bringing others on-board. I can’t tell you what it means to me to receive that kind of backing.

I am a Perth girl, born and raised, and UWA is my University. I’ve travelled the world and led Development work in London and New York City. I came back to Western Australia with only one place I wanted to work. UWA. I feel a great sense of pride and responsibility when it comes to this University. It goes beyond my rule to work only for great organisations. For me, there’s something more.

I made friends for life as a student at UWA. This University gave me the foundation for a successful career and, with that, the opportunity to travel the world. It’s the beauty of a university degree. Whatever you take lays a solid foundation for the future. Through that education, you begin the process of creating your best self.

Over the last two years, I have seen senior administration, deans and donors taking ownership of the New Century Campaign. I’ve seen their trust in our ability rise. The announcement of the campaign – with its tag line “create the future” – and of the historic $65 million Forrest family gift, was really a culmination of this growing movement to take UWA to the next level. It was emotional and gratifying.

Of course, we still have to raise the $400 million. We are about 45 per cent of the way there but the remaining $200+ million isn’t going to fall into our laps before 2018. I don’t know if there is another $65 million gift is out there. I do know, though, that people don’t work for an institution like UWA without believing in Education. And I know the special bond that we all feel to this special place.

These are exciting times for our University. Our future is brighter than many people would have ever imagined. This campaign will put us on par with the universities of Sydney and Melbourne. We are doing as we always do in Western Australia: punching above our weight, this time in a philanthropic space.

I should say that, right now, we have about 7,000 donors to the campaign. To succeed, we need about 20,000. I’ve joined the contributors, with a gift of $25,000 to be paid over five years. For me, two causes stand out: First-in-Family scholarships; and the SOS emergency fund for students. I encourage other UWA staff to find the thing that has meaning for them and support it through payroll deduction, annual fund donation – whatever works.

By 2018, I hope that the Fairway side of campus is a buzz of construction for both the new Engineering Zone and the Indigenous cultures museum. I hope that our international reputation is soaring; that Forrest Hall is nearing completion; and that we have more alumni engaged with our campus than ever before.

Most of all, I hope that our academics and students know that their community supports them and what they do, because they are the ones who will change the world.