By Sally-Ann Jones

Designs for a 22nd century metropolis – created by staff, graduates and students of our Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts – are on display in one of the world’s oldest cities, Venice.

The city, famous for its magnificent architecture and a World Heritage Site, is hosting its 13th international Architecture Biennale, which has drawn a big contingent from UWA.

In and around buildings that reflect periods such as the Baroque, Byzantine, Gothic, Ottoman and Renaissance, the Biennale is a celebration of creativity. Winthrop Professor Geoffrey London is Chair of the Australian Committee for this year’s Biennale and Assistant Professor Sophie Giles, in Europe on a Faye Gale Fellowship, was selected from 200 architect applicants to staff the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA) pavilion.

Recent graduate Kara Guerney was also chosen to staff the pavilion. And another ALVA alumnus, Dr Ian Weir, was chosen by the AIA to represent innovation in Australian architecture. Since 1996, Dr Weir’s work has focused on the biodiverse bushfire-prone landscapes of the south-west’s Fitzgerald bioregion. He won acclaim for the design of a Bremer Bay house which can sustain itself during a bushfire without human intervention.

Meanwhile, several ALVA staff members and students have the honour of having their work exhibited in Venice.

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They were invited to submit three projects for the Maribor 2012 European Capital of Culture project. Maribor, in Slovenia, is an ancient market town – and the project called for visionary master-plans for the city in 100 years’ time. They are on show in Venice, in both the Australian and Slovenia pavilions.

The ALVA invitees created 3D computer imagery, graphic images and 3D models for the project. Those who took part were: Assistant Professor Rene Van Meeuwen (architecture and landscape), Assistant Professor Jon Tarry (visual arts), Craig McCormack (postgraduate, space architecture), Matthew Delroy-Carr (graduate, water sustainable design), Tristan Morgan (postgraduate, generative architecture), Domenic Trimboi (graduate, remote architecture) and Katie Morgan (undergraduate, food harvesting architecture).

Assistant Professor Van Meeuwen said he ran a fifth-year studio on the exhibition entry requirements and chose the undergraduates’ best two projects. The third project was a collective, multi-disciplinary submission from all tutors and students involved.

“We focused on two key texts: *Massive Change: The Future of Global Design*, co-authored by Bruce Mau, and *The Universe in a Nutshell* by Stephen Hawkins. This allowed our team to project a future based on future technology and knowledge,” Assistant Professor Van Meeuwen said.

They came up with the idea of a utilitarian pergola whose roof is a societal structure that harvests water and energy on a suburban scale. In this future, knowledge is the commodity and the Earth is regarded as a large living structure which everyone cares for. The Maribor of 2112 is the site of the first orbital galactic space elevators, which enable human/alien encounters.

Maybe there’ll be aliens exhibiting in the Venice Architecture Biennale in the next century!
Playing as a child in the University grounds, shaking the Prime Minister’s hand at graduation and holding an academic’s legs as he leaned out of a plane are among winning memories of UWA.

Six months ago, a call went out to Share a UWA Memory, to compile some personal stories of ordinary people and the influence the university had on them, to help celebrate the Centenary.

The competition was won by Loreley Morling, whose father Douglas White was professor of organic chemistry from 1943 to 1964.

“My relationship with UWA began in 1948 when my parents moved into a new university house in Myers Street," she wrote. 

An edited version of the story continues: “Along with other offspring of lecturers, administrative and garden staff I grew up in the grounds of ‘the uni’. We ‘uni children’ delighted in playing in the laneway between the houses and the tennis courts – where the ‘new’ chemistry building was constructed in the 1960s.

“Eventually the whole uni grounds became our playground. Many a time we would wander across the oval, greeting George Munns, the gardener, and his offsider Jack Davey. We befriended Laddie, the horse who pulled the roller which kept the lawns in order. If we were late home Dad called us or, if he spied one of the gardeners, asked if they’d seen us.

“My friend Wendy and I sometimes visited her father’s office behind the clock in Winthrop Hall tower. It was fun to climb the narrow stairs leading up to the small room. Then we’d romp through the Sunken Garden pretending we were performing.

“We spent countless hours getting covered in mud while catching tadpoles in the swamp in front of Shenton House. "My student days at UWA were confined to attending the small kindergarten in the psychology department. Although we moved from Myers Street in the mid-50s we remained close to the uni and I continued to think of it as my backyard."

“Fast forward to the 1960s when I worked in the Reid Library: a stimulating time to be associated with the campus. Apart from demonstrations against the Vietnam War there were often plays and musical events held over the lunch hour.

“Amongst the characters I remember is Dr Mike Gilmartin, an eccentric maths lecturer, who was always determined to be the last person out of the library when we closed.”

Mrs Morling won a $150 voucher for dinner at the university club and a first edition of the soon-to-be-published Centenary History.

Zoology graduate Dr Shelley Barker recalls vividly her PhD supervisor Bert Main in the late 1950s. They were researching Rottnest Island quokkas and she remembers flying to Rottnest with Professor Main in an Auster aircraft with windows that opened.

“While the pilot circled around the West End of Rottnest, Bert hung out of the window with an aerial camera taking photographs while Ted Walsh, the departmental photographer, and I hung on to his legs to stop him falling out! Quite a hair-raising experience for me but Bert was completely unfazed,” Dr Barker wrote.

Tony Gallagher, an arts graduate from the 1960s, remembers shaking the hand of Prime Minister Robert Menzies who conferred the degrees at his graduation ceremony in 1964.

Mr Gallagher, who went on to become a teacher, recalls: “At the beginning of 1963, my final undergraduate academic year, I remember thinking to myself: Dad works in Chamberlain’s tractor factory in Welshpool, so why am I studying Shakespeare? I had no idea, beyond knowing that majoring in English gave me a ticket off the bottom rung.

“[But] I was luckier than I realised. For me, the English Department was inspirational … One of my classmates was Dorothy Hewett, a novelist, feminist and, by then, a disenchanted Communist. Dorothy fiercely supported Australian writing and writers. So, during tutorials, she tilted fearlessly at the snootiness of the English Department. I loved that.

“Our Drama tutor, senior lecturer Jeana Bradley nudged me, way, way beyond myself … the English Department gave me something much, much better than just a ticket off the bottom rung.”

UWAnews will publish more excerpts from these stories next year.
100 years. And of course, it is staff, student and alumni success in all walks of life that makes our University great.

We are working to enable more people to benefit from a UWA education and from the enriching experience of being part of the campus community. Through schemes such as Aspire, Broadway and Fairway, we are aiming to raise aspirations among secondary school students who may be attending schools that are currently under-represented on our campus.

This policy is in keeping with our University’s long-standing tradition of commitment to equity. In fact, it was recognised almost a century ago in its founding Act: ‘it is desirable that special encouragement and assistance should be afforded those who may be hindered in the acquisition of sound knowledge and useful learning by lack of opportunity or means’ (Preamble to University Act 1911).

In my family, I was the first to attend university. The experience offered up a world of possibilities for me – as I hope it will do to our Aspire students, whose principals visited recently. We know, and our partner schools know, that education offers a pathway to an inclusive and productive society.

For us, raising participation levels of disadvantaged students is a priority. We know that the transformative power of education doesn’t stop with the individual – it provides a better future for families and communities and equips our industries and businesses with the skilled graduates needed to compete in an increasingly complex global economy.

Researchers in Britain and the United States examined the social benefits generated by university graduates and found that they were tangible and widespread. Having a population that is highly educated means increased political participation and stability, increased innovation, improvements to the environment, improved consumer decision-making, better health and lifestyle choices and better education choices for children. And these benefits have a lasting effect down through future generations.

Congratulations to our graduates – and congratulations, too, to their tutors, lecturers and research supervisors and to those involved in schemes such as Aspire that will enable more young people to join that special band of UWA alumni.

Joining a Special Community

The publication of this issue of UWA News coincides with the final days of our spring graduation season. These 2,000 graduating students join more than 100,000 who have left our University over almost a century.

One hundred thousand represents a huge community of men and women who have taken what they have gained here and put it to good use. That number also represents a massive commitment from teachers and support staff along the way, all of whom have helped to contribute to the development of the State and the nation.

Last month, I was fortunate to attend alumni gatherings in Melbourne and Singapore. It was great to see so many of our valued alumni at these events. They are the reflection of our University’s commitment to education, research and lifelong learning – helping to direct and encourage future generations to aspire to a degree from The University of Western Australia.

From our governing body – the Senate – to our on-campus activities, to our international alumni chapters across the nation and around the globe, our alumni have played an integral role in the life and work of our University for almost 100 years. And of course, it is staff, student and alumni success in all walks of life that makes our University great.
A developer’s strong environmental consciousness and the skill of a duo of architects who are both UWA graduates proved a winning combination, not once but twice.

Assistant Professor Jennie Officer, from the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, and alumnus Trent Woods, have won the 2012 Harold Krantz Architecture Award for Multiple Residential and the 2012 Walter Greenham Sustainable Architecture Award.

As Officer Woods Architects, they scored both prizes for the same project – a four-home development on a lightly sloping block in a Fremantle area that is rapidly changing from light industrial to residential.

“The client’s brief was underpinned by a desire for flexibility and adaptability, as well as sustainability,” Professor Officer said.

“They wanted us to design houses that could be readily altered without too much structural change. We put extra plumbing and gas into the walls to allow for future options such as an extra bedroom, home office, granny flat and multi-generational living.

“We recycled as much as possible, using rammed earth from the rubble on the block as the main walls, with plantation pine frames and zincalum cladding which reflected the area’s industrial past.

“The houses all have north-facing courtyards for maximum solar penetration and eaves to provide shade in summer. By polishing the concrete floors, excess finishes were kept to a minimum. The three houses that are double storey have the extra storey over garages so they don’t look into the neighbours’ living spaces.

“And we provided access for pedestrians on one side of the development and access for cars on the other so people don’t have to watch out for vehicles.”

As many of the native trees on the block as possible were retained, along with mature exotics that were transplanted. And grey water, rain water, solar arrays on the roofs and waterwise gardens add to the green credentials.
Intolerance floated away from the Crawley campus when about 100 helium-filled orange balloons were released on the Oak Lawn recently.

They were all printed with the words: *Racism. It Stops With Me*, the slogan for a national Human Rights campaign.

The University has backed the campaign aimed at eliminating racism, featuring the Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson holding a sign with the same words on the UWA web page.

UWA has a long-standing commitment to equity and diversity on campus and strives to provide an environment where diversity is genuinely valued and equity is embedded into the core business of every working area.

The Federal Human Rights Commissioner, Dr Helen Szoke, invited a few key institutions that have done meaningful race work to put the message on their websites.

The campaign provides an opportunity for UWA to demonstrate its support for the national anti-racism initiative and showcase the great work being done on campus to promote and develop cultural competence in all areas of university life. Indeed, UWA was invited by the Commission to participate in the campaign because of its nationally recognised on-campus initiatives.

“Our campaign invites all Australians to reflect on what they can do to counter racism, wherever it happens,” Dr Szoke said.

“Research shows us that workplaces are places where racial discrimination occurs, as well as where change can be encouraged and supported. Workplaces are a common and natural environment for contact between people from diverse racial and cultural backgrounds. Employers can therefore play an important role in modelling sound practices.

“The reality is that the demographic composition of the workforce is changing. It makes good business sense to be proactive in harnessing diversity — for productivity, market share, innovation and improved employee relations.”

UWA seeks to widen access for students and staff through a range of programs including the high school programs Aspire and Fairway; Courageous Conversations about Race; Indigenous Dialogues; Student Services programs LACE (Language And Cultural Exchange); Inclusivity Training and the Uni Mentor Program; Connect Me (for new international students); the School of Indigenous Studies; and dedicated faculty-based programs.

By recognising that status plays a part in University access and opportunities, UWA reaches across cultural and social barriers to promote an inclusive campus culture to all members of the University community.

Look out for opportunities to get involved in the anti-racism campaign or be proactive and call the Equity and Diversity Office on 6488 3873.

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Even the best can learn from each other

China leads the world in many areas, and the meteoric rise of its world-class universities comes in part from engagement with quality universities around the world.

Australia’s Group of Eight (Go8) and China’s nine leading universities (C9) have an agreement under which executives from China and Australia shadow their counterparts.

Professor Wu Zhaohui, Vice President Research from Zhejiang University (ZJU) spent a week last month shadowing Professor Robyn Owens, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and talking to other academics about potential collaborative projects.

“The Go8-C9 initiative matches the best people from the two groups,” said Eva Chye, UWA’s principal adviser, international relations (north and southeast Asia). “China has been making a big push towards mass higher education. Its publications are now second (in number) to the US. But it’s not about numbers any more, it’s about quality, and China needs to draw on experience from other universities around the world to fine-tune its operations.

“China is becoming a human resource country, with the aim of becoming a

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human resource powerhouse, and that is driven by its universities,” she said.

Professor Owens will shadow Professor Wu at ZJU next year.

“UWA and ZJU have already developed a strong research relationship in a number of areas, including plant sciences, regenerative medicine, and water management, and there are many opportunities to extend this collaboration to other areas,” said Professor Owens.

“ZJU has outstanding research, particularly in engineering and computer science with great industry links, and both universities could benefit significantly from deeper collaborations. WA offers many opportunities through the minerals and resources sector and the SKA project, and ZJU can provide outstanding talent to help develop new technologies of benefit to both nations.”

UWA has a China Five Year Planning Committee, chaired by Ms Chye. Professor Wu met with this group to discuss research innovations and technology transfers in China.

He also toured the Oceans Institute, visited the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematics and their Centre for Energy, met with the University secretariat, inspected the Pawsey Centre and talked with Associate Professor Paul Bourke and Professor Jennifer Harrison about high performance computing.

Professor Wu met with staff in Arts (including the Confucius Centre), business studies, agriculture and science (the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology) as well as accompanying Professor Owens to meetings and discussions.

He joined students and staff from ZJU who are studying or working at UWA for a dim sum lunch in Northbridge.

“It was particularly good for Professor Wu to meet all these people in person, as people in China like face to face interaction,” Ms Chye said. “Here in Australia, we tend to send an email as our first communication, but in China, they reach for the phone or see the person face to face if they can.”

The new logo, with the addition of the words ‘A Century of Achievement’ was also used on some Open Day publications. But this is its first public appearance in a non-specific publication and those involved in its conception and design, from the Centenary Planning Committee, Uniprint Design and Public Affairs, hope you like it.

The design, with the celebratory feel of fireworks, is a stylised 100 in blended shades of blue, topped with a gold star (the little dash of brilliance).

The star represents our achievement in co-hosting the world’s biggest and most important science project of this century, the SKA. It is also a mark of festivity, to show how many of us feel about reaching this milestone.

Faculties can start to use the new logo on publications that have a life beyond 2013. And all areas are asked to store their current stationery for a year and use a centenary version in 2013. Centenary stationery orders can be made through Uniprint.

Danni Wick, in Public Affairs, is the Centenary marketing manager and she will be the central contact for the marketing and communication of Centenary celebrations.

For queries on the use of the Centenary logo, please contact the University Marketing Managers, Susanna Wills-Johnson or Narelle Molloy.
A fascination with China and tea has led Gary Sigley to open the eyes of 80 teenagers in Perth and China to the rich culture of the Ancient Tea Horse Road.

The Tea Horse Road is a network of trading routes that was used, from the time of the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 AD), to transport tea from the tea-growing regions of Yunnan and Sichuan to the rest of the country including Tibet. Some of the tea also made its way into mainland Southeast Asia and India.

“People, goods and ideas have been travelling through this south-west region of China for thousands of years,” said Professor Sigley, from Asian Studies.

“My research concentrates on Yunnan Province, a tea-growing region, but also one of the most physically, botanically, zoologically, ethnically and culturally diverse regions in China, or indeed, the world.”

Professor Sigley has been visiting Yunnan and studying the heritage and history for many years. With the help of an Australia-China Council grant, he has run an online project for about 40 high school students studying Chinese in Perth and the same number of students in Yunnan.

“I wanted the students in Perth to know about a China beyond Shanghai and Beijing, to learn about the complexity of cultural heritage preservation in a regional and culturally diverse part of China,” he said. “And the project was also designed to impress upon the students in China the importance of their heritage by showing them that there are people outside China who are interested. I hope it has motivated them to become future custodians of their cultural heritage.

“It was also good for the students in Yunnan to have this opportunity to connect with students in Australia. Usually these sorts of opportunities are only available for students in the big cities.”

Students from Christ Church Grammar School (CCGS) and Mount Lawley Senior High School produced video blogs about themselves: their schools, families, food, community and other aspects of their lives. They used their Chinese language skills to write about themselves, communicating a different way to life to students in Yunnan.

Those students, from two different schools, did the same for the Perth students, some of them using a little English language as well.

They were then encouraged to leave comments for each other and interact via a dedicated website.

In June, Professor Sigley visited Yunnan again, producing video blogs for the website on different aspects of the Tea Horse Road.

The network of roads was once known as the Southern Silk Road, but more recently (since about 1990) it has been known as the Ancient Tea Horse Road to preserve the identity of the people of Yunnan and the important role they played in linking China with Tibet, India and mainland Southeast Asia.

“Salt, silk, precious stones and medicinal products were also transported on the Tea Horse Road but tea was the main cargo of the mule and horse caravans that would make their way from market to market along the route to Lhasa, a journey which took six months one-way,” Professor Sigley said.

“The route was divided into stages with different ethnic groups transporting the tea in their regions. Yunnan Province is home to 26 ethnic nationalities. Its population of 45 million live among mountain ranges and ‘basins’ or plateaus which support flora and fauna from the temperate rainforests to the...
alpine meadows. Yunnan’s rich biodiversity is recognised with several biodiversity hotspots.”

Some of the original paths, particularly in the mountains, still exist, and there are some well-preserved staging post villages and caravan inns.

It is believed that Yunnan was the birthplace of tea as a drink. Its most famous tea is Puer, a broad leaf variety of *Camellia sinensis*, grown in plantations (as hedges) and as natural tea trees, the oldest of which is about 800 years and has become a tourist attraction.

The CCGS students’ Chinese language teacher is Philippa Nock, a former student of Professor Sigley’s. She said having an authentic audience for their language skills meant the boys worked hard to create some excellent work. “We’re always looking for real opportunities for our students to use the language they have learned and this provided a great way to achieve this,” Ms Nock said.

Some of the students are planning to visit Yunnan Province next year. Professor Sigley has won an Endeavour Fellowship to visit Yunnan University’s Ancient Tea Horse Road Cultural Research Centre for six months. He leaves later this month.

Images of the Tea Horse Road. Centre photo: Professor Sigley and children
People who are not familiar with university terminology are sometimes amazed by the announcement that an academic has been awarded a Chair.

“Wouldn’t everybody at the University have a chair?” they wonder. The language with which we are so familiar can sometimes prove a mystery to the uninitiated.

And another mystery lies beneath the Winthrop Hall stage.

There are three matching old jarrah chairs, beautifully made and decorated with a rosette on the back. They were collected from various points around the campus about 10 years ago and stored there.

John Doyle, who, as technical manager for University Theatres, knows all the nooks and crannies of Winthrop Hall, believes the chairs are three of eight that were presented to UWA’s foundation professors when they moved from the Irwin Street premises to the Crawley campus in the 1930s.

Did the foundation professors have special chairs? Were they all made by the same person? Were they presented to them en masse as they arrived at the new campus? These are some of the many questions that are bubbling up during research for the Centenary next year.

Suddenly it seems we all want to know more about our history, as we celebrate our achievements.

There were eight foundation professors: Alexander David Ross (Physics and Mathematics); Walter Murdoch (English); Norman Thomas Mortimer Wilsmore (Chemistry); William John Dakin (Biology); John Waugh Paterson (Agriculture); Hubert Edwin Whitfield (Mining and Engineering); Walter George Woolnough (Geology); and Edward Owen Giblin Shann (History and Economics).

Their names are commemorated on lecture theatres and in memorial lectures. Professor Whitfield was the first Chair of the academic group and so became the first Vice-Chancellor.

University Voices quotes Professor Ross explaining that there was only funding for eight chairs, with two disciplines, Geology and Classics vying for the position. The deciding vote was cast by the inaugural Chancellor, Sir John Winthrop Hackett himself, in favour of Geology. Although he was an Arts graduate, Sir John saw the value of Geology in helping WA to prosper.

If you know anything about these chairs and know where others can be found, please contact John Doyle on 6488 2439. If you can shed any light on the question of chairs for Chairs, please let him or University Archives staff (6488 7234) know.
Almost 2,000 students are enjoying beautiful spring evenings for their graduation ceremonies.

In the smaller of the two annual graduation seasons, the biggest ceremony was devoted to graduands from the Faculty of Business, with 350 Bachelors of Commerce being awarded.

Of the 1,942 graduands, 124 were awarded PhDs or professional doctorates.

Sleep science has become one of this century’s important research areas and this was reflected in graduates from courses in two faculties. In Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, graduate Certificates in Paediatric Sleep Science were awarded, and in the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences, Graduate Certificates in Adult Sleep Science.

A total of 267 Bachelors of Science graduated from the two Science faculties, which are currently merging. They included degrees in biomedical science, psychology, genetics, chemistry, pathology, nanotechnology, exercise and health, conservation biology, agricultural economics, marine science and urban and regional planning.

Professor Dorothy Bishop will tomorrow be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science and deliver the occasional address during the combined ceremony for the Faculties of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts; Law; and Natural and Agricultural Sciences. An Adjunct Professor at UWA, Professor Bishop is Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology and a Wellcome Principal Research Fellow at the Department of Experimental Psychology at Oxford University.

Her research aims to increase our understanding of why some children have specific language impairment (SLI) despite normal development in other areas. She is also interested in how SLI relates to other disorders in which communication is impaired, such as autism and Down syndrome.

On Wednesday, Ms Joanna Hewitt will be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Economics and deliver the occasional address during the graduation ceremony for the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics.

A UWA graduate who completed postgraduate studies in the United Kingdom, Ms Hewitt is Chair of the Commission for International Agricultural research. She has a long history and affinity with international relations and a strong knowledge of agriculture in Australia and overseas.
By Simone Hewett

“Every graduate knows what an impact their university education has had on them and this is an opportunity we want to extend to more young people,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson at the launch of the expansion of Aspire UWA.

Aspire UWA, launched in 2009, raises awareness of tertiary education options and encourages students with academic potential who would not normally consider university to see the benefits and opportunities that university study can offer.

The expansion of the program, to include 50 State, Catholic and independent high schools from the Pilbara, Kimberley, Midwest, Gascoyne and metropolitan regions, will encourage thousands more high school students from around the State to consider a university education.

Formerly aimed at students in Years 9 to 11, Aspire UWA has also expanded to include students from Years 8 to 12. Professor Johnson also announced a new position for a Science Teacher-in-Residence at UWA, who will work with teachers at Aspire UWA schools to deliver a ‘Thinking Science’ program to help students develop new ways of thinking to improve their achievements in studying science.

The project will be overseen by the inaugural Professor of Science Education, Professor Grady Venville, and Assistant Professor Mary Oliver, from the Graduate School of Education.

“We recognise that while ability is evenly distributed throughout the population, there remain barriers for many students who would like to attend university, particularly those in regional areas,” Professor Johnson said.

“These barriers may be due to lack of resources at home, in their school or in their community. Higher education may not be viewed as an appropriate pathway because other family members have not had a university education.

“It may also be because they would have to move away from home and peers to attend university: a challenge faced by many young people growing up in regional and remote Western Australia.

“Education offers young people an opportunity for personal transformation.”

In April this year, 59 Year 11 students from five Pilbara high schools had a taste of university life during a three-day Aspire UWA camp. The students took part in a range of activities across subject areas at UWA and Perth’s four other universities, including training in study skills and stress management to help them succeed in their final years at high school.

They also participated in leadership and team-building activities designed to provide students with the skills and confidence to thrive in the 21st century.

The Aspire team brings together expertise from the School of Indigenous Studies, the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences and Student Services, assisted by a dedicated group of student ambassadors, mostly former students of Aspire schools.

Aspire UWA is funded by the Federal Department of Innovation, Industry, Science, Research and Tertiary Education and UWA.
Barry Marshall has an avatar

An animation about important stages of Professor Barry Marshall’s life leading to him being awarded the Nobel Prize in 2005 was a joint winner of the UWA special prize in the UWA Centenary 3D short film challenge on the theme Seek Wisdom. Created by S. Lemondrop from California, the film was judged to have best captured the essence or spirit of 100 years of seeking wisdom at UWA, winning $200 and a special prize pack including a copy of the Special Edition 2013 UWA Friends of the Grounds Centenary Calendar. It was joint winner with New Yorker, P. Bellman’s film which focused on many of the 100 Treasures from UWA.

The five-minute short film challenge attracted 51 entries from every continent except Antarctica.

First prize-winner was Tutsy Navarathna from India for The Last Syllable of Recorded Time. He narrowly beat the Costa Rican-German collaboration by Karima Hoisan and Natascha Randt with their entry titled Seek Wisdom.

In a related competition, an international field of 90 artworks from 19 countries took part in the UWA Centenary 3D art challenge, with Parisian 3D artist L. Larkham’s work L’histoire de Petit-Gris taking first prize.

Accepting the award of $500 and a special prize pack, Mr Larkham said he was happy his ‘micro-story’ touched so many people. “In this piece, I tried to focus on many things including the place we give to aliens or strangers in society,” he said.

The UWA Centenary special prize went to the third place-getter, The Cathedral of Thoughts, by German artist P. Illusion while the second prize was won by To Be the Wind, a joint entry by T. Byk (USA) and U.Alter (France).

Chief Scientist of Western Australia, Professor Lyn Beazley, was guest speaker at the prize-giving and special viewing.

She praised UWA for creating a global hub for such activities.

“I was hugely impressed by the standard and thought-provoking nature of the award-winning films,” Professor Beazley said. “They opened my eyes to the beauty and impact this interaction between science and art is achieving. Long may such creativity flourish!”

Founder of the UWA virtual presence and host of the challenges, Jay Jay Jegathesan of the School of Physics said he was thrilled that artists and film-makers from around the world had participated in an event that celebrated UWA’s centenary.

Australian Greens Leader, Senator Christine Milne, who was on campus recently, was delighted to meet Professor Thomas Bräunl and try her hand at recharging one of UWA’s electric cars.

Professor Bräunl, in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, is leader of the Electric Vehicle (eV) project. He has overseen the establishment of the nation’s first fast recharge network for electric cars, with 23 new recharge stations installed across the Perth metro area.

Senator Milne applauded Professor Bräunl’s contribution to the revolution in personal transport and his dream of seeing millions of zero-emission vehicles powered by electricity at home, work or charging stations.

All the stations are connected to Western Power’s electricity grid, although one – at Energy Made Clean, in Colin Street, West Perth – also draws renewable energy from a solar photovoltaic system.
Register for inaugural melanoma conference

The Scott Kirkbride Melanoma Research Centre (SKMRC) is hosting the first national melanoma conference.

The conference brings together the world’s leading melanoma researchers to talk about the latest discoveries and treatment advances in melanoma clinical trials and outcomes, molecular signalling pathways, radiology therapy breakthroughs, palliative treatments, biomarkers, and pathology and epidemiology studies.

Distinguished guest speakers from overseas include Professor Charles Balch from the Johns Hopkins Clinical Research Network and Professor Boris Bastian from the University of California San Francisco.

Nationally, the inaugural conference has attracted speakers such as Professor John Thompson and Professor Graham Mann from the Melanoma Institute Australia and the University of Sydney, Professor Grant McArthur from the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and Professor Nick Hayward of the Queensland Institute for Medical Research.

The SKMRC welcomes anyone interested in attending. To register your interest, contact carolyn.williams@waimr.uwa.edu.au

Visit the SKMRC website to see the preliminary conference program: www.skrmrc.org.au

The conference is on Tuesday 23 and Wednesday 24 October at the Esplanade Hotel in Fremantle.
RESEARCH ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
Research Associate Professor Frank Sanfilippo (School of Population Health) has been associated with the University since 1995 and has been an employee since 2001. He is a key member of research teams that have addressed challenges in clinical epidemiologic research. He is also employed as a senior pharmacist one day per week at Royal Perth Hospital and in this capacity his work is invaluable to the Cardiovascular Group’s and the School’s research agenda. His research interests are in the field of clinical epidemiology, cardiovascular disease and pharmacoepidemiology with a focus on the clinical areas of cardiology, gastroenterology and surgical practice. As a clinical researcher, he is involved in projects that collaborate with clinicians so that the projects are clinically relevant and will provide epidemiological information, especially important at the population level. His work is well recognised and appears very well targeted to areas bringing benefits to both the health system and the community. He has been elected to affiliate membership of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and supported for the School of Population Health Consumer and Community Advisory Council.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Research Assistant Professor John Bussell (ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Biology) Research Assistant Professor Bussell commenced with the University in 2006. His research interests in recent years have been focused on aspects cardiovascular disease and pharmacoepidemiology with a focus on the clinical areas of cardiology, gastroenterology and surgical practice. As a clinical researcher, he is involved in projects that collaborate with clinicians so that the projects are clinically relevant and will provide epidemiological information, especially important at the population level. His work is well recognised and appears very well targeted to areas bringing benefits to both the health system and the community. He has been elected to affiliate membership of the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand and supported for the School of Population Health Consumer and Community Advisory Council.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Research Assistant Professor Olivier Van Aken (ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Biology) Research Assistant Professor Olivier Van Aken commenced with the University in 2007 from Ghent University, Belgium, shortly after he completed his PhD at the prestigious Department of Plant Systems Biology at Flanders Institute of Biotechnology. He secured a Research Development Award from UWA in 2009 and in 2010 was awarded a three-year fellowship at the RIKEN Plant Science Centre (Yokohama, Japan) which he declined, preferring to pursue a career with UWA. He currently holds a four-year ARC Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology. Besides a primarily research focused appointment, Assistant Professor Van Aken has retained additional activities within the Centre and UWA, including public outreach and teaching.

GRANTS
Applications for 2013 Diversity Initiatives Fund Grants Now Open Is there an equity and diversity initiative that you would like to see implemented in your part of the campus? The focus of the Diversity Initiatives Fund is now for current and potential students who may come from a low socio-economic background. Consider applying for a Diversity Initiative Fund Grant.
Applications for the UWA Diversity Initiatives Fund 2013 are invited from individuals, groups, schools or faculties to assist in the development of targeted diversity initiatives that: • Are creative, local area programs • Aim to increase the participation, retention and/or success of students from low socio-economic backgrounds • Demonstrate clear and achievable outcomes and assurance of quality • Are innovative and break new ground at this University The purpose of the Fund is to provide financial assistance to new ideas that aim to enhance educational and employment access, participation and outcomes for groups of students from low socio-economic groups. The Diversity Initiatives Fund has been in operation for 16 years and has kick started many UWA projects and initiatives that have become ongoing. Often it is staff or students at the local level who can best identify an initiative that will meet a particular need or fill a gap in their area, and frequently that initiative has relevance for the wider campus. Applications for funding close on Monday 3 December, and all applicants will be notified by mid-December. Successful applicants are expected to complete their project during 2013. An application form can be downloaded from the Equity and Diversity web site at equity.uwa.edu.au/page/8535 or from Robyn Bartlett on 0417 612 678. Applications should be sent to DIF Applications, Equity and Diversity, MBDP 350.
Final reflections

By Winthrop Professor Shelda Debowski

For nine years I have led Organisational and Staff Development Services (OSDS), supporting the University’s on-going learning, development and change strategies.

After many years of being a faculty-based academic, this shift to a senior leadership role in a central service area has proven to be a particularly rich experience. Shortly I will assume a new role at the University of Notre Dame Australia. In the midst of packing, here are some final reflections that I will be taking with me that may also resonate with you.

Even bad times can generate good. After a honeymoon first year I encountered three very torrid years as I experienced the harsh reality of institutional politics. It was a tough time for my team: forcing us to think carefully about our work, accountabilities and evidence of success. Following a difficult restructure we developed a new focus: to establish the country’s leading higher education development service. I am pleased that my legacy is a unit that provides very strong support for academic and leadership development, organisational change, cultural and team building, in partnership with faculties and departments. If you face change, see it as opportunity and a time for self-reformation.

Be innovative. Be ambitious. Take risks. This is an institution that encourages people to be adventurous and to seek new frontiers. In my time at UWA I have led national and international projects and societies, established a voice for academic development and built an amazing network of international colleagues. My recent Churchill Fellowship was a particular highlight. Look for the many ways you can make a difference and enrich your work. The University is a generous supporter of those who seek to excel, but we have to be the prime movers in making it happen.

Make time for learning. Across UWA there are many individuals who embrace learning, recognising its critical function in advancing their identity and roles. They are self-reflective, open to new insights and keen to build improved conceptual frameworks. Conversely, I also see people saying they have too little time to learn new skills or build networks. This makes their journey much harder and less rewarding. Take time to learn. The University is a generous source of guidance. Use it to the hilt.

Be a strategic careerist. Make sure you maximise your potential: be very clear about what counts in your particular career. In my work I have been concerned at the lack of a coherent career strategy that many display. Career management relies on the individual having a clear sense of direction and focus, and setting realistic and informed goals. Each individual needs to identify their critical paths, options and strategies to reach those goals. The PDR and PAR are useful tools to commence this process and encourage stronger supervisor engagement.

Build your mentor portfolio. Across the world mentorship is seen as the most critical success factor in building a good career – particularly for academics. While UWA offers some good programs, the embedding of this principle into the fabric of the University needs to be further strengthened. Mentoring needs to be part of every community and freely offered. If you are a potential mentor – don’t wait to be asked: offer to mentor those you see needing support and guidance. If you don’t have a mentor, find one soon! It is your Number One priority.

Good leadership is critical. Good leadership plays a key role in encouraging constructive and innovative communities. We have been very fortunate in the remarkable people who are guiding many formative changes across UWA. These leaders have themselves embarked on personal journeys to better understand themselves and their impact, particularly through attending programs, seeking expert facilitation and learning from leadership diagnostic tools. We have seen whole faculties and groups shift markedly – particularly when they embark on the journey together. Each of us plays a leadership role in our own particular contexts. How are you doing as a distributed leader? How do you know?

These are key principles I have seen reflected across UWA. They may assist you in thinking further about how you are positioned for success. Have faith in yourself, aim high and don’t give up. Even if the politics sometimes make it hard.