Indigenous culture opens a new world for this designer

By Lindy Brophy

It is rare for academics to change faculties, especially without retraining in another discipline.

But for Grant Revell, the new Associate Dean and Director of Teaching and Learning in the School of Indigenous Studies (SIS), it is more like ‘arriving home’ than a change in work practices.

Formerly Associate Professor and researcher in the Faculty of Architecture, Associate Professor Revell has become what he describes as a humble champion of inter-disciplinary and inter-cultural design practice.

He developed the world’s first Indigenous Design Studio with his landscape architecture students, in collaboration with SIS and Indigenous communities across remote WA.

“I came to Jill (Milroy, Dean of SIS) in 1995 and said: ‘It doesn’t make sense not to include Indigenous culture in my teaching and research.’ What started with a cup of tea resulted in an 18-year relationship, including the collaborative teaching of the unit Sharing Space and continuation of the Indigenous Design Studio,” A/Professor Revell said.

The subsequent collaborative Indigenous-led projects between SIS and ALVA created the bridge by which he crossed over from incorporating

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Indigenous culture and communities in his landscape architecture projects to being immersed in Indigenous teaching and learning and applying it to his creative practice.

A/Professor Revell has also helped set up the seven-year Warburton Studio project, funded by the Shire of Ngaanyatjarraku and global planning and design company AECOM Pty Ltd, which lets him and his colleagues choose four of the brightest architecture and landscape students each year and take them on the road to Warburton.

"Initially it was about forming a relationship with the Aboriginal communities of Ngaanyatjarraku. It is not about going in there, building houses, fixing roads, but getting to know them and letting them get to know you – then the magic of inter-cultural design may happen," he said.

Over time, the students have developed designs for remediating broad scale landscapes, down to houses and yards, public spaces and local furniture.

"One of our students, Amy Sullivan, designed a shelter for the local cemetery. There are some big funerals up in Warburton and it's very hot, so the older people especially need some shade.

"Amy won the Studio Prize which included a 12-month internship with AECOM which allowed her to prepare working drawings for the shelter which will be in-place very soon. It is funded by the Shire and has been pre-fabricated in a factory in South Fremantle, with the help of local Warburton workers and my architecture colleague Assistant Professor Patrick Beale."

A/Professor Revell now plans to bring Indigenous UWA students into the Warburton Studio project and ensure that inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary design becomes stronger across the UWA spectrum. “The voices and talents of Indigenous students will be absolutely key to the future success of the educational project, as will be the further development of Indigenous capacity-building measures for the Warburton Indigenous communities,” he said.

Under his direction, all the units offered by SIS have this year become Category A broadening units. “Other Category A units include languages and the Study Abroad program. Now the engagement and sharing of Indigenous knowledge has joined language, travel and international experiences as critical factors in developing the life skills and scholastic abilities of UWA students.

“My relationships with my Indigenous colleagues and their knowledge, belief and value systems makes me a better landscape architect, and a better person.”

Most recently, he and his colleagues, Winthrop Professor Jill Milroy and Professor Len Collard, have put in a bid to create public art for the new Midland Hospital.

"This will be a wonderful project if it gets up – potentially a fantastic combination between Indigenous scholarship, place and story-telling and creative, evocative cultural design experiences that will be important to the hospital’s healing environs," he said. Transformative opportunities to integrate the cultural design academy with professional Indigenous design practice in Western Australia are the underpinnings of this art project bid.

A/Professor Revell is also facilitating partnerships between UWA, SIS and some Pilbara communities which have mining royalties to invest in innovative educational, health, housing and commercial services aimed at improving the health and well-being of those communities.

“One of the most exciting partnerships is with the Murrujuga Aboriginal Corporation in Dampier which has asked us to find out what UWA holds, in terms of knowledge and cultural materials, that could be relevant to them and for the development of their current cultural management plan study,” he said.

“Working with the library, the Centre for Rock Art Research and Management, Winthrop Professor Alan Dench in Linguistics and the Berndt Museum staff, we have discovered many field-based data sets and cultural materials that are relevant to the communities’ planning purposes. In a project that seeks to be world’s best practice, we might be involved in the eventual repatriation of these cultural materials back to their cultural custodians and landscapes in Dampier.”

A possible education program for Aboriginal park rangers from the Pilbara, planning for the new SIS building, which will be linked to the river through Prescott Court, helping to set up the Matariki Network of Universities (MNU) plans for a Global Indigenous Study Abroad Program and helping to create a framework for Indigenous teaching and research engagement in and out of UWA are all in the scope of A/Professor Revell and his unique blend of experiences.
From the Yorkshire Dales to UWA, minus her sheep

By Sally-Ann Jones

You couldn’t get a better person to lead organisational change at UWA than our new Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, who would no doubt agree that ‘a change is as good as a holiday’: although she prefers to speak about leading movement rather than managing change.

After all, Professor Dawn Freshwater is someone who not only embraces metamorphosis but who has helped to lead positive transformation of organisations at a local, national and international level.

Embracing change and movement literally, Professor Freshwater not only left a job and colleagues that she loved in the UK to come to Western Australia, she also left her home in a converted barn in the Yorkshire Dales – complete with a flock of six Shoya, or Scottish, sheep – to live in an apartment, until she finds a more permanent home within cycling or walking distance of the University.

The Dales was Professor Freshwater’s home-base for her demanding job of Pro Vice-Chancellor for Organisational Effectiveness and staff at the University of Leeds.

She was so effective in this position, winning international and national acclaim, that UWA tempted her with a job offer here – which she accepted and started in April.

While it was hard for her to leave the UK behind, she said it was an easy decision to come to UWA – one that was made easier because of her experience of working with academics in WA in the past and having connections to Perth through previous scholarships and grants. UWA’s association through the World Universities Network with the University of Leeds meant that Professor Freshwater had worked with UWA’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robyn Owens and other key academics from UWA.

She said UWA was attractive to her because of its emphasis on research, like Leeds, and because of its strategic vision and intention to be more internationally outward-looking.

Community contribution is very important to the high-powered academic who started her working life as a mental and general health nurse and soon became one of the UK’s first nurse-practitioners in equal partnership in a general practice.

As a health professional, she undertook academic research into the health of offenders, and psychological therapies. Her work has led to mental health policy and practice in the UK, including the development of a seamless service for children and families with life-limiting illness.

Most recently her research has been in the area of prisoners dealing with pain. She has also enabled access to psychological therapies for marginalised groups including people with mental health problems, those who do not speak English as a first language, the ageing and people of lower socio-economic status.

At Leeds, Professor Freshwater’s position expanded into a leadership role which saw her overseeing seven disciplines, advising the National Institute for Clinical Excellence and contributing to the development of doctoral training centres and clinical academic careers. She currently sits on the Research Excellence Framework Panel for the Higher Education Funding Council for England and is engaged in assessing the impact of research for public good.

It is no surprise that this marathon runner and cyclist who no longer thinks of herself as discipline-specific should have undertaken a course in leading change in organisational renewal at the Harvard Business School in 2012 and the next year a Case Alumni course in advancement and development training.

While she was at Leeds, the university won several Athena SWAN awards recognising the accomplishments of women in science and technology and Women of Achievement gongs for women in leadership across the campus.

There is no doubt that at UWA Professor Freshwater will not only be working hard to improve the University’s reputation on the world stage, she will be encouraging women around campus to help her do it.
The way forward post-Budget

Thanks to the hundreds of staff and students who joined me and the Executive Team at forums last week to discuss what the federal budget means for the University and the higher education sector. It was a good discussion which must continue to ensure we fully understand what it will mean for UWA and how to best respond.

At the forums I explained that the Federal Government’s first budget contains a number of very significant changes to the way higher education is delivered in Australia. It has taken us several weeks to analyse the detail of the budget and understand what it means for us.

If you were unable to join us the discussion was recorded and the video can be viewed at the new Executive website at uwa.edu.au/university/executive

We now need to begin thinking about how we will position ourselves in this new competitive higher education sector. The Executive and I will need your help to achieve this.

The government has set out a bold reform agenda which has already attracted considerable political opposition meaning its passage through the Parliament is by no means guaranteed.

I have been asked whether the proposed changes are good or bad. The extent of the changes is so great that there is not a single answer to that question.

I believe the government’s reform package falls into two categories which have mixed outcomes for UWA and the sector.

The first is the deregulation agenda, including allowing universities to set their own fees. This we welcome. We believe the greater autonomy will help us better compete in a global market by being able to enhance our student experience, conduct more high impact research, and attract the best academics from around the world.

The other elements of the budget include several substantial changes to the way universities are funded as well as how students repay their loans and the interest rate at which they repay them. These we are cautious about.

Reducing the number of funding clusters from eight to five, reducing the Commonwealth Grants Scheme funding by 20 per cent and charging compound interest on student loans through the HECS scheme all need to be handled with care.

We are working closely with the government on the detail of the reform package.

I assure you it will remain a priority of this university that students regardless of their personal circumstances can learn with us. We spend more than $6 million annually on equity and access programs. These Federal Government proposals present us with an opportunity to provide more scholarships for those facing disadvantage.

This is uncharted territory for every university in the country but I am confident that if we work together, plan our position early and boldly take the steps needed to prepare the University for the future, we will succeed.

Paul Johnson
Vice-Chancellor

Pack for a career boost

Applications for a Fay Gale 2014 Fellowship have opened … and this year the awards can be used for shorter-term development.

The purpose of the Fellowships is to help staff at an early stage in their careers to spend a period of time interstate or overseas attending a conference or engaging in other activities that support their careers. In awarding Fellowships the committee will give preference to staff who have not previously travelled nationally or overseas in a professional capacity and who have a particular need for assistance because of the impact of family responsibilities on their career.

Previously, Fellowship holders were expected to be away from the University for a period of not less than three months. This requirement has now changed in recognition of the fact that, increasingly, such an extended absence is difficult to manage operationally and has a particular impact on applicants with caring responsibilities.

The reconfigured Fellowships recognise that applicants often need assistance to attend national or international events such as a conference, and that these events will support the re-establishment of their career. While the total aggregate value of the Fellowships has not changed it is anticipated that more applicants will be able to receive a Fellowship under the revised eligibility requirements.

Academic or Professional staff who hold ongoing appointments or who have completed not less than two years continuous contract of service at the University, and who are employed either full-time or on a part-time basis of 50 per cent or more are eligible to apply for a Fellowship.

Several Fellowships may be offered, up to a total value of $50,000.

Applications should be sent to Jenny Robertson, Acting Director Human Resources by Friday, 27 June 2014.

For further information on eligibility, rules and the application process please visit hr.uwa.edu.au/development/grants/fellowships
Agricultural scientist Isabel Arevalo-Vigne has become more of a social scientist in her bid to rid WA of fruit fly. The PhD scholar is studying the factors that affect people's motivation to control fruit fly, or Medfly, as it is more commonly called in the industry, short for Mediterranean fruit fly.

She has been surveying commercial fruit growers, domestic gardeners and other members of the public through online surveys, public meetings and door-knocking in selected areas.

Isabel has found that it is more about community engagement than simply recommending to people that they use control methods for fruit fly. “The Department of Agriculture and Food WA (DAFWA) has been running campaigns for decades about controlling fruit fly but it is becoming a bigger problem than ever due to chemical de-registration. So I wanted to find out why,” Isabel said.

“For some people, it is just too complicated, for example for elderly people and others who find it physically challenging to remove fallen or unwanted fruit from the garden. A lot of people are confused by the information. There is a lot of information around, online and in pamphlets. We need to streamline that information and make it simple as well as compelling.”

“People don’t realise that fruit fly doesn’t just attack common fruit trees. It can attack a wide variety of fruits including olives, grapes, and even tomatoes and capsicum.”

“We need people to understand the implications if they don’t control fruit fly: that it is affecting the industry, not just their home-grown produce. At the same time, we want them to take pleasure in their gardens and to realise that their efforts will be rewarded with lovely healthy fruit.”

Isabel, whose research is supervised by Professors Ben White, Nancy Longnecker, Ross Kingwell (UWA) and Iain Walker (CSIRO), distributed her online survey through community garden groups, small landholders, ethnic and cultural organisations and natural resource management groups, and through friends and colleagues.

She conducted direct surveys with householders in Bridgetown, Jarrahdale, Willetton and also in Highgate, where eradication of Queensland fruit fly was achieved two years ago.

“Highgate is interesting. There are lots of rental properties, in which many people take the attitude that the garden is not their responsibility,” she said.

“It is difficult to convince people to do something for others, particularly when other everyday demands are more important to each individual.”

“Society has changed so much that many of us have lost the connection with our fellow citizens.” But Isabel believes we can convince people that together and with the right knowledge we can eliminate the Medfly problem from our region.

“Targeting an individual’s sense of accomplishment is important, as is determining how much people see themselves as part of the solution,” she said.

She visited Bridgetown, distributed surveys, interviewed people and held community meetings. She found that a lot of people were willing to help. “They have a sense of pride in their community,” she said. Bridgetown will become a pilot area to investigate changes of attitudes with the use of tailored information aimed at improving the understanding of the science behind the control of Medfly.

Isabel hopes her data will be used to deliver more targeted messages to householders to put an end to commercial losses of up to $20 million a year in WA.
Valuable parchment manuscripts to go digital and democratic

By Sally-Ann Jones

Sir Thomas Phillipps, First Baronet (1792 – 1872) must be smiling in his Somerset grave.

He’d be pleased to know that the 60,000 books and manuscripts he began collecting as a six year-old when a student at Rugby School have not only survived but will be brought to life for modern-day and future scholars to enjoy, thanks to UWA’s Dr Toby Burrows.

Dr Burrows, manager of the eResearch Support and Digital Developments Unit, is fascinated with Sir Thomas and will make him the focus of his new European Commission Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship project, hosted by the Department of Digital Humanities at King’s College London – one of Europe’s leading centres for digital humanities research.

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UWAnews caught up with Dr Burrows on his last day at UWA for a while. He and his wife, lawyer and writer Deborah Burrows, will live in Oxford for the Fellowship’s two-year duration. Many readers will know Deborah Burrows as the author of the popular historical crime novels A Stranger in My Street and Taking a Chance, both set in 1943 Perth when the city was home to a big contingent of US troops and journalists. She has a third novel about to come out in January and will spend her time in the UK writing more, perhaps also inspired by Sir Thomas.

He would make a great character in a novel. The illegitimate son of a wealthy Manchester textile manufacturer, Sir Thomas was a self-confessed ‘vellomania’. He coined this term to refer to his passion for vellum, or parchment made from fine animal (usually calf) skin. He created for himself a gentrified Welsh ancestry and many of his manuscripts were written in Welsh as well as in old English and several other European languages.

His vellomania cost him the love of one of his daughters and he went into debt in an effort to outbid competitors—including the British Museum—for his coveted manuscripts, which date from the eighth to the 19th centuries and which he sourced from all over the UK and Western Europe, driven by the desire to save them from possible destruction.

Yet he was pleased to share the manuscripts with scholars who visited his stately home in Gloucestershire to read them. While many of the manuscripts are solemn documents of classical literature, histories of noble families or even the King of Spain’s original orders to the Armada, others refer to ordinary daily life and include 18th century medical records.

“Sir Thomas hoovered up all this stuff,” Dr Burrows said. “He spent nearly 60 years and £250,000 (A$350 million today) for the biggest manuscript collection ever assembled by one person, larger than most collections in public institutions today. After his death, the collection was broken up – and UWA has one of his manuscripts in its Special Collections: a 15th century copy of Virgil’s Aeneid.

“Analysing the individual histories of 60,000 manuscripts is beyond the capabilities of researchers working manually through thousands of catalogue entries,” Dr Burrows said. “I will be applying and testing a range of new e-research methodologies and approaches designed to enable large-scale data analysis.”

Using innovative Linked Data technologies, Dr Burrows will enable the manuscripts – and the people and events they record – to come alive digitally for the first time. Besides creating a new updated catalogue of all the Phillipps manuscripts, Dr Burrows will write a book of essays about Sir Thomas and his collection and topics such as the passion for collecting generally.

He will also be creating a digital map of the complex network of people, institutions and events connected with the manuscripts in the Phillipps collection over many centuries. “This is a new technique which has been dubbed ‘network archaeology’,” said Dr Burrows. “It has the potential to reveal exciting new patterns in the history of cultural heritage objects and artefacts.”

Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowships are extremely competitive. They are intended to bring leading international researchers to the European Union to share their expertise and knowledge. Only a handful of Australians have been awarded a Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship at the experienced researcher level.
How to couple proactivity with wisdom

The University has been exhorting its staff and students for 100 years to Seek Wisdom.

So it seems that UWA could be the best place to work out how organisations can foster wise proactivity among their staff.

A psychologist in the Business School is doing just this.
And Winthrop Professor Sharon Parker says the value that defines this trait is wisdom.

“People can be proactive without their aspirations or actions necessarily being wise,” said Professor Parker, Co-Director of UWA’s Accelerated Learning Laboratory.

She and her research team in Management and Organisations are working on a three-year project to work out how to help organisations to develop staff who balance interests beyond their own to make the right things happen in the right way.

“Proactivity is about people making things happen, using their initiative,” she said. “Our workplaces are so complex these days that the old-fashioned idea of a manager working out what needs to be done and simply instructing the employees to do it just isn’t effective anymore.”

Proactivity is not always a good thing. Professor Parker said some people lacked situational judgment and while they initiated action, their proactivity could be misguided or ineffective.

The team has identified what makes proactivity wise.

“Firstly, it needs to be contextually sound. Proactivity is often about change but wise proactivity is not about change for change’s sake, or change just for the senior leader to look good.

“Contextual soundness requires that people know what’s happening, how the organisation is performing, what the competitors are doing. Only with this information can people initiate change that is right for the situation. Too often, this information is only available to managers.

“Contextual soundness also means asking for others’ input when planning change, and engaging in systems thinking. These types of processes help identify change that is right for the situation.

“Wise proactivity also needs to be personally sound. People need to be thinking about themselves: is this the right change to be introducing now? Am I personally taking on too much? Will I be able to deliver? Will I get burnt out?

“Finally, what defines wise proactivity is that it is change that will bring benefit to others, not just one’s self. Wisdom has an element of virtue.

“Proactivity is about people making things happen, using their initiative,” she said. “Our workplaces are so complex these days that the old-fashioned idea of a manager working out what needs to be done and simply instructing the employees to do it just isn’t effective anymore.”

She said her team wanted to understand what sort of people engaged in wise proactivity so employers could select employees with these attributes.

“Our research shows that, among managers, social astuteness is one of those attributes, as is humility: both of them are important in people understanding others’ needs and recognising that you are just one person in a bigger picture and that you don’t know everything.”

Currently the team is investigating what features of an organisation can promote wise proactivity. Already the research has identified how job autonomy, a positive culture, and leader vision help promote higher levels of staff proactivity. But what can organisations do to help engender proactivity that is wise?

There is still a lot of work for Professor Parker and her team, but she likes to cite the Serenity Prayer as a mantra for people who are seeking to include wisdom in their proactivity:

“Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.”

““To be wise is to be more than just cunning or clever or skilled, it is about doing good for humanity. To be wise, not simply effective, your action has to be in the service of the common good,” she said.

Professor Parker gave a small example from the Business School of wise proactivity.

“A colleague came up with a simple tool for generating tables. He took it to a meeting, showed colleagues how it worked, then shared it, making it available to all. He used his initiative to come up with an effective tool which helped everybody.”

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“Finally, what defines wise proactivity is that it is change that will bring benefit to others, not just one’s self. Wisdom has an element of virtue.
Obesity, heart disease and cancer are the illnesses that we know are taking a toll on Australians.

But mental illness is also rife, although less publicised.

One in two Australians will experience a mental health disorder in their lifetime. Less than half of those who do will receive appropriate support and treatment.

Left untreated, mental health problems often get worse, affecting every aspect of a person’s life and creating a significant economic burden on the Australian community.

Projections by the National Mental Health Commission are that, if we continue at this same rate, the mental health system will require at least 8,800 additional mental health professionals over the next 15 years.

David Badcock, Winthrop Professor in Psychology and ARC Australian Professorial Fellow, says this prediction comes at a time when universities across Australia are closing down psychology professional training programs because reductions in funding over the past decade have made them too expensive to run, while meeting the required national accreditation standards.

A broader challenge facing the field that affects the training of both professional and research psychologists is the rapid growth in brain imaging technologies that have transformed the ability to view which brain regions are active in particular tasks, and to determine which regions are functioning differently in clinical conditions.

"New research which will translate into improved clinical practice needs the latest technology, including functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machines, which are very expensive," he said.

"The Western Australian State Government and research institutions initially didn’t get into the ‘arms race’ for neuroscience research as many in the eastern states did, and now those states have the ready access to the tools but we don’t."

“There is no blame being laid, but the fact is that most local MRI machines are in constant clinical use and not available for research. We can get access late at night or on a Sunday but when you need the technology as a teaching resource, that just doesn’t work.”

Professor Badcock has a joint appointment with the University of Nottingham, whose Psychology department has access to four scanners for human imaging and two for animal imaging, primarily for research.

"Despite this technology shortfall, our School has been ranked number 31 in the QS World University Rankings. Psychology is the highest ranking School at UWA."

"But we continue to lobby for more adequate funding for the research tools and student training costs required to help us address the almost
overwhelming rates of mental illness in Australia.”

Professor Badcock sees many of the problems arising from the way society has reorganised in modern times, including the change in the structure of the family.

“Our society in the 21st century typically lives in very small family units. We have lost the social support of the extended family, who used to help get us through in times of need.

“We have become reliant on our friends and colleagues to support us, but we have a highly mobile work force and friends and colleagues move away, or we do. It is less common for people to have long-term jobs these days.

“It is also less common for the family to be a close unit for 40 or 50 years as it used to be. Divorce breaks up that family unit and is doing so at an increasing rate.”

Professor Badcock said stability was important for mental health. “This is also why we see mental health issues with fly-in-fly-out workers and their families. Flexibility in the workplace comes at a cost, and individual workers carry that cost.”

He said that when people did seek help for mental health issues, they tended to visit their GP.

“While this is a useful first port of call generally GPs are substantially less specialised to deal with these issues,” he said. “It is much better for people to see a psychologist who has usually spent six years or more training to deal with the issues.

“But we need thousands more (and psychiatrists, social workers and mental health nurses) to meet the demand. Our challenge, as a School, is to ensure they continue to be well-trained and armed with the most recent set of evidence-based skills.”

Migraine affects 15 per cent of the Australian population, resulting in a conservative estimate of a $1 billion loss in productivity each year.

But while up to eight per cent of men and 18 per cent of women are suffering from the debilitating headaches, the last thing they care about is the economic impact of their illness.

“Migraine doesn’t kill you, but sometimes the people who suffer them might wish they did,” said David Badcock, Winthrop Professor of Psychology and ARC Australian Professorial Fellow.

He and his colleagues study human visual performance and have been looking at migraine from this perspective for many years.

“But we are most interested at the moment in what happens in between migraines,” Professor Badcock said.

“In the immediate lead up to headaches, there are changes in blood flow in the brain and these can have consequences for vision – though other cognitive functions appear to be unaffected.

“However, we are measuring how visual performance varies in the periods between migraines in order to characterise the changes, and also with the hope that we might be able to use these behavioural measures to predict when a migraine will occur.

“Knowing when they will happen would help people to cope with them and will also make a difference to the economic impact, if employers and employees can make other arrangements. It could be very useful.”

The most common warning sign – too late for most people to make alternative arrangements for work – is photophobia or experiencing a visual aura.

“Aura symptoms can include affected hearing, tingling in the skin or even gastro-intestinal symptoms. The change in blood flow that affects the brain also affects sensory processing from other parts of the body.”

Professor Badcock and one of his former PhD students, Associate Professor Allison McKendrick, are hoping to renew their NHMRC funding to extend this work on predictors of migraine.

In earlier joint research projects, he and A/Professor McKendrick, who is now Head of the School of Optometry at the University of Melbourne, looked at people a few days after a migraine and measured their visual performance.

Among working people in Australia, migraine is third on the list of causes of psychological stress, coming after sleep disorders and drug and alcohol abuse. It is also the fourth leading cause of disability among young Australian women.
High powered mentors put graduates on track

Our students are getting the best start to their professional lives with mentors from around the world.

An international trade lawyer from Ghana and recently retired staff member of the United Nations office in Geneva is one of the mentors in UWA’s Career Mentor Link program.

Gertrude Nimako-Boateng last year mentored law student Angelyn Seen via monthly Skype sessions from Geneva. This year, she is mentoring another law student, Rebecca See.

Ms Nimako-Boateng recently came to Perth especially for the launch of the 2014 program.

“I have a friend at the World Trade Organization in Geneva who did his PhD in Economics at UWA and is part of this program. He suggested I should join too,” she said. “So I did. I coordinated the United Nations Graduate Study Programme, which brought about 100 post-graduate students from all over the world to Geneva every summer to study the work of the UN and its specialised agencies. When they left, many of the students stayed in touch with me.

“I relate quite well to young people and I use my experience as a mother as well as my professional experience when I mentor,” she said.

Ms Nimako-Boateng has two sons, aged 26 and 30. Their father died when they were children and she worked, studied and brought them up by herself.

“I was working at the UN when I decided to study law. For my Master of Laws at the University of East Anglia, I was so keen to complete my course successfully that they created a program that enabled me to attend classes once a week. I used to fly from Geneva to London on Thursday night, take a two-hour train to Norwich on Friday, work all day, return to London, then fly home to Switzerland on Saturday and go straight to my office to catch up on the work I’d missed on Friday, and do my homework, before going home to my boys.

“I kept that up for nine months, then spent three months writing two dissertations and obtained my LLM degree with a distinction in one of my subjects.

“I shared that experience with Angelyn: that hard work invariably pays off,” she said.

She also shared information about what avenues would be available to Angelyn as a graduate. “She hadn’t thought about the possibility of using her law degree to work with the United Nations and its specialised agencies.”

She said the mentoring relationship worked both ways. Angelyn was able to advise her mentor on the two books she is currently writing: one for students on how to focus on their studies; the other on parenting. “I asked Angelyn if they should be together or in two separate books, and took her advice to keep them separate.”

Angelyn is at the University of Exeter UK, for six months as an exchange student and Ms Nimako-Boateng invited her to Geneva recently so they could meet face to face. She also met Angelyn’s parents on this visit to Perth, and got to know her new mentee, Rebecca.

The dynamic and outspoken lawyer says she has never condoned unjust or unfair policy, so she always sleeps well. “But I have been very unpopular for my views. I always say exactly what I think!”

Ms Nimako-Boateng recently broke a bone in her toe which has failed to heal and badly affected her gait, so she is now walking on crutches.

“I decided it was a sign to slow down, so I have just retired and will go back to Ghana to live for about 70 per cent of the time (returning to Geneva for the other 30 per cent). I will run the International Trade Institute for West Africa, a non-profit organisation which I set up, write my two books and many more, as well as work with the Ghana Education Service to mentor students.”

Gertrude Nimako-Boateng “... I have been very unpopular for my views. I always say exactly what I think!”
She decided to write the books when she became in such demand to speak to students and parent groups in Ghana that she couldn’t fit them all in.

Despite her high-powered career, Ms Nimako-Boateng is most proud of her parenting accomplishments. “I say to parents in Ghana: ‘What do you mean, it’s too hard to travel from one region to another to watch your child play sport? One of my sons is a great soccer player and when he was at Harvard, I flew from Switzerland to Massachusetts, to see his finals.

*Parenting doesn’t stop with paying the school fees!*

Physics experts win Clunies Ross Award

Internationally recognised physics researchers Eugene Ivanov and Michael Tobar have added a Clunies Ross Award to their extensive swag of prizes.

The leaders of the Frequency Standards and Quantum Metrology Research group at UWA collected the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering award when the ATSE Clunies Ross Awards Dinner was recently held in Perth for the first time.

Over the past 20 years, Winthrop Professors Tobar and Ivanov have invented new technologies based on microwave circuit and sapphire dielectric resonator technology, leading them to the development of the world’s lowest-noise oscillators. The oscillators have been used in laboratories worldwide to enable modern atomic clocks to keep time with unprecedented accuracy.

Their inventions have found a range of applications, from fundamental research to metrology, hi-tech communications and defence. Their high-value technology has boosted the defence sector through the advancement of radar and navigation systems as well as other areas that require sophisticated, low-noise, high-precision frequency standards.

Previous UWA Clunies Ross winners include Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall, who discovered the bacteria that causes stomach ulcers, Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood, inventor of spray-on skin, Professor Tim St Pierre, who developed a pain and risk-free liver test and Winthrop Professor David Blair, for his quest to detect gravity waves.
You haven’t forgotten the Centenary already, have you?

It cost two shillings and sixpence, or 25c a year, to join the Guild when it was established in 1913.

The balcony at the northern end of the Vice-Chancellery was decorated with peacocks and vines – 40 years before the peacocks were donated to the University and became an iconic part of the campus.

These and other fascinating facts, memories, statistics and stories were drawn together in several labours of love leading up to and during our Centenary last year. Ten books were or are about to be published and there are oral histories and an archival exhibition online, many of them thanks to UWA Centenary Planning Committee grants.

The books and booklets are still available on campus and history lovers recommend that staff and visitors buy them before they run out.

A brilliant booklet, launched last month, is Personalities and Places, all about the people whose names are on buildings, paths, objects and locations on the Crawley campus.

Shenton House, the Somerville Auditorium, the Blakers lecture theatre, Prescott Court, the Robert Street building, McGillivray Oval and the Eileen Joyce Studio are just a few of the dozens of memorials that remember and honour about 70 people who made an important contribution to the University.

Each person and his or her building, room, plaque or garden is featured on a separate page in a beautifully designed book that starts with Whitfeld Court at the northern end of campus and takes the reader on a walk down the western side of the campus to the south, then back up the eastern side, ending at Jackson Court, which features the bronze ballerina, between the Octagon Theatre and the gym.

Changes in the air for future teachers

Our graduate teachers enjoy a very high reputation*, but UWA’s flagship ‘Dip Ed’ is about to change.

The Faculty of Education at UWA has for several decades prepared teachers for schools across Australia and abroad and the 12-month Graduate Diploma in Education has traditionally been the Faculty’s most popular degree, filling a crucial role in educating secondary teachers and school psychologists for Western Australian schools.

However new regulations governing teacher registration will see an end to the program.

As part of nation-wide changes to teaching standards, the Dip Ed is being phased out across all universities in Australia. UWA will offer the degree for the last time in 2017, after which only the two-year Master of Teaching degrees will be available.

“The graduate Dip Ed will still be offered for a couple of years, but we do encourage people who are considering becoming teachers to enrol straight into a Master of Teaching course to give themselves a head start when the new regulations come into force,” said Assistant Professor Michelle Striepe, Coordinator of the Secondary teaching programs.

There are some incentives on offer for students who enrol in the Master of Teaching course.

“In the first year we provide students with an iPad and support them in learning how to use ever-evolving mobile technologies in the classroom,” said Associate Professor Grace Oakley, an internationally-recognised expert in the use of information and communication technologies in education, and the Coordinator of the Early Childhood and Primary teaching programs at UWA.

“Another advantage is that Master of Teaching students also conduct intensive teaching interventions, in which they devise an educational program for the needs of a particular child, often in literacy or numeracy.

“Some of our students have even been able to produce a peer-reviewed publication out of their intervention, giving them an excellent grounding in pedagogical research if they later choose to pursue a further degree, such as the Master of Educational...
The Dip Ed was the only way for Psychology graduates to qualify as school psychologists," said A/Professor Kenneth Glasgow, proram coordinator. "The changes in national teacher regulations do not apply to school psychologists, so we now have the opportunity to create a dedicated qualification exclusively for school psychology, which will remain as a one-year program."

UWA offers teaching qualifications (Master of Teaching) in Early Childhood, Primary and Secondary teaching. Early Childhood and Primary teaching courses are also available at the UWA Albany campus.

"In the recent QS World University Rankings by Subject UWA’s Faculty of Education was ranked 33rd in the world, and out of all WA education graduates, UWA’s had the highest reputation among employers."

Visit education.uwa.edu.au for more information.
Undergrads connect across the world

Undergraduates have the chance to present their research to an international audience later in the year.

The concept of undergraduate research is still relatively new in Australia. It has been driven for several years at UWA by Professor Sally Sandover, Director of the Educational Strategies Office, and Dr Lee Partridge from the Centre of Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

Now three or four universities overseas have joined with UWA and Monash University to support undergraduates who are involved in research, through an international conference in September.

The inaugural International Conference of Undergraduate Research (ICUR) will be held at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research on 23 September. It will give students the opportunity of presenting their research face to face to other students, academics and their families, and taking part in a virtual presentation.

This involves live video-conferencing sessions with students from the other universities: presenting to each other’s audiences and taking questions from them.

Led by Monash, much of the work for the ambitious project is being done by student volunteers in all the universities. The volunteers have been connected across the globe, so they can share their ideas and learn more from this experience.

Andrea Fraser, Project Officer in the Educational Strategies Office, is co-ordinating 20 student volunteers who have developed a marketing plan, been assigned in pairs to UWA faculties to keep them informed and will facilitate the event as well as chair panel discussions at the conference.

“The volunteers are a brilliant bunch of students. They are working hard and have come up with some great ideas, including a “wallpaper” promoting the conference on all the computer terminals in the library,” Ms Fraser said.

“And the volunteers are going to be from a wide variety of disciplines. Some of these volunteers are first year students, so we hope they will be tuned into undergraduate research and get involved in the next couple of years,” Professor Sandover said.

The ULTRIS project (Undergraduate Learning and Teaching Research Internship), developed by Professor Sandover, Dr Partridge and Dr Wayne McGowan, kicked off the idea of undergraduates taking on an extra-curricular research training program, earning a stipend, so they can devote their time to their research rather than part-time work.

The ULTRIS students all researched an aspect of teaching and learning at UWA, then the program spread through one of UWA’s global university partnerships, the Matariki Network.

“Monash approached us because of our success with ULTRIS but none of the universities involved with ICUR is part of Matariki,” Professor Sandover said. They are the Monash’s long-term partner, the University of Warwick, Singapore Management University and Nantang Technical University, also in Singapore. Two recent additions to the partner group are Baruch College, from the City University of New York system, and the University of Washington. Monash’s South African campus may also take part.

Organisers have no idea how many students will participate as abstracts were still coming in as this edition went to press.

Honours students are considered undergraduates for this event. “So this will be a great opportunity for them to present their research,” Professor Sandover said.

“In fact, it is a really important opportunity for undergraduate research at UWA: for the students to present in a safe, student-friendly environment, a stepping stone between doing research and presenting at a national or international conference.”

The University of Warwick will run online workshops on presenting papers, with a particular focus on the video format, prior to the ICUR conference to help them prepare for their presentations.

“ICUR will give all the students fabulous exposure to the global aspect of presentation, and learning how to do it in a virtual format will prepare them well for the future,” Professor Sandover said.

Some of the research will be in the field of teaching and learning, but much of it will be discipline-based, across the University.

Registrations for the conference close on 27 June 2014.

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Undergraduates have the chance to present their research to an international audience later in the year.
Putting students into service

The final part of New Courses is being put together by a young man who is working in an unprecedented joint role on the Crawley campus.

Aden Date has for nearly two years managed volunteering at the Guild. He now also has a part-time appointment in the office of Winthrop Professor Grady Venville, Dean of Coursework Studies, to implement the Service Learning component of New Courses.

“I don’t think it’s ever happened before, that a Guild employee is also employed in a teaching and learning role with the University,” said Aden, who has a background of working with not-for-profit organisations.

“I have lots of the sort of contacts needed to set up Service Learning units,” said Aden, who is also studying for a graduate certificate in social impact, with Winthrop Professor Paul Flatau, Director of the Centre for Social Impact in the Business School.

He has already done a search of all the undergraduate units on offer at UWA and found 340 that match some of the criteria for Service Learning. “Grady is putting me in touch with the people in the faculties and I hope to be able to show them that if they are giving students a hypothetical situation in a learning environment, I might be able to help them turn it into a real situation, from which a NFP organisation could benefit.”

Service Learning embeds community engagement activities in units of study within the academic curriculum.

It is the unit’s academic element that sets Service Learning apart from simply volunteering.

Students’ volunteer community service is already noted on their supplementary student transcripts, which sit alongside their academic transcripts.

“About 350 students have had their volunteer hours recognised by the University on their transcripts,” Aden said. “And there are probably just as many who have done the hours but haven’t had them recognised. There are about 15 organisations which UWA approves for recognised community volunteering, including Teach Learn Grow, the Australian Tax Office help program, Engineers without Borders and the Save the Children book sale on campus.

“Hopefully, we can increase the list to about 50 or 60 recognised providers.”

While Aden still runs these volunteering opportunities through the Guild, he is keen to hear from the faculties so he can use his volunteering experience and contacts to help teachers to create Academic Service Learning units.

About 15 Service Learning units are already running through undergraduate courses. And Service Learning as a broadening unit will soon be given a trial, where a student is placed with a NFP organisation without the project being attached to a faculty.

“Grady is working on this idea in which the Service Learning unit would sit directly under the office of Professor Alec Cameron, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) as a broadening unit available to all undergraduate students.

“It could be undertaken with a service such as Teach Learn Grow (a NFP education group set up by UWA students to tutor and mentor rural primary school children). I know students who are putting in 80 hours a semester with that group, which is equivalent to the hours you would put into an academic unit.”

Teachers who would like advice on Service Learning can contact Aden at aden.date@guild.uwa.edu.au or on 6488 5891. Aden is particularly keen to hear from staff who already engage with the non-profit sector through practicums and field work, or who feel their existing units may be eligible for Service Learning accreditation.
**By Simone Hewett**

The Perth USAsia Centre board has been boosted by the addition of three leading West Australian women with strong links to UWA – Liz Constable, Lisa Scaffidi and Deidre Willmott.

The trio join former federal foreign affairs and defence minister and UWA graduate Stephen Smith (who has just been appointed Winthrop Professor of International Law), UWA Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson, CEO of American Australian Association and former South Australian Premier John Olsen, American Australian Association Chair Malcolm Binks, and Bates Gill, CEO of United States Studies Centre, on the board.

Their appointment was announced at the American Australian Association Benefit Dinner held earlier this month at Winthrop Hall. Recently appointed UWA Vice-Chancellor’s Fellow, Dr Constable retired from politics last year as WA’s longest-serving female State MP after serving almost 22 years in State Parliament, including as Education Minister from 2008 to 2012.

Awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UWA during its 2013 autumn graduations, she is also the current Chair of Council at St Catherine’s College at UWA.

Dr Constable’s breadth of knowledge in education and State politics is of pivotal importance to the Centre. As the longest serving female State member of Parliament, a former Education Minister and distinguished educator herself, Dr Constable offers unique insights to the Board based on her experience in these fields.

Ms Willmott, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WA) and UWA Law graduate, has held many high-profile positions including chief of staff to current Premier Colin Barnett, as well as chief of staff to former premier Richard Court and senior roles with public relations firm Cannings Purple and mining company Fortescue Metals Group.

She will bring to the Board her experience as a leading figure in WA’s resources and energy sector.

“I believe that my work on policy issues affecting Western Australia will contribute significantly to the ambitions of the Perth USAsia Centre to become a leading regional think-tank,” Ms Willmott said.

“My current position as the CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (WA) is perfectly aligned with my pursuit of the CCI vision to make WA a leading place to live and do business and the work of the Centre to contribute to the thought leadership generated out of Perth.”

Mrs Scaffidi became the first female Lord Mayor of Perth in 2007 after serving two terms as a councillor. She worked in the hospitality industry in marketing and served more than 10 years as WA state director of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). She has actively promoted links between the City of Perth and UWA and strongly supports the University’s bid to align with the City of Perth.

Mrs Scaffidi said she hoped to bring a good working knowledge of the importance of strategic, economically-focused working relationships to the Board given this had been a key part of her role as the former President of the World Energy Cities Partnership.

“It’s also a key focus in my ongoing capacity as a Lord Mayor who is committed to economic development work via the City’s strong international relations focus,” she said.

UWA hosted a lunch with Lord Mayor Scaffidi and Houston Mayor Annise Parker to celebrate their sister city relationship, which began 30 years ago.

The Perth USAsia Centre aims to become a leading policy think tank on the Australia-Asia-US strategic and economic relationship, a teaching and research centre, and a conduit for a deeper understanding in Australia of US business, culture, history, politics and foreign policy.
The University Club’s annual wine extravaganza isn’t all about wine: it’s also about seafood, cheese, paella and all the good things in life that go with wine.

Wine Show by the Bay at the Club on Saturday 14 June offers a seafood and champagne lunch in the Club restaurant and master classes in wine and food.

Wine master classes include The Art of Blending in which you can learn why winemakers blend wines from different varieties and regions and try your hand at creating your own original blend.

You can also learn how wine judges score wines, then taste and score rieslings and pinot noir from the Great Southern region.

Making and sampling paella, learning about and tasting cheeses and watching Sam Ward, head chef at El Publico prepare a beef dish (which you get to eat) are among the food classes.

But even if you decide against the lunch or classes, your $20 entry ticket (for both Club members and guests) will open up a range of great tasting opportunities for you from more than 50 different estates in WA, elsewhere in Australia and around the world.

At the end of the day, you can buy wines at Club cellar door prices.

Wine Show by the Bay has become a University Club institution, so book now before tickets run out.

The projects were among a display of 45 temporary installations dotted throughout the open spaces around the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts buildings, impressive not least for the recycled materials used to construct them but also for their shape, form and colour.

In another outdoor corridor on the Nedlands site, a more dynamic work using up-lit, plastic cups hung by string in groups at different elevations is constantly swinging and flowing in the breeze.

The second year Integrated Design unit project aims to teach students the importance of drawing by getting them to build a structure without drafting, modelling or drawing.

The brief was to create a new spatial quality sympathetic to its surroundings. Associate Professor Sophie Giles co-supervised the 180 second year students who worked within groups over five weeks to come up with the designs which took up to a week to construct.

Assistant Professor de Lancastre Jedenov brought the idea from his home country of Portugal having developed the project with students at Universidade Lusófona de Lisboa and The University of Innsbruck in Austria.

“Creating new spaces on campus”

By Aleta Johnston

“We need to be working in that higher order of learning: applying, critiquing, evaluating and creating,” Professor Wildy said.

“This is a great example of students being set a task where they are free to be creative, express themselves and work at that level of higher order learning. It has brought together teamwork, trust and problem solving. I love the fact that when the shelter started to collapse in the middle the students made the new shape into a feature where you could sit.”

The designs drew interest and positive comments from visitors saying they appreciated seeing something new going on over the week of construction. It is hoped the students’ projects will spread across the Crawley campus next year.
Bad breath can affect both business and personal relationships as well as the sufferer's self-esteem. But thankfully ‘malodour’ can be successfully treated using new knowledge and techniques practised by Dr Chai Lim and his team.

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Good riddance to bad breath.

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**Altitude childcare and kindergarten**

The new childcare facilities at SCGH have vacancies for children aged up to five years, which is great news for UWA staff, as both day-care and early learning centres on campus are full, with waiting lists.

Altitude is located on top of the multi-storey car park with rooftop play areas including a stream to splash in, a sandpit with buried dinosaur bones and a vegetable garden.

The centre, which runs a kindy program for four-year-olds, follows the Reggio Emilia philosophy and approach to teaching, learning and advocacy for children. The educators observe the children and record their interests, needs and what challenges them, then help them to realise their potential.

The centre is open Monday to Friday from 6.30am to 6.30pm, to cater for academics and students who have early or late classes.

The daily fees are $105 for babies to two-year-olds, $95 for older children. This includes all meals and snacks, prepared on-site, nappies, formula and cow’s milk. The staff will reheat breast milk if mothers choose to express.

For more information or a tour of the facilities, please call Nicole Walker on 9346 3812 (tie line from Crawley campus is 52 3812) or at altitudechildcare@health.wa.gov.au.

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**What would you teach?**

From early childhood literacy to high school science, UWA’s teaching graduates are sharing their expertise in classrooms across the country.

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A journey completed, another begins

By Audrey Burfield
Administrative Assistant, Vice-Chancellery

A few years ago, I donated a kidney to a complete stranger – and it was one of the best things I’ve ever done.

The idea came out of a discussion with an acquaintance who was adamant he would take his organs to his grave, an idea I find ludicrous.

He asked if I would donate a kidney while still alive. He asked if I would give it to my husband and I said of course. What about my children? Yes absolutely. A friend, a neighbor? Yes and yes. What about a complete stranger?

This started me thinking.

I started brooding on why we put such great importance on people we know, but don’t hold as so deserving those we have not been lucky enough to meet.

I grappled with this for some time, and decided to do some research on live organ donation in Australia.

After many hours secretly trolling through it all I came to the conclusion that, with all my heart, I wanted to donate one of my kidneys to someone on the transplant list who was walking a fine line between life and death. They may be a stranger to me, but they were a loved and cherished one to another family.

If families can donate kidneys to loved ones, then how frustrating must it be if, although keen to do so, not one person in your family is a match for you?

I look at my life and see just how lucky I am. I have a husband who is my closest friend in life, I have four children who swell my heart with pride, I am surrounded by loving friends. I have a nice home and car, I have a great job with work colleagues who are smart and kind, and I have my health which allows me to enjoy all of these.

I went to see Neil Boudville, UWA’s Professor of Renal Medicine, and so began 12 months of rigorous physical and psychological testing. I can now pee in a specimen jar with my eyes shut and not spill a drop!

The transplant team wanted to make sure everything was right. They did not for one second sugar-coat the process, and nobody ever pushed me into my decision. I was constantly given the opportunity to change my mind without losing face.

Almost a year to the day since I made my decision, I was in QEII being prepared for surgery.

While I was recovering, beautiful flowers were delivered, with a card that read:

This is the first token of my appreciation for the wonderful thing you have done. I will continue to show my appreciation as my life goes on and I get stronger. Wishing you a good recovery, and many blessings in the future. (kidney transplant recipient).

It made it real then, that out there somewhere was somebody with a family who was looking forward to a normal life with my little old Scottish kidney making that possible for them.

How often do you get the opportunity to save someone’s life? No words can describe how amazing that feels. When people say I received nothing from this, I only wish they could walk in my shoes to feel the rightness of it all. I am rich in returns.

I have the knowledge that my body is in great health inside and out, I bask in the love and concern of friends and family who have been so supportive and, most of all, I know that I made a difference to someone’s life: I allowed my recipient to regain what was lost, his health.

I have never had a second of regret. I am so very happy to have achieved my goal. I have inspired others to donate upon their deaths, and I have made people aware of how important it is.

Thank you, my unknown recipient, for allowing me to finish my journey with the knowledge that it has allowed you to start yours.