One of the difficulties in communicating with geologists is their belief that a million years is a short amount of time. Consequently, such abstract concepts as Tuesday morning and lunchtime are completely beyond our comprehension,” according to Professor Peter Cawood.

Even the Australian Academy of Science’s Mawson Medallist can poke fun at geologists, but luckily he did manage to turn up on time for his appointment with UWAnews.

Professor Peter Cawood, acting Head of the School of Earth and Geographical Sciences, expert in mountain ranges, global traveller and collaborator, and now winner of the prestigious Mawson medal for his outstanding contributions to geology, counts himself lucky to be working in his chosen discipline.

“Geology is about so much more than just rocks and resources,” Professor Cawood said. “It’s fundamentally a study of the way the Earth works: the how, when and why of our environment.”
He said the wonder of discovery is what attracted him to geology and he has given it the full blast of his enthusiasm for 30 years.

“Geology doesn’t usually impact visibly on our lives but consider this: an uplift in the Earth in Africa some four or five millions years ago changed the climate there from forests to grasslands, and that led the animals that would evolve into *homo sapiens* to stand up on their hind legs so they could see above the grasses — that was a pretty important.”

Professor Cawood said he was “stopped dead” when told he had won the Mawson Medal. “I was really chuffed. And the neat thing for me is that Douglas Mawson was a field geologist, as I am, and some of our research has connections.

“I have been working on some ancient glacial rocks in Scotland, gathering evidence that glaciers existed there about 600 million years ago. There are some rocks of the same age in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia and when Mawson was Professor of Geology at the University of Adelaide, one of his particular interests was those very same rocks,” he said.

“Mawson the explorer was larger than life and captured the imagination of the public but not everybody realises he was a great geologist as well.”

Like his hero, Professor Cawood is not ‘just a field geologist’ but an international leader in the application of structural geology, tectonic processes and geochronology.

He has contributed greatly to the understanding of the development of the outer layer of the Earth and his work ranges in scale from global reconstructions to microscopic examination of mineral grains. He has collaborations with colleagues in New Zealand, Canada, the UK, Europe, China, Argentina and Chile.

“The beauty of geology is that, to understand the way the Earth works, you have to go and look at it. And that allows you to apply that knowledge to problems of evolution in Australia,” he said.

Professor Cawood and one of his post-doctoral collaborators, Dr Eric Tohver, are looking at a mountain range that used to exist in Gondwanaland, the supercontinent of which Australia was a part.

“We are trying to determine the timing of the development of the mountains. Gondwanaland was covered by a big glacier for 100 million years or so before the mountains developed. The glacier was three to nine times the size of the glaciers from the last ice age. Then suddenly it disappeared. We think the uplift of the mountains ‘deglaciated’ the land. The moist air couldn’t get across the mountains with its snow.”

But geology is not all about looking into the distant past. It can be used to predict how the Earth may evolve in the future.

“Reconstructions on the fate of Australia predict that our island home will one day be rapped within a vast supercontinent and our wonderful WA sandy beaches will form a sandy desert within its dry centre,” he said.

Professor Cawood will deliver the Mawson Lecture during the Australian Earth Sciences Convention 2008, in Perth in July.

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**Mawson Medallist continued from page 1**

Students from the Confucius Centre have showcased their Chinese language skills in front of a television audience of 60 million people.

Confucius Centre director, Dr Gary Sigley, said the students were given a challenge to sing “a very difficult Chinese rap song” and they performed brilliantly.

The challenge and performance were part of a gala performance at the Sydney Entertainment Complex earlier this year, run by Hunan Television, which Dr Sigley says is one of China’s most innovative TV channels.

“After they sang, they were interviewed on stage. And the television program included a short documentary on our Confucius Centre, so it was great exposure for us,” Dr Sigley said.

Dr Sigley was on stage himself a couple of months earlier, in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, to accept an award for UWA’s Confucius Centre.

“It was at the opening ceremony of the second world Confucius Institute conference and I was invited to speak to the delegates in Chinese, which was an honour.

“The award was to acknowledge how well our Institute has been doing,” he said.

The Confucius Centre has recently been awarded a $14,000 student scholarship for study in China.

“It is a one-off Western Australian Government Chinese Language Scholarship to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the sister city relationship between WA and Zhejiang province.

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**Confucius gets a good rap**

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Chequered flag
for UWA students

UWA Motorsport students are the best in the world.

The students — mostly from Engineering, but also from other disciplines — have won the Formula SAE world championships in Detroit, beating the University of Stuttgart and the Technical University of Munich.

The International SAE (Society of Automotive Engineers) competition is the biggest student engineering competition in the world. The same event is used to choose the winner of the FISITA (Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Ingénieurs des Techniques de l’Automobile), also won by the UWA team.

This is the seventh time UWA has designed, built and entered a race car in the competition. Last year, they won the Australasian competition and came second in the international finals. Their first Australasian competition was in 2001 and their first international event was in 2004, when they won the prize for the best designed vehicle.

The UWA team includes up to 80 students from different faculties over the academic year as they design, raise sponsorship, build, test and train drivers. By the time they reach the race track, the team is nearly all engineering students, the others having completed their work. This year the only female member in Detroit, Simone Boekelaar, the marketing manager for the team, was an economics/arts graduate.

“It’s been a few years in the making, and a couple of times we’ve come really close,” said UWA Motorsport 2007 project manager Gurkaran Bansal. “We really hope everyone involved with UWA Motorsport over the years feels they contributed to this success.”

UWA Motorsport has also always won many engineering awards at each international meet — for example, awards for engineering excellence, suspension design, computational fluid dynamics, friction management engineering, best performance endurance, engineers composite award, body design and development.
Sporting champions reflect international excellence

The international excellence of our University is reflected in very many different ways ranging from institutional to personal success across the spectrum of academic, cultural and sporting pursuits.

The outstanding performance of UWA Motorsport to be named World Champions of Formula SAE motor racing is one such example.

By taking on the world’s best teams and winning in the US state of Michigan – regarded as the home of the world motor vehicle industry – the UWA Motorsport team has again highlighted the research-led innovation for which UWA is renowned.

This outstanding achievement – largely by students from the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, but also students from other faculties and schools – is something in which the whole University takes pride. Their team’s success spans a broad range of activities from design, manufacturing and testing, to project management, budgeting and marketing.

This project brings together many important activities from the practical applications of academic study, to linkages and partnerships across campus and beyond - with the business and industry sectors.

It is also a pointer to the importance of the student experience at UWA which provides students with every opportunity to fulfil multiple aspects of their lives – in this case academic and sporting achievement at international standards of excellence.

This University has a long and distinguished sporting history which has played a significant part in the development of our reputation.

UWA’s founders were deliberate in their aim to provide not just a place of learning, but a full and rich campus life for students.

Continuing that tradition, we recently signed an agreement with the Western Australian Institute of Sport to develop an internationally recognised high performance sport centre for research, training and graduate sport science education. The centre will bring together world-class science and world-class athletes under an agreement which will benefit elite and non-elite athletes alike, furthering our understanding of the factors that make high performance athletes.

And it was pleasing to see graduates and students among the Western Australian Institute of Sport’s Champions Breakfast awards that acknowledge athletes and WAIS staff who had achieved excellence in the past year.

They included Andrea Gilmore (netball); Verity Long Droppert (softball); Kobie McGurk (hockey); Matt Doyle (WAIS Technical Analysis Officer); Liz Chetkovich (WAIS Head of Gymnastics); and Gilman Barnitt (WAIS Head of Strength and Conditioning).

Our graduates and students continue to make up a ‘who’s who’ of Western Australian sport as the University’s strong sporting culture continues to grow and prosper.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor

Children’s fund award for UWA

UWA is the first organisation in Western Australia to receive the Save the Children White Flame award for its contribution to children over nearly 100 years.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson said the award reflected the University’s aim of achieving international excellence.

The award was named in honour of Save the Children founder Eglantyne Jebb, who was driven by the appalling plight of Europe’s starving children in the wake of the First World War and became known as the white flame for her passion for children’s rights.

Sue Aldenton, Chair of Save the Children’s WA State Council, said the award recognised the University’s longstanding record of progressing the rights of children through research and teaching.

She commended the University’s outreach programs including the annual Save the Children book sale at UWA. Started by the wives of academics 44 years ago, the sale has raised more than $2 million for programs for children in Australia and worldwide.

“The University, through the Student Guild, has been generous in supporting Uni Camp for Kids for underprivileged children,” she said.

“The university also recognises the rights of students with disabilities, provides substantial parental leave and supports staff who use their skills and expertise as they work with children in many different circumstances.”

Whitfeld Fellows

The last issue of UWAnews reported that Dr Mark Ruitenberghad supervised Jana Vukovic’s PhD research, but it was, in fact, Professor Alan Harvey, Dr Giles Plant and Dr Samantha Busfield. Dr Ruitenberghad nominated Jana for the Whitfeld Fellowship.
What do our dreams and aspirations reveal about Australians and our cultural practices?

Anthropology PhD candidate Jessi Kops is hoping to find out by following several families as they create their great Australian dream of a new home.

“My father and brother are in the building industry and I grew up spending a lot of time on building sites,” Jessi said. “So it’s an area that has always interested me.”

Her co-supervisor, Dr Martin Forsey, lecturer in Anthropology and Sociology, said that as housing was always going to be a major part of people’s dreams, it was an excellent focus for research into cultural beliefs and practices. Her other supervisor is Associate Professor Michael Pinches, Chair of Anthropology and Sociology, who used to be an architect before turning to anthropology.

“Jessi’s research may well challenge those beliefs and practices,” Dr Forsey said. “People often don’t quite recognise that what they are doing is at odds with what they are actually aspiring to.”

Jessi said she found this out in her Honours research, which looked at kitchen renovations and what people expected of them.

“People who had their kitchens renovated were aspiring to a dream domesticity that didn’t always come true,” she said. “The evidence is that people are actually eating out more, even though their dreams are of engaging in domestic practices.

“But does it really matter if those practices don’t occur? It’s like buying camping equipment with a dream of taking the family into the bush. It often doesn’t happen but the act of ‘purchasing the dream’ might be enough.”

One of Jessi’s aims is to build new theories on the role of the home and of domestic consumption practices as central to understanding issues of identity.

After 12 months of preparation, Jessi is ready to get into her field work and is looking for individuals, couples or families who are planning or already building a new home.

“I will focus on prestige homes because it is easier to analyse data if you choose a small section of the market with fewer variables,” she said.

Jessi is hoping to provide an empirical analysis of the ways that the consumption patterns of the upper class are imagined, and positioned, as statements of status and distinction.

She will follow each project through its planning and building stages with the owners and the builders.

“I expect my results to be useful in terms of market research,” she said. “In the UK, there is a big move towards using anthropologists in market research and in product development. Microsoft and Intel both have input from anthropologists for their new products.”

If you are starting to plan or build a home that fits Jessi’s criteria, you can contact her at kopsj01@student.uwa.edu.au
Perseverance – all part of being the best teachers

Many of the best teachers are humble about their achievements. Philippa Maddern and Di Gardiner both won awards for their sustained and outstanding efforts. Both are quick to deflect and share the limelight.

“I frankly think that anyone in this school (Humanities) could and should have won this award,” Professor Maddern said. “I have such great colleagues and we learn so much from each other.”

Di Gardiner is Director of Teaching in the Graduate School of Education. “I don’t deserve this award,” she said. “I have such special students and wonderful colleagues and they make my work a joy.”

She has been working in the Education Faculty for 23 years and, when she goes out to schools to watch student teachers, she finds that her former students are now heads of departments. “There’s a whole generation of teachers out there that I have been privileged to help on their journey,” she said.

Professor ken clements, Director of the Economic Research Centre, won an award for postgraduate supervision. He says perseverance is one of his best traits as a supervisor.

“As an undergraduate at Monash and later at the University of Chicago, I benefited from the teaching and mentoring of some of the world’s leading economists, including Milton Friedman. Their standards of teaching and research are the ones I have tried to emulate,” he said.

Professor Clements has supervised 14 PhDs, 55 Honours/Masters dissertations and three Masters theses, an average of more than four per year. In 1987 he established the PhD Conference in Economics and Business, grown out of his supervision of research students.

“I felt the need or PhD students to be able to gain exposure for and feedback on their work in a constructive and supportive environment,” he said. This annual event continues as a joint venture with the ANU and has attracted more than 500 PhD students from all major Australian universities and some leading international ones.

His key to effective supervision is to realise that each student is different in terms of ability, interest and even commitment to research.

Barbara Wood is Director of the MBA Program in the Business School and won an early career award. She said she felt fortunate teaching on the MBA program where a majority of the students had thoughtfully chosen their course of study and were usually self funded.

Education, economics, sport science, history, outstanding contributions, life-long inspiration and brilliant practical programs were all recognised in the awards presented during Teaching Month.

This year, for the first time, the UWA winners are all nominees for national awards from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (formerly the Carrick Institute).
She teaches qualitative units including organisational behavior and leadership coaching.

“I strive to create a trusting, authentic learning environment where students have the confidence to be curious, to figure things out for themselves and to clarify what they need to know in the future,” Dr Wood said. “My classroom is about personal discovery and students are encouraged at the onset to take responsibility for their own learning. I use problem solving scenarios and storytelling particularly in initial classes to heighten my students’ interest or inquisitiveness.”

Dr Wood uses role-playing activities, classroom debate and open space technology. “I believe students learn best by doing, not listening or reading,” she said.

Another early career award went to Peter Whipp in Sports Science, Exercise and Health (formerly Human Movement and Exercise Science). He teaches pedagogy to students who are training to be health and physical education teachers.

“Combined with academic understanding is 20 years of teaching in schools, so I have a level of credibility and authenticity with the students,” Dr Whipp said.
Students from the world’s two most populous countries are choosing to study at UWA. Students from China and India are enrolling here or undertaking collaborative research for graduate degrees, thanks to the work of some dedicated senior staff.

Professor George Stewart, Dean of Life and Physical Sciences, is the Director for International Strategy, also with a focus on China and collaborations and exchanges within his faculty.

Professor Hema Sharda is Director of South Asia relations and focuses her efforts University-wide from the engineering faculty where she is based.

Professor Arun Dharmarajan, in the School of Anatomy and Human Biology, also has a new position, Associate Dean (South Asia Research Initiatives) for Life and Physical Sciences.

Eva Chye has been at the forefront of collaborations between Chinese universities and the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences for several years. She now has the new position of Principal Adviser on International Relations (North and Southeast Asia).

The Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics has had a successful engagement in India with more than 100 student enrolments in the past two years in both undergraduate and postgraduate programs.

The Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences has also seen a sharp increase in enrolments from India in programs such as Infectious Diseases and Forensic Science.

“Our partial scholarship model has attracted the attention of prospective students and we are fast becoming a preferred destination among the Group of Eight universities,” Professor Sharda said. “The Business School also attracts quality applications and at this point most faculties are seeing growth in Indian enrolments.”

Professor Sharda and Professor Mark Bush said the key challenge in engaging with India was building the profile of UWA in a culture that looks traditionally to the UK and USA as education destinations and partners.

“Although the trend towards US institutions is hard to change, Australian Universities have recently become a more popular destination than the UK,” Professor Bush said.

“UWA has been particularly successful in strengthening linkages and signing of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with premier institutes such as the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras and the Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi,” Professor Sharda said.

“In 2008, we signed an MOU with IIT Delhi for collaboration in teaching and research. Talks with other IITs are under way.

“A recent trip by Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall was one of the most significant contributions in relationship building with India,” she said.

Eva Chye’s background in international relations was invaluable when, as the marketing manager for Life and Physical Sciences, she won a Fay Gale Fellowship to travel to China to see how UWA could forge more academic relationships.

“It also helped that I could speak Mandarin,” Ms Chye said. “I went to Zhejiang University and I was supposed to be there for just three months, but I ended up staying seven months.”
Six PhD candidates from China are here under a new China Scholarship Council scheme, four of them in the School of Mechanical Engineering, and two in the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences.

Students Mingliang Wang, Zhigang Wu and Meifang Lai are all studying materials engineering under the supervision of Professor Yinong Liu, in the School of Mechanical Engineering. Meifang is combining her work with electrical engineering with Professor John Dell in Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering.

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Energy Biology is hosting Botao Zhang, whose PhD is being supervised by Professor Jim Whelan. “Professor Whelan collaborated with my Masters supervisor in China, so it’s great for me to be able to work with him,” Botao said.

The students have come to UWA from different universities and different provinces but all were top of their undergraduate classes. They say they still have problems with the English language but their skills are improving. “The hardest part is the jokes and the plays on words,” Zhigang said. “We just don’t understand them.”

Her role is to establish new strategic partnerships in the region, with high schools, universities, research institutes and government bodies. She also manages long-term partnerships and works to increase the University’s profile and reputation.

She shares her knowledge with the International Centre, the Office of Development and the Vice-Chancellor, to assist them in marketing, greater engagement with international alumni and research collaboration.

Over the next 12 months, Ms Chye’s priorities will be to develop relationships with Japan and Korea while still working on partnerships in China.

Meanwhile, efforts are also going into relationships with other parts of the world. Dr Mohamed Makha, in the Centre for Strategic Nano-Fabrication, is Associate Dean (Middle East Research Initiatives) in Life and Physical Sciences.

“My role is to attract students and forge links with Middle East institutions and to increase the interaction between the tertiary education sector in the Middle East and Life and Physical Sciences,” Mr Makha said. “This year’s trip by UWA to the Middle East will hopefully be as successful as last year’s China/Korea venture, from which collaborations and PhD students eventuated.”

Dr Anas Ghadouani supervised nine Masters students from Hohai University near Shanghai.

The School of Environmental Systems Engineering hosted nine Masters students from Hohai University in Nanjing.

Dr Anas Ghadouani supervised their research in areas ranging from alternative irrigation systems to characteristics of the Leeuwin Current and tsunami: their causes and effects.

“Hohai University has a discipline of environmental engineering, hydrology and water resources as its distinctive feature,” Dr Ghadouani said. The university even derives its name from its leading discipline: Ho means river and Hai means ocean in the local language.

“We have established a strong collaborative agreement with Hohai for exchange of students and staff,” he said.

Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall witnessed the signing of an MOU with IT Delhi in India. The (then) Dean of Engineering, Professor Mark Bush, and Professor Hema Sharda also watched Professor Doug McEachern sign the agreement.

Chinese students flourish at UWA

The University of Western Australia

UWA NEWS 2 June 2008
Vinay’s volunteering gives him hope

Vinay Menon (pictured) was featured in UWA news last year for his work with young Sudanese refugees. He was then State Chair of the Red Cross Youth Advisory Committee.

This year, as National Chair of the committee, he is again running World Aware, the program he and other volunteers (including several UWA students) devised and ran for the Sudanese community. This time it has expanded to include all refugee communities and has attracted partners including local government.

The fifth-year student says his volunteer work gives him hope for the young people of the world. He is planning to work in primary care and community medicine when he graduates — where he can “make a difference.”

Vinay recently ran a sexual health workshop for the young Sudanese refugees, with Family Planning WA. “It was controversial but interesting,” he said. “And it got a rare dialogue going between men and women.”

The area of sexual health was one he discussed as one of the delegates to the 2020 youth summit last month. “One of my group’s ideas was for Medicare reforms which would allow 13-year-olds to have their own Medicare card and account. This would be especially valuable for migrant families whose young members don’t have access to sexual or mental health care because they can’t talk to their parents about it.”

His group also recommended a national body to concentrate on primary health care, and a sustainability challenge, which would see the ‘greenest’ locality or municipality win a Federal grant.

Over the past five years, Vinay has been a Red Cross volunteer, involved in programs for Indigenous children, young people with severe disabilities and the homeless in Perth. He has worked in Red Cross programs to promote drug and alcohol awareness, to provide breakfast at primary schools and to help evacuees from bushfires and floods.

He has volunteered on a HIV/AIDS education program in Turkey, an orphanage and hospital for HIV-positive children in India, the Derbal Yerrigan Health Service, the Make Poverty History campaign, the Starlight Children’s Foundation, Oxfam and World Vision.

But still he wants to do more.

“Being on the national Red Cross committee means that ideas like our World Aware program can spread more widely than just WA,” he said. “And I can help to make a difference from a bigger perspective.”

He said more volunteers were needed for the World Aware program, which are workshops with young refugees concentrating on cross-cultural communication, skill-building and sharing stories. The program will be run over the winter.

Vinay is looking for young volunteers who are open to cultural differences and can think on their feet. If you know of somebody who could fit the bill, please contact him at menonv02@student.uwa.edu.au.

A medical student who has worked as a volunteer for more than a dozen programs both in Australia and overseas, has won the Citizenship Award in the WA Youth Awards.

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Returning to the University at which she studied has clearly been a pleasurable experience for former Federal and State parliamentarian Dr Carmen Lawrence, who retired at the last election.

Now back on campus, Dr Lawrence (pictured below) is establishing a highly relevant research centre that will put to good use the intellect and scholarly background of a singular politician.

At her suggestion, and with enthusiastic support from UWA, Dr Lawrence is establishing a ‘think tank’ that will work across disciplines to unravel the origins of fanaticism and extreme behaviour. The aim is to encourage some of the best scholars in Australia and the region to consider the roots, motivations and pathways that can turn fanatical thinking into action.

“We’ll be exploring the historical and social circumstances that give rise to fundamentalism – of which terrorism is an extreme expression,” she explains. “We will study the roles of political indoctrination and the exclusion of groups on grounds of race, religion or politics.”

This is a vital area of research that will draw together people from different academic traditions and Dr Lawrence hopes that other backers will join UWA in its support for the centre. She is confident that the research outcomes of the proposed centre will find applications in many spheres.

“While there is contemporary research in the security/political arena, what has been missing is study at the level of how such behaviour develops,” she said.

Dr Lawrence said that her decision not to contest the seat of Fremantle was the realisation that “repetitive and demanding public elements” of being a Federal MP were beginning to dilute her enthusiasm.

“I am still passionate about political policy and practice, but not on a day-to-day basis,” she said.

“Fremantle deserves a fully committed representative and I’m delighted Melissa Parke won the seat because she had a long association with the party in terms of grass roots political engagement, well before her high profile work with the United Nations.”

As an advocate for constitutional changes to the Labor Party’s pre-selection process that now ensures 40 per cent of candidates are women, she was also delighted to be replaced by a female MP. However, she demurs from claiming credit for this landmark constitutional change.

“If I am operating properly in a democracy, such achievements are the result of consensus,” she said. “Even if, as an individual, you decide to move in a particular direction, there is no way you’ll achieve your goal without the support of many people. The group effort that changed the party’s constitution took many people, many meetings, and the bringing together of many senior women. Finally, there was also good leadership.

“Similarly, with the Government’s apology to Indigenous Australians earlier this year, leadership was important. Everyone understood that ‘saying sorry’ wasn’t going to solve the very difficult problems in the Indigenous communities, but it was an important foundation gesture.

“Prior to the apology, polls indicated support from 55 per cent of Australians, but after those moving images of the event, many who had not previously seen it as relevant, viewed it in a new light – and approval figures jumped.

“An event like the apology can change the climate of the community because people are willing to listen to those in authority, and what they say can bring about a shift in sentiment.”

What makes a fanatic?

by Trea Wiltshire

The University of Western Australia
From the country to the campus

Every year, rural Indigenous high school students who are studying for their TEE spend a week in Perth visiting university campuses to see what is on offer.

For the past ten years, the camp has been coordinated by UWA and, in particular, the School of Indigenous Studies (SIS). Last month 34 students attended the camp. The majority of the students who enrol at a university choose UWA for its support of Indigenous students, through the SIS.

Broome High School students Buna-Tuarty Poelina and Cameron Howard met up with an old friend from Broome, Jedda Hill (pictured left), who is doing a bridging year and aiming for a Bachelor of Arts. She enthused them about University life and encouraged them to follow in her footsteps.

Buna-Tuarty hopes to study Law and Arts, majoring in Anthropology, and follow her cousin into working in the area of native title. Cameron plans to study health sciences or medicine.

Wartime adventure funds students

by Natali Morgan

Fleeing Paris in 1940 with a tattered, unfinished doctoral thesis in her back-pack and no money, Dr Christine Morrow embarked on a life journey that would one day make history across bookshelves worldwide.

This month, the former UWA lecturer’s autobiographical story, Abominable Epoch, will go on sale in France.

An unpretentious and intimate tale, Abominable Epoch invites readers to experience Christine’s tumultuous years as an overseas student in France, forced by the German occupation to hitchhike across the country to find safety.

Christine was labelled an enemy alien while studying in Paris during the summer of 1940 and, fearing for her own life, she ran. Many adventures later she arrived in Toulouse, where under the supportive wing of the French Association of University Women, she found the financial, academic and emotional assistance needed to triumphantly complete her PhD. Her doctoral thesis, Le Roman Irréel, is an examination of surrealist tendencies in the modern French novel.

Born into an old Western Australian family and raised in Perth, Christine safely returned from her French adventure to home soil in 1941, and joined UWA’s Department of French Studies a few years later.

“She was a stimulating and perceptive teacher, with an infectious enthusiasm for French thought and eighteenth century studies,” recalls Dr Robin Adamson, Honorary Research Fellow in the School of European Languages and Studies.

Passionate to share her story with others, Christine wrote her ironic and quirky poetic tale Abominable Epoch during her time at the University. It was first published by a group of her friends in 1972 — an event she sadly did not witness. Christine died on September 27, 1971, but her life continues to be celebrated with proceeds from the sales of her book going to Christine Morrow Scholarship Fund prizes, awarded to students studying French.

The recent revival of interest in World War II in France brought Christine’s story to the attention of Professor Remy Casals at the Université de Toulouse II – Le Mirail. According to Dr Adamson, Professor Casals recognised Christine’s account as an important part of European history, and it is his endeavour to have the volume translated into French that will see the French version of Abominable Epoch launched at the Australian Embassy in Paris, and at the Université de Toulouse II – Le Mirail this month.

For the many young foreign women who pursued their studies and careers in France during the Occupation, this book is a true testament to their courage in the face of adversity – a courage that will soon be shared with a new public in France. Abominable Epoch is available from the Australian Federation of University Women at: afuwwa@afuw.org.au
Nothing new in feeling stressed

It seems that anxiety is not the modern ailment most people assume it to be.

The idea of anxiety as a medical condition has been traced to the work of 18th century Scottish physician William Cullen.

This short history lesson was part of a recent seminar for clinicians, students and mental health consumers at the Centre for Clinical Research in Neuropsychiatry.

Associate Professor Christer Allgulander (pictured) from the Karolina Institutet in Sweden talked about Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) to an audience of more than 100.

His presentation on new findings and treatments was part of the School of Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences research seminar series.

A/Professor Allgulander said that GAD affected a large number of people in the community but general practitioners were often poorly equipped to diagnose and treat it.

In its modern form, GAD is defined as excessive and uncontrollable worry which interferes with daily living.

If often manifests itself in symptoms such as sleeplessness, feeling tense, restless and fatigued, and is often associated with other conditions such as major depression, panic disorder and social phobia. People with GAD may also experience heart problems, diabetes, chronic pain and breathing difficulties.

A/Professor Allgulander said that only 13 per cent of people who sought medical advice for this condition would describe anxiety as their principal problem. “Most will describe other conditions such an unexplained chronic pain or sleep difficulties,” he said.

GAD is twice as common in women as in men but with proper medical attention, A/Professor Allgulander said 80 per cent of sufferers should be in remission after one year. Treatment can include anti-anxiety medication and relaxation techniques.
CANCER COUNCIL OF WA
A/Prof Lee-Yong Lim, Dr Mohamed Makha, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences: ‘Calvaries - Tumour Nanoscale Platforms for Targeted Delivery’—$140,000 (2008-09)

Dr Deborah Trinder, A/Prof Ian Lawrance, Prof John Olynok, Dr Anita Chua, Dr Berot Klopcic, Dr Hooi Eu, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘Extending The Role of HFE and Iron Loading in the Development of Coeliac Cancer’—$70,000 (2008)


Adi/Prof Prudence Hart, Ms Shelley Gorman, Prof John Finlay-Jones, Prof Rebecca Mason, UWA Centre for Child Health Research, External: ‘Vitamin D, Regulatory T-Cells and Their Relevance to UV Immunoregulation’—$70,000 (2008)

Prof Ursula Kees, Dr Alex Beesley, Dr Adrian Charles, UWA Centre for Child Health Research, Women’s and Infant’s Health: ‘The Role of Connective Tissue Growth Factor (CTGF) in Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia’—$70,000 (2008)

Dr Aleksandra Fillipovska, UWA Centre for Medical Research: ‘Thioredoxin Proteins and Redox Signalling in Prostate Cancer’—$140,000 (2008-09)

Dr Keith Giles, UWA Centre for Medical Research: ‘Blocking AKT Signalling and Turnover in Glioblastoma Cells with Micro RNA’—$25,000 (2008)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING
Dr Yogeek Nongagaingam, Centre for Ophthalmoology and Visual Science: ‘Affordable and Intelligent Telemedicine Technology to Increase Early Detection and Prevent Avoidable Blindness’—$197,800 (2007-08)

DIABETES AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH TRUST
Prof Timothy Davis, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘Predictors and Outcomes of Hepatobiliary Disease in Type 2 Diabetes: Th eFrantarite Diabetes Study’—$46,400 (2008)

Prof Grant Morahan, UWA Centre for Medical Research: ‘Development of Insulin-expressing Cells from Stem Cells’—$50,000 (2008)

EUROPEAN COMMISSION
Prof Kadambot Siddique, Prof Zdenko Rengel, Prof Keith Smettem, A/Prof Timothy Colmer, Agricultural and Resource Economics, Earth and Geographical Sciences, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, Plant Biology, School of Environmental Systems Engineering: ‘Sustainable Water Use Securing Food Production in Dry Areas of the Mediterranean Region’

GOVERNMENT HOUSE WESTERN AUSTRALIA
Dr Jean Chetkovich, Humanities: ‘Government House History’—$205,537 (2007-09)

NATIONAL HEART FOUNDATION
Miss Esther Ooi, Medicine and Pharmacology: ‘Fellowship - A Systems Biology Approach to Study the Coordinated Regulation and Function of Apolipoprotein C-III in the Metabolic Syndrome’(2008-09)

NHRMC CAREER DEVELOPMENT AWARDS
Dr Wendy Oddy, UWA Centre for Child Health Research: ‘Population Health Career Development Award’(2008-09)

NHRMC TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS
Mr Peter Noble, UWA Centre for Child Health Research, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences: ‘Training Fellowship - Regulation of Pulmonary Responsiveness by Chronic Mechanical Strain and its Role on Obstructive Lung Disease’(2008-11)

ROBERT MATHYS STIFTUNG RMS FOUNDATION
Dr Luis Filgueira, Anatomy and Human Biology: ‘Carcinoma of Metal Implants by Human Osteoclasts’—$10,000 (2007)

ROCHE PRODUCTS PTY LTD
Prof Christobel Saunders, Surgery: ‘Retrospective WA Audit on the Management of Patients with HER2+ Breast Cancer’—$40,000 (2008)

SINCLAIR KNIGHT MERZ SKM
Dr Euan Harvey, Dr Jessica Meewig, Mr Simon Grove, Ms Heather Taylor, Plant Biology: ‘GI Gas 2D Pilot Ocean Bottom Cable Marine Seismic Survey Environmental Monitoring’—$286,800 (2008)

UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE EX NHMR
Dr Allison Mickendrick, Prof David Badcock, Psychology: ‘Visual Tests to Investigate Altered Cortical Function in Migraine’—$52,200 (2008-10)

WA HEALTH PROMOTION FOUNDATION
Ms Susan Byrne, Dr Elizabeth Davis, Dr Elizabeth Geelhoed, Dr Eve Blair, Dr Stephan Zubrick, Psychology, Population Health, UWA Centre for Child Health Research: ‘Developing Evidence Based Recommendations for Managing Childhood Obesity’—$30,000 (2008-10)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

FOR SALE
HOUSE DOWNSIZING: Tessa classic swivel chair, tan leather; Ikea bunk with mattresses; solid pine single bed with mattress, New pair single inner spring ensembles from Bedshed; 1 inner spring base with mattress; 2 steel trundles suit all beds; assorted single bedding; low jarrah bookcases, brass floor lamp with shade; Parker teak extension table with 6 chairs, immaculate condition; genuine New Guinea carved camphor chest, 1953; 3 drawers metal filing cabinet; bar size freezer; American colonial turned-wood rocker with cushions; 6 drawer lower dresser, painted pale apricot with brass knobs; glass roof tiles; pair new vanity basins; assorted new light fittings. Reasonable prices. Ring Nancy on 9386 9145 or 0400 868 643 for further details.

TO LET
NEDLANDS: 4 x 2 unfurnished house on large block. Study room, two large living areas, A/C, retic, garden shed, immaculate condition, walk to UWA, Nedlands Primary, CEI. Suit family, no pets. $900p.w. Includes lawn mowing and gardening. Long lease available 28th June. Ring Nancy on: 9386 9145 or 0400 868 643 for more details.

BUSSELTION: ‘Driftwood Cottage’. New holiday house right in town. Only 250m to the beach or town centre, but quiet and secluded under big peppermint trees. Sleeps 8, with big spa in main bedroom, fully self contained and you only need to bring linen. 10% discount for UWA staff. Can be viewed at http://www.stayz.com.au/29356 Contact Nick Gibson on 0413 622 269, 9305 9058, or nick.gibson@uwa.edu.au for more details.


PROFESSIONAL
Professor Lawrie Abraham (Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences)

Professor Abraham’s research interests are in three main areas within Molecular Biology and Molecular Genetics. Over the past 20 years he has studied gene function and genetic variation as it relates to the immune and inflammatory systems. He has made valuable contributions to his field such as his analysis of TNF gene promoter genetic variation and its relevance to human inflammatory diseases, and the molecular genetics of the death receptor CD90 with relevance to cancer and other diseases.

He has taken an active leadership role in the championing of genetics as a discipline in the University, establishing the BSc( genetics) degree and Honours program.

As a Head of the Laboratory of Cancer Medicine, Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, he served as a mentor to junior researchers and promoted the group’s research goals to the Institute’s supporters and benefactors.

SENIOR LECTURER
Dr Martin Forsey (Anthropology and Sociology, School of Social and Cultural Studies)

The broad scope of Dr Forsey’s research is on Australian society, particularly the anthropology of schools and schooling. While the anthropology of education is quite well developed in other parts of the world, it has been largely overlooked in Australia.

Over the coming decade, Dr Forsey seeks to address this significant gap in the national anthropological project. Dr Forsey’s publication Challenging the System: A Dramatic Tale of Neoliberal Reform in an Australian High School is a leading text in Australian educational anthropology/sociology.

He won a Teaching Excellence Award in 2003 and was granted a Teaching Fellowship in 2005. He is currently the Teaching and Learning Coordinator in the School.
NOTICES

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

Improving health in the 21st century: a social determinants perspective

Professor Ichiro Kawachi, Director of the Harvard Center for Society and Health
5 June 2008, Social Sciences Lecture Theatre at 6pm

In this lecture, Professor Kawachi will argue that improving the health of populations in the 21st century will require concerted and systematic efforts to invest in the broader social determinants of health. They include improving the social environment for children, enhancing our residential communities, ensuring the availability of decent work, and striving toward a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Recent Developments in How the Ear Works

Robert Withnell Associate Professor of Speech and Hearing Science, Neuroscience, and Adjunct Professor of Physics, Indiana University
9 June 2008, Geography Lecture Theatre 1 at 6pm

Hear how the ear is believed to work, contrasting mammals and non-mammalian vertebrates. The role of gene therapy to treat hearing loss will also be considered, with the focus being on hearing loss due to aging, which does not seem to involve damage to sensory cells and so it seems unlikely that gene therapy will play a role in treating it.

Growing Up Asian in Australia

Alice Pung, author
17 June 2008, Alexander Lecture Theatre at 6pm

Asian-Australians are known to each other and the outside world by many labels: Quiet Achiever, FOB, Gangster Chigger, Mainlander, Banana. Are these labels based on some degree of truth? What is it like to grow up Asian in Australia? Calling on personal experience, Alice Pung's book defies, questions or sheds light on the usual stereotypes. It will be available for purchase and signing after the lecture.

All welcome to these events; no RSVP required

Centre for Integrated Human Studies

PUBLIC SEMINAR Wednesday 11 June 5.30–7pm

“From information to wisdom”
Chaired by Dennis Haskell. Panelists include Malcolm Hollick and Veronica Brady
5.30 – 7pm, Seminar Room 1.81, School of Anatomy and Human Biology

Philosophy Cafe Freo!
The next Philosophy Cafe will be held on
Tuesday, June 10th from 7.30pm
at the University of Notre Dame, Fremantle in the old P & 0 building
cnr High Street and Mouat Street: Building ND5, room 106.

The question for discussion is:
“Imagination: What is its purpose?”
Everyone is Welcome!!! Bring a friend and join us for some interesting philosophical exchange.

Things to consider: What sort of reasoning would you offer to support your claim? Consider the kind of evidence that would be acceptable to another critical person. How would you justify your response to any objections raised?

2008 Dates for Perth City (King Street Arts Centre): Thursday July 17; Thursday September 11; Thursday November 13.
2008 Dates for Fremantle (Notre Dame): Tuesday June 10; Tuesday Aug 12; Tuesday Oct 14; Tuesday Dec 9.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Friends of the Library Talk

Library Meeting Room, Ground Floor
Reid Library Building, The University of Western Australia
Tuesday 10 June 2008 at 7:30pm for 8pm
E/Professor David Tunley

Music in Three Palaces: the influence of politics on French Baroque music

It has been remarked that ‘rarely in history have the relations between politics and music lain more openly on the surface than during the French absolutism.’ This talk explores this idea taking the Palace of Versailles, the Palais Royal and the Tuileries Palace as focal points in tracing the development of French music in the 17th and 18th centuries. Emeritus Professor David Tunley’s musical activities have ranged over choral conducting, composition and creating various festivals such as the York-Winter Music Festival and the Terrace Proms. However, he is best known as a musicologist, enjoying particularly an international reputation in French music of the 17th to the 19th centuries, a field in which he has published four books and edited 23 volumes of vocal music. He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities, a member of the Order of Australia and a Chevalier in the Napoleonic Order of Palmes Académiques.

Please note that the ground floor entrance to the Library, nearest to the carpark, will be open from 7.30pm - 7.45pm.

Members: Free
Non-members: $5.00 donation

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Asia literacy on the menu

Dr Gary Sigley
Senior Lecturer Asian Studies and Director, Confucius Institute

Given that Australia’s current and future prosperity depend on strong trade and political relations with our Asian neighbours, many would consider the need for Australians to be well versed in the languages and cultures of Asia as a ‘no brainer’.

This indeed may be the case for many Australians. Yet unfortunately a strong undertone of complacency in our attitude towards acquiring the skills and expertise to better engage with the region is hindering our efforts.

Indeed the facts of Australia’s Asia Literacy make for grim reading. At a time when Asia is clearly in the ascendancy, Australia’s capacity in Asian Studies and Asian Languages is taking a significant nose dive. During the course of the 1990s Australia’s expertise in Asian Studies and Languages has been considerably weakened as a core group of well-established professors begin to retire and are not replaced (or replaced at a much more junior level), and as programs in many institutions are scaled back or cease to operate altogether.

The scale of this loss was well documented in the Maximizing Australia’s Asia Knowledge report of 2002. Whilst institutions like UWA have bucked the trend by actually expanding Asian Studies and Languages, the national downward trend continues.

So it was with much delight, and some trepidation, that I accepted the invitation to attend the Australia 2020 Summit in April. I’m pleased to report that reinvigorating Australia’s Asia Literacy at all levels of the education system was high on the agenda, not just in the stream I was participating in (Australia’s Future in the World), but in other streams as well.

The final report handed to the Prime Minister in the closing plenary included three major goals for 2020 under this stream, two of which have direct relevance to Asian Studies: to reinvigorate and deepen our engagement with Asia and the Pacific; and to ensure that the major languages and cultures of our region are no longer foreign to Australians but are familiar and mainstreamed into Australian society.

The Priority Themes place a great deal of emphasis, it seems to me, on developing a strong Asia Literacy. Some of the key items include:

- A comprehensive, cross-agency, national strategic plan for a major reinvigoration of Asia literacy in Australia, to enhance our global engagement in trade, security and people to people exchanges;
- Commence a more focused effort to recruit foreign language teachers from local communities and overseas, and to enhance Australia’s foreign language teaching skills;
- Link thousands of young Australians to Asian communities through support for school twinning, exchange programs, mentoring, in-country and community-based learning programs.

At the dinner on the Saturday night for our stream, the Foreign Minister, Stephen Smith, spent much of his closing speech on the issue of Asian languages and spoke very passionately about his experience with taking the Indonesian President to a school in Perth to converse with Year 10 students in Indonesian. In an interview with Paul Bongiorno on the SBS program, Meet the Press, the Minister said:

“I think the big idea for me so far is every Australian student studying a foreign language by 2020. One of the real themes coming out of the session that I’ve been co-convening is that we need to engage much more effectively in Asia, and the Asia-Pacific in our region, and having language skills and sensitivity to cultures within our region is very important. So for me, a big push on foreign languages, particularly Asian, would be a very good thing for us to do for our international relations, foreign policy and standing in the region.”

Needless to say we still need to see how the Government will respond and whether it will put its money where its mouth is, but it is very encouraging to see Asia Literacy back on the agenda. Now the task of keeping up the pressure begins in earnest. It will not just be the Government to blame if we fall short of this ambition, but ourselves as well.