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UWA news

Can SLIRP lick cancer?

It sounds like an ice-cream, but SLIRP is a new gene that could lead to treatment and diagnosis of hormone-dependent cancers.

Professor Peter Leedman and his team in the Laboratory for Cancer Medicine at the Royal Perth Hospital campus of the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research (WAIMR) have just applied for a patent on the novel gene which is a potential target for generating new therapies for breast cancer and prostate cancer.

The gene they call SLIRP has the potential to shut down oestrogen in breast cancer cells and testosterone in prostate cancer cells.

"These cancers depend on hormones to stay alive, so if we can use SLIRP to block the hormones we may be able to stop those diseases in their tracks," Professor Leedman said.

SLIRP is a gene that was not identified when the human genome was sequenced. It was discovered last year by one of Professor Leedman's honours students, Esme Hatchell.

Professor Leedman, Deputy Director of WAIMR, an endocrinologist and member of UWA's School of Medicine and Pharmacology, is recognised internationally for his work on hormones.

Always looking for the factors that turn the genes for breast cancer on or off in breast cells, Professor Leedman's team zeroed in on a recently discovered one called SRA (steroid receptor RNA activator). SRA augments oestrogen's action in cells and Professor Leedman's team decided to identify new proteins that bind to SRA, predicting that they would be likely to modulate the efficiency of SRA's action, and as a consequence, oestrogen activity in breast cancer cells.

"So Esme 'went fishing' in a human breast cancer gene library, using a key

"The benefit is that 'smart' drugs can mean fewer nasty side effects for patients as they target specific genes, not entire areas of the body, as chemotherapy does."

The find could also help researchers create blood tests to diagnose breast and prostate cancer.

"The path from initial discovery of an exciting novel gene to clinical trials is a long one.

"Only a fraction of these targets and lead compounds turn out to be viable in clinical trials. However, SLIRP is a very interesting novel protein and has

The gene they call SLIRP has the potential to shut down oestrogen in breast cancer cells and testosterone in prostate cancer cells

portion of SRA as our 'bait', for new regulators of oestrogen activity in breast cancer," Professor Leedman said.

"We were excited when we found SLIRP, as its gene codes for a totally new protein, which is present in human breast cancer tissues. We have shown that SLIRP turns down (represses) oestrogen action in cancer cells.

"If we can unravel the mystery of how SLIRP does that we could develop so-called 'smart' drugs that hone in on the gene," he said.

enormous potential as both a marker for breast cancer as well as a modulator of oestrogen action," he said..

"Even though it may take many years to achieve these goals, we have a really exciting discovery and a team of excellent scientists in my WAIMR laboratory, as well as collaboration with Professor Bert O'Malley's team at Baylor College of Medicine in Texas.

"So we are quietly optimistic about its long term potential."

Students make themselves at home



Rachel Marie talks to students with hearing impairment, with the help of an interpreter

Links between Shenton College and the University have been enhanced this semester with the high school students developing a taste for campus life.

Groups of academically talented students have used the facilities in Plant Biology to learn how to extract DNA from plant material. Other groups have learned about simple robotics with the AIBO dogs in Computer Science and Software Engineering.

About 13 Shenton students from years 9 and 10 who have impaired hearing also spent a day at UWA, organised by Filomina D'Cruz, from the Student Diversity Access Program.

With the assistance of Auslan interpreters they did the same activities as the hearing students at Plant Biology and Computer Science. At lunchtime they met three former Shenton students: Guild president Mathew Chuk, science student Rachel Marie and medical student Emmanuel Anthony who talked about University life and the transition from secondary to tertiary education.

Ruth Barsden learns some surgical skills at CTEC



Giuseppe Colletti introduces Oliver Chen to the physics workshop

Canon Richard Pengelley, chaplain at St George's College, and a lecturer in Human Movement and Exercise Science, explained about the human movement course and living on campus in a college. He had been a physical education teacher at Hollywood Senior High School, the forerunner to Shenton college.

Disability officers from Student Services outlined what help would be available to them if they decided to study at UWA. The University this year has its first hearing-impaired student using an Auslan interpreter for lectures and laboratories.

Janice Beh, who is deaf and works part-time in Public Affairs, talked to the students about job opportunities at UWA.

More than 35 Year 10 students spent a week at UWA on work experience during May, in places as diverse as the University Club kitchens, the Reid Library, the physics workshop and the surgical skills centre, CTEC. More placements are always needed for work experience and co-ordinators at Shenton College suggest that if a week is too onerous, University colleagues could share a student, taking one day each.

The University is also hosting some Structured Workplace Learning students. These are Year 12 students who are not doing TEE and their work experience program is one day a week for a semester, to enable them to build up some skills.

Pictures by Diane Valli

Robots in the great outdoors

As humans, we don't give much thought to performing tasks under different conditions.

We adjust without thinking about it to different lighting, background noise, different surfaces underfoot, wind and even rain.

But robots must be specifically programmed to cope with all of these changes, no matter how small.

That is what makes outdoor robots more of a challenge than their indoor counterparts, for final year students in Computer Engineering and Mechatronics, in their new unit Robotics and Automation.

Associate Professor Thomas Braunl,

Director of the Centre for Intelligent Information Processing Systems (CIIPS) in the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering (EECE), pioneered mobile robots at UWA.

Now half of his students in the new course are studying Mechatronics, with Professor James Trevelyan, who did the initial work with robot manipulators.

"For Mechatronics or Electrical Engineering students, the unit is an elective, but for Computer Engineering students, it is a core unit," A/Professor Braunl said. The Computer Engineering course has replaced the degree in Information Technology.

"The meaning of IT has changed," he said. "The term is now associated



more with the administration of personal computers. This new course is much more in line with the other Go8 and international universities."

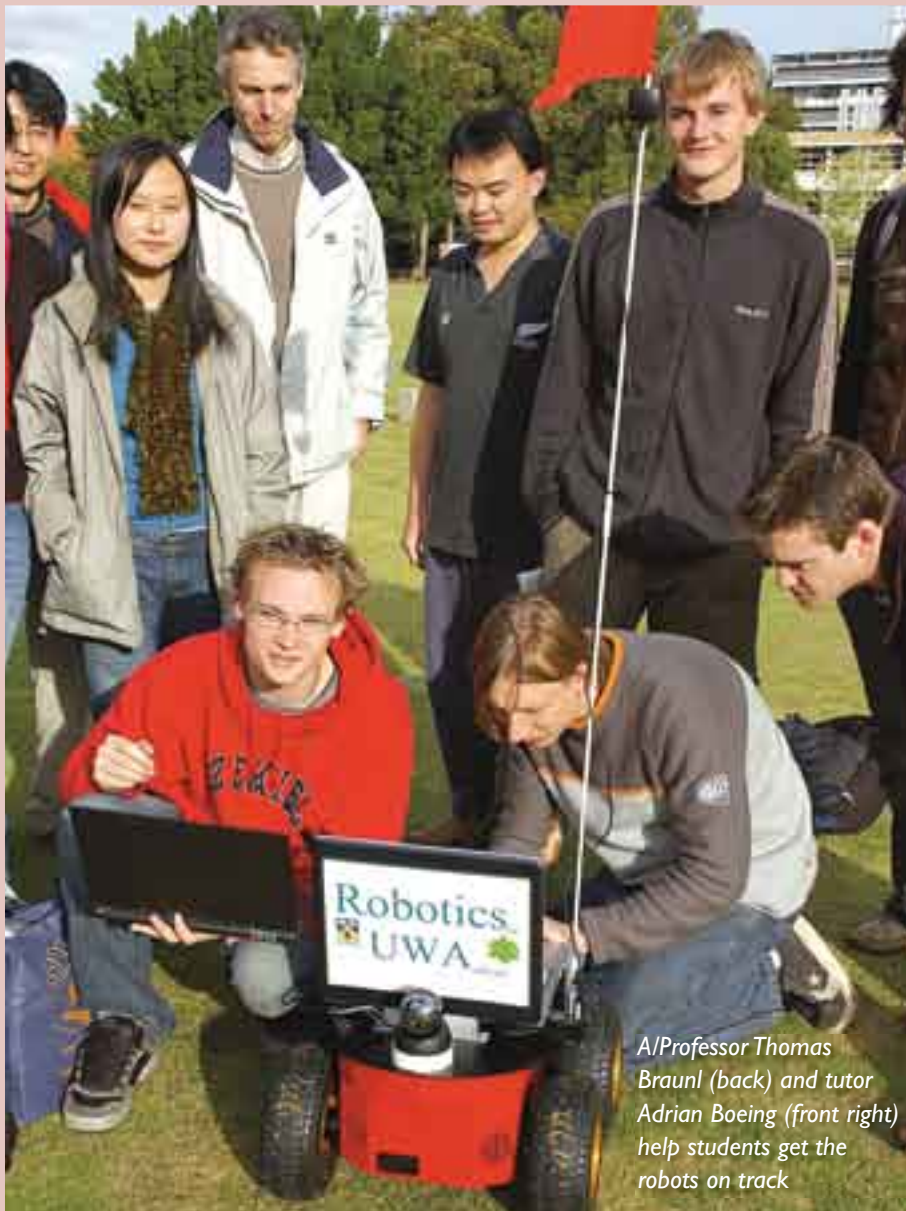
It is an interdisciplinary course, based in EECE, with students studying five units in the School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, as well as maths, physics, mechanical engineering and management.

The outdoor robots, which the students have been programming and putting through their paces on James Oval, are capable of path planning, localisation, driving to given destinations and image processing (for target recognition). They must be able to work in different light conditions, over rough terrain, with lots of background noise.

In a laboratory, the robots are in a more controlled environment with constant lighting, quiet conditions and smooth carpeted surfaces.

"It's somewhat harder to program outdoor robots," A/Professor Braunl said. "But there are the advantages of being able to use GPS outside, and no confined spaces or tight corners to negotiate."

He said robotics and automation were the future for many applications, not just factories where they are already in use. "They will be used in mining, underwater exploration, autonomous aircraft, in fact all vehicle applications."



A/Professor Thomas Braunl (back) and tutor Adrian Boeing (front right) help students get the robots on track

Vice-Chancellor's column

The changing face of the campus



Reflected in the changing face of our campus is the University's ability to remain flexible, responsive and innovative for the benefit of our institution, our students and the State as a whole.

Last year we opened the new Molecular and Chemical Science Building and the University Club. Now we are embarking on another major building program to provide a world-class home for the Business School.

Earlier this month we joined with staff and contractors for a symbolic ceremony by Noongar community elders marking the ground-breaking for the new project on the southern end of the campus.

Planning a new building for the University brings with it particular responsibilities. We have asked the architects — Woods Bagot — to consider what makes this University such a special place and how any new building might complement the existing campus. I believe they have done this and we now see the baton passed to the builder BGC Construction.

This is an exciting opportunity to build on decades of academic achievement and take business education at the University to a new level. The Business School enjoys a reputation as an academic and research leader in Australia and abroad. From its new home, the Business School will provide internationally excellent business education for the benefit of students (both undergraduate and postgraduate), as well as for the benefit of the business sector and the wider Western Australian community.

The Business School campaign is an exciting and ambitious project and we have indeed been privileged in this endeavour to receive outstanding support from the Board, the fundraising committee, and many supporters in the business sector and the wider community both in Australia and overseas.

The board — which includes Western Australia's leading business identities — has played a key role in shaping a new direction. Led by Mark Barnaba — the Board includes Tony Howarth who chairs the School's fundraising campaign committee, John Poynton, Richard Goyder, Fiona Wood, John Akehurst and Andrew Roberts. Their work — and that of the fundraising committee — has been instrumental in helping to secure the support of many contributors to the campaign from the business sector and the community both here and abroad.

I was also delighted to announce the appointment of two new Board members — Don Voelte, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Woodside, and Bob Browning, Chief Executive Officer of Alinta — who will bring additional strengths to an already strong board.

The Business School project — which is due to be completed in early 2008 — contains all the ingredients that support the University's overarching ambition of achieving international excellence: innovation underpinned by academic and student quality.

Alan Robson
Vice-Chancellor

Why
grow
vegies?
Digging
deep for
the real
answers

Every generation likes to think it does things better than the previous one.

But in Andrea Gaynor's history of growing food in suburban Australia, there are some surprising discoveries for this generation of gardeners.

They are not the first to worry about the use of pesticides in the commercial production of food; they are not the first to be concerned about an increasingly sedentary life that can be offset by gardening; and they didn't discover organic or no-dig gardening.

Dr Gaynor, a lecturer in history, in the School of Humanities, set out to trace the reasons for people growing food in their back yards in Australia, as well as its ecological implications. What started as her PhD research, then broadened to a more national approach, is now a book, *Harvest of the Suburbs: an environmental history of growing food in Australian cities*, published by UWA Press.

She has always been interested in growing food, since her first (failed) childhood attempt at growing okra in her parents' backyard in Woodlands. She later studied permaculture, bred poultry and grew her own vegetables. Dr Gaynor now lives in an apartment but still has avocado and orange trees in tubs.

She knew, from her own experience, that growing food, whether it's cultivating vegetables or fruit trees or keeping chooks (or, in earlier days, cows or goats) was not always related to availability of fresh food or access to it.

"People didn't always grow vegetables to save money either, although food-producing animals were often used by working-class families to stretch their incomes," Dr Gaynor said.

Her research discovered that people in Australian cities have commonly grown (and still grow) food for reasons of purity, health, exercise and symbolic value.

"Food production is a powerful symbol of self-reliance," she said. "It is an expression of independence and, for much of the twentieth century, a man's ability to provide for his family. While men were perceived as the food growers in the family, women and children often did much of the work, especially in looking after animals and poultry.

"The idea of providing in the workplace overlapped with providing at home, even if it was only a few cabbages," she said.

"People have been suspicious about the healthiness of shop-bought food for a long time, mainly because it was not as fresh as home-grown food.

But food production wasn't always a 'clean and green' suburban activity: in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, many growers liberally doused their crops with arsenic-based pesticides.

"At the turn of the last century, some people became concerned that men's work was becoming more sedentary, and gardening was promoted as good exercise," Dr Gaynor said.

It was also more than 50 years ago that innovative gardeners began experimenting with and writing about organic and no-dig gardens, a concept which some new gardeners think is much more recent.

The keeping of animals on suburban properties started to decline in the 1920s and 30s.

"Already, ideas about clean, modern suburbs were forcing them out. Some dairies took advantage of improved



Andrea Gaynor renews her acquaintance with a backyard chook

transportation and refrigeration to move further afield, but several cowkeepers thought cows and goats had a legitimate place in the suburbs, and fought to keep them there," she said.

The book finds that poultry-keeping is making a comeback, but many city councils still make it difficult for people to do this."

She said the proportion of households growing fruit and vegetables had remained fairly constant for the best part of a century.

Dr Gaynor sees community gardens as a flexible alternative to backyard food production for a community whose work and leisure patterns have changed and who are mostly living on much smaller blocks than 50 years ago.

"There are not many in Perth, but in Sydney and Melbourne there are several well-established ones. One community garden in Collingwood is maintained by a real mix of people, including young people who are studying or working casually so they have the time to grow vegetables, and who are interested in sustainability or organic food. The same garden supports a community of older Maltese men who are continuing an ethnic tradition of growing food for their families."

Harvest of the Suburbs, which is aimed at anybody interested in food and sustainability or urban and environmental history, is available at the Co-op Bookshop for \$39.95.



the best place for lectures



Ancient Greeks balance the new business name while Andrew Beveridge and Mike Fardon present Rebecca Ray with her cheque

Arts student Rebecca Ray was taking a break from studying Greek literature for her mid-year exams last year, when she thought up the new name for UWA's i-Lecture system.

The Office of Industry and Innovation (OII) had launched a competition for a name for the system, developed at UWA and now in demand around the world.

Andrew Beveridge, OII's Project Manager Commercialisation explained that the name i-Lecture could not be used in the US due to trademark restrictions.

"So we asked the staff and students for their ideas and offered a \$500 prize," Andrew said.

Rebecca was reading about the idea of Utopia and thought she might use the Greek root *topos*, meaning place, in a name for the system that delivers lectures over the internet.

"Once I started with that idea, Lectopia, or place for lectures, was an obvious choice," Rebecca said.

Lectopia was chosen by the panel of judges: Mike Fardon, academic director of the multimedia centre, Mike Neville, manager of Faculty Computing, and Shaun Procter, information systems manager, all in the Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Andrew Beveridge.

Then Andrew had to spend months searching databases to ensure that UWA could patent the name. Another one the judges liked was ipodium. "But we couldn't use that because it was too close to the name ipod," Mike Fardon said. "We are thrilled with Lectopia." When the US trademark application was finally granted recently, Rebecca was presented with her cheque for \$500.

While it was not unusual for an Arts student to win the prize, it is unusual for Lectopia and the multi-media centre to be based in an Arts faculty rather than a computer science or engineering faculty and Mike Fardon and his team are delighted to keep the prize 'in-house'.

Green the colour of choice on campus

"Every day in every office, classroom and workspace across UWA decisions are made that impact heavily on the state of our environment."

Should I put that old report in recycling or in general waste? Should I shut down my computer while I'm at this afternoon's two hour meeting? Is it up to me to report that dripping tap? Should I turn out the lights as I leave the meeting room? Do I need a hard copy of this document?

These might seem like very small matters, but multiplied by 4,000 staff and 16,000 students, these small factors become a big environmental footprint."

This is the premise on which UWA Environmental Services has reissued *The Green Office Guide*.

It has tips for reducing energy consumption on campus in areas including lighting, use of office equipment, recycling, heating and cooling, water use, even commuting and purchasing.

The University's new environment officer Kylee Carpenter gave a copy of the guide to the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Alan Robson, as she had heard he was interested in conserving the environment.

"Paper use and wastage is something we can cut down on in the Vice-Chancellery," Professor Robson said.

"I am keen for UWA to become a sustainable university and a leader in this area," he said.

As a keen walker himself, Professor Robson encourages staff to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to and from the campus.

The Green Office Guide is available from UWA Environmental Services on 6488 7391 or at environ@admin.uwa.edu.au. An electronic copy is available at www.fm.uwa.edu.au/about/sustainability/uwa_green_office_programme



New ideas for old gardens

Matthew Lunn enjoys one of his favourite spots on campus

Twelve years after he arrived in Perth from London, UWA's new curator of grounds, Matthew Lunn, finds that he's not so homesick any more.

"I've missed London since the day I left, but being here at UWA, the campus is a little bit English, so I almost don't feel homesick now," he said.

Matthew came to UWA from Curtin University of Technology, where he says he spent 10 very happy years, converting a desert of white sand, pine

trees and grey buildings into an oasis of green.

"I left something really good at Curtin because I felt it was time for a change and a challenge. The UWA grounds are completely different. While I started out there with nothing and created beautiful gardens, here the gardens are already established and the challenge is to enhance what's already built," Matthew said.

One of the big differences between the grounds is the mature trees at UWA. "At Curtin there are no big trees. Here we have so many big trees that you have to be horticulturally skilled to create shade gardens in enclosed areas." He calls this challenge and his eagerness to learn new techniques, the 'education of a gardener'. "What better place for that than a university?" he said.

If the change from Curtin to UWA was dramatic, the change from London to Perth was spectacular. "But if you understand the aspects of horticulture -- soil, temperatures, water and light -- then you can apply it wherever you are," he said.

Matthew trained as a garden designer and horticulturalist at The Royal Horticultural Society's garden, Wisley, in the UK. He loves to bring his ideas and passions to others through the media, with a regular Saturday morning radio show (with an estimated 100,000 listeners) and a monthly newspaper column.

He says there will be no big changes to the grounds in his first 12 months in the job, but he is looking at

a major overhaul of the underplanting.

"It's lost its way a bit," he said. "It's understandable because of course shade areas increase as trees grow bigger. Eventually I want everybody at the University to be able to look out their windows and walk to their offices through beautiful gardens, not just those who work up the front of the campus near Stirling Highway, where the gardens always look great.

"The grounds are also important to the local community and I want to encourage them to become involved, through Friends of the Grounds."

Matthew is planning on detailing the garden beds and introducing substantial indigenous flora and Swan River planting. "I want to borrow the river landscape and create views through the grounds."

He said he wants the natural environment to encourage and inspire teaching and learning with a four season approach, so there is something of interest in the gardens all year round.

"I'm looking forward to working with plants that I wouldn't normally use in a heritage-listed garden," he said.

Matthew was named Australian Horticulturalist of the Year in 2003 for his unpaid community work with the radio station, schools, including providing work experience, and his presidency of the Australian Institute of Horticulture (WA).

"But I'm stepping back from a lot of that sort of thing now. We have an 18-month-old boy and we're expecting another baby in August so I need time for a family life now," he said.

Matthew goes home to London every two years and will lead a garden tour there in May 2007. "I'm so delighted that Stephen Hopper will be the new director of Kew Gardens. It will be great to have a West Australian there and I hope we'll be able to have an exchange program for our apprentices."



Professor Alan Robson commends Kylee Carpenter on The Green Office Guide

Academics are missing out on funding and collaboration opportunities that are going begging on the internet.

Zoe Templar, from Research Services, is the contact point for the Community of Science (COS) database, a global internet resource for researchers across all disciplines, even (despite its name) academics in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

"COS has 22,000 records and more than \$33 billion in funding available, making it the world's biggest funding database," Zoe said. "But we're concerned that not enough people at UWA know about it or are using it."

"COS is updated every day by a team of technical editors. It is a great tool for researchers to identify funding but it is also useful for collaborative activities, travel, conferences, fellowships, post-doctoral positions, equipment acquisition and self-promotion."

COS services are used by more than 700 universities across the world. Its global collaboration network profiles about half a million academics.

"You can tailor the database to suit your needs. For example, you can program COS to email you on a weekly basis funding opportunities relevant to your research. If you have used COS but are not receiving funding alerts that are appropriate for your research, then you may need to change your keywords or fields in the COS search.

"For early-career researchers, COS is a great tool in assisting you to identify more obscure funding sources. These grants may be small but they are a good way for you to establish a track record so that when you apply for the more substantial funding schemes (such as ARC) you have a greater chance of being successful," she said.

For those who have not used COS before or who have accessed the database unsuccessfully, free training and presentations in COS are available from the Research Grants Office. Please contact Zoë Templar at the Research Grants Office on 6488 3702 or email zoe.templar@uwa.edu.au

Cash and colla COS it's the be



Luis Filgueira has \$590,000 in funding from COS

Luis Filgueira came to UWA in 1998 and lecturing in the School of Life Sciences for 10 years. At the University of Western Australia he was a professor of infectious immunology and virology but coming to Australia did not exist in Australia.

In his search to find funding for his research on the use of metal implants, Dr Filgueira found out about the Community of Science (COS) database. He has attracted more than \$590,000 in funding from COS.

"I go on a regular basis to check the COS database," Filgueira said. "It gives you a lot of information. The help of COS I have got to know about funding schemes and I work with other researchers."

He finds the simple search process on the COS website a great other funding scheme website. He found the COS website on the Institute of Health website and decided to use it on COS because it is more



Zarrin Siddiqui keeps in touch with other researchers, especially in her home country of Pakistan

Dr Zarrin Siddiqui discovered COS while studying at Adelaide University studying for a PhD in Microbiology.

She now finds COS to be a great resource at UWA. "My primary role, as a research officer (research evaluation) is to ensure that the COS database for Life Sciences has reliable and up-to-date information for students," Dr Siddiqui said.

"I also conduct research on the COS database. It is a useful tool because there are a lot of funding opportunities for research."

She has recently used COS to find funding for her research in Developing Countries through the COS database. She found out about the funding opportunities through COS.

Zoey Durmic found research funds to kick start her career at UWA



Dr Zoey Durmic is working on the possibility of using Australian antibiotics as growth promoters. She found funding for her research on the COS database.

"I found COS was a great resource. It required to chase up funding opportunities."

Dr Durmic found out about COS through a colleague. Although she has not had a track record, she set up funding alert emails. She found that agency websites are difficult to search.

Dr Durmic receives her funding through the option on the emailed COS database. She found a colleague valuable. "They are very helpful regardless of whether or not they are a colleague."

"COS can give early career researchers a lot of restrictions and eligibility: a lot of funding opportunities."

Collaboration online Best way

UWA from Switzerland and has been researching
of Anatomy and Human Biology for about five
of Zurich he worked in the areas of immunology
g here he was unable to continue his research in
olving the study of Lime Disease because it does

funding in other areas, including investigating the
ilgueira received a Research Announcement email
cience Database. He now regularly uses COS and
90,000 in funding.

s and screen the COS databank for funding,” Dr
all the information you need to apply. With the
know the deadlines for some of the major eligible
k towards that.’

et up of COS particularly helpful, compared to
bsites. “Searching for funding on the National
is like searching in a maze. I prefer to do a search
specific and straight forward.

covered COS when she was an AusAID student at
g for Masters in Educational Studies.

to be an indispensable part of her research at
a lecturer in Medical Education (assessment and
at the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health
valid assessment of learning outcomes for its

ch on medical education issues and COS is a very
re not a lot of well known grants for that type of

COS to apply for a Masters in Research Ethics for
ugh the National Institute of Health. Dr Siddiqui
g grant through her weekly Funding Alerts.

ing on a three year research project that explores
ustralian native plants as safer alternatives to feeding
motors in ruminants, a project she found the
abase.

it when I first started to work at UWA and I was
g,” she said.

about COS through an email with a website link.
any training in using the database, she managed to
relevant to her research. “Sometimes the funding
t to navigate,” she said.

er funding alerts weekly and finds that having the
S record of forwarding the funding information to
can receive information about that funding record
ot they are a COS member,” she said.

career researchers information about guidelines,
ll the things you don’t know to ask about.”



One of his colleagues said recently that if it weren’t for Professor Kadambot Siddique, there wouldn’t be a chickpea industry in Australia.

But there is, and thanks to more than 20 years work by Professor Siddique, it is a major industry currently worth more than \$200 million annually.

Professor Siddique is the Director of the Centre for Legumes in Mediterranean Agriculture (CLIMA) and he has recently been awarded the University’s Chair of Agriculture. Along with the prestigious position comes the role of Director of the UWA Institute of Agriculture.

The Institute is being revived to create a critical mass of research excellence in agriculture, to increase UWA’s competitiveness for national, international and industry funding.

Professor Siddique is credited with the establishment and expansion of the Australian pulse industry, including the innovative breeding of chickpeas for Australian growers that are disease and drought resistant, high yielding and of superior quality.

In addition to his research on crop adaptation and production agronomy of pulses and cereals he has developed and commercially released several chickpea, lentil and lathyrus varieties that have superior yield, quality and disease resistance. In recognition of many achievements in agricultural research, teaching and leadership Professor Siddique received the prestigious Urrbrae Memorial Award in 2001, for outstanding contribution to Australian agricultural research.

He has published more than 150 scientific papers, review articles and book chapters, and is actively involved with a diverse range of collaborations, including the widely-respected Syrian-based International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas. His research links extend from Turkey, Bangladesh, China and India to major US research centres at Washington State University and the University of Saskatchewan.

But Professor Siddique still maintains regular contacts with the grassroots of the agricultural industry: the farmers and industry workers, through his research and membership of various agricultural producer groups.

In his new roles, he says he aims to extend the trust has already built to forge a single vision for agriculture at UWA.

Booklist



The staff at UWA are prolific publishers and the Co-Op Bookshop usually carries their books.

Featured in this issue of UWAnews is history lecturer Dr Andrea Gaynor's study of food production in Australian

cities, *Harvest of the Suburbs*. Last issue we featured English lecturer Dr Brenda Walker's award-winning novel *The Wing of Night*, and next month we hope to bring you a new genre, ecocriticism, in a book by Dr Tom Wilson, also from the Arts faculty.

Booklist is an occasional column to keep UWA staff informed about their colleagues' publications that are available at our campus bookstore.

The shop's newest release by a UWA staff member, *Curse of the Werewolf*, will be available in July.

Curse of the Werewolf

Chantal Bourgault du Coudray

Despite enormous critical interest in myths and monsters, from vampires to cyborgs, the figure of the werewolf has been largely overlooked. Yet the werewolf, argues Dr Bourgault du Coudray, has revealed, in its various guises, shifting attitudes to the nature of the human psyche. Looking at the way the figure of the werewolf has been variously interpreted by commentators, from anthropologists and psychologists to criminologists, she shows how the werewolf's appearance across a wide array of popular forms, from film to graphic novels, has posed crucial questions about what it is to be human.

Published by Palgrave Macmillan \$48.00 Due July

Synopsis supplied by Kerry Stewart, general book buyer, Co-Op Bookshop

Give blood this winter

by Belinda Knight, Shenton College

This winter the Australian Red Cross is looking for 45,000 new blood donors. One of them could be you.

Australia needs 20,000 blood donations a week to make sure there are enough supplies for those in need. Not everybody can donate blood so if you are able to, why not give it a try. It doesn't cost you a thing.

By donating blood you will be able to help victims of accidents, diseases, women with pregnancy complications, patients undergoing routine surgery, people who are battling long-term illnesses such as cancer, heart, bowel or kidney failure and also people with chronic conditions who require frequent blood products.

Are you aged between 16 and 70? Do you consider yourself to be reasonably fit and healthy? If you answered yes to these questions donating blood is for you.

For more information email www.operationlifeblood.com or call 13 24 95 to make an appointment at a Red Cross clinic near you.



Margo Zorbas (left) and Amy Blundell share the inaugural Peter Sim prize

Veteran television journalist Richard Carleton, who died while reporting the Beaconsfield mine rescue in Tasmania, is a role model for first year Arts Communications student Margo Zorbas.

She has plans to follow his career path, reporting on international relations.

Amy Blundell, in the fourth year of a double degree in Asian Studies and Economics, is also interested in international relations and hopes to work in international trade.

Amy and Margo are the joint winners of the inaugural Peter Sim Prize in International Relations established by the West Australian branch of the Australian Institute of International Affairs.

The new award recognises the work of former Senator Peter Sim and his long-held interest in international relations.

He presented Amy and Margo with their awards as part of the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences prize giving ceremony last month.

The students share a cash prize and membership of the Institute, which will be awarded annually.

The Peter Sim Prize continues the Institute's long and close association with the University since the establishment of the WA Branch in 1947 by former Professor Fred Alexander.

How is your (working) life going?

The University's *Working Life Survey* is on again, the fourth time the staff have been asked to detail their lives on campus.

It will be distributed in hard copy to all University staff at the end of this month.

The *Working Life Survey* is conducted every three years and the information collected is used to create a better working environment for UWA staff. Specifically, information from the survey will be used to :

- Help determine what needs improvement at UWA;
- Provide data on which to test the success of new strategies; and
- Help identify issues to feature in future collective workplace bargaining.

To get an accurate picture of staff views, it is important that as many staff as possible complete the survey questions. All responses are confidential and the report will be available on the website. For those interested in previous reports these can be found at http://www.hr.uwa.edu.au/publications/discussion_docs/working_life_surveys

The results of the *Working Life Survey* are important for the future development of your University. When you get the survey in the mail, please take the time to complete it and return it, in the envelope provided, to the Director Human Resources (M350) by August 11. Those requiring special assistance to complete the survey can contact Beverley Hill on 6488 3791 or beverley.hill@uwa.edu.au

The majority of respondents in the last *Working Life Survey* said UWA grounds created an enjoyable workplace



We can help African universities

Universities in WA are being asked to donate books and computers to nine universities in Somalia.

The UniAid Somalia Bookdrive was initiated by Dr Victor Egan from the Curtin Business School, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program and Thomson Learning Australia.

UWA, ECU and Murdoch have all been invited to join the campaign to help the poverty-stricken country.

"There is obviously much to be done to assist Somalia in its economic development," Victor said. "One effective means of assistance that is well-researched and documented, is raising the level of education within a population, and this is the issue we are targeting with the UniAid Somalia book and computer drive.

"In some small way, we hope that our gesture will help Somalia drag itself from the quagmire of poverty in the coming years."

The nine Somali universities have faculties of agriculture, medicine, education, business administration, computer science, engineering, law, nursing, social sciences and arts.

They need relevant academic books (post-1990) and second-hand computers to help them continue their teaching programs.

The Reid Library is the drop-off point for donations and Annie Macnab (6488 1379) , Manager Library Administration, is the contact.

Already, about 2,500 books across several disciplines have been collected and shipped to Africa, but more are needed. They will be shipped in a container from Fremantle direct to Berbera, Somalia towards the end of July.

Donations need to be made by July 1, so there is less than two weeks to gather them together and get them to the library.

For more information about the UniAid Somalia Bookdrive, contact Diane Valli on 6488 7955.

Dazzling Dante

A UWA academic's book on Dante has been named one of the Outstanding Academic Titles in the US.

Emeritus Professor John Scott's recent publication, *Understanding Dante* (University of Notre Dame Press, Indiana) had already been praised by Dante scholars around the world.

An extract of a letter from *Choice* to the publisher said: "These outstanding titles have been selected for the excellence in scholarship and presentation, the significance of their contribution to the field and their value as important treatment of their subject."

The list of Outstanding Academic Titles comprises less than three per cent of more than 23,000 titles submitted to *Choice* in one year.



Professor Jill McKeough

Advances from Law retreat

Can you imagine a bunch of academics 'speed dating'?

An adaptation of this method of meeting potential partners was mooted at the recent Law Staff Retreat as a way of exploring the possibilities of joint research projects with other Faculties.

The retreat at St Catherine's College in May was a full house of academic and senior administrative staff.

Dean of Law at the University of Technology Sydney, Professor Jill McKeough, provided some insights into the challenges facing Law Schools around the country.

UWA Dean, Professor Bill Ford, talked about setting realistic and achievable goals in both teaching and learning and research areas. Working groups engaged creatively throughout the day and came up with some unique proposals, including the 'speed dating' idea.

Ideas and proposals are now to be taken up by the research committee and the teaching and learning committee in the Law School to further develop the directions explored during their productive day.

WEBCORNER

If you are launching a new website or updating an existing one, let us know (lindy.brophy@uwa.edu.au) and we will let our readers know too.

Australian Government and Politics Database

<http://elections.uwa.edu.au/>

This has been a major resource for research on Australian politics, recording more than 70,000 hits since its launch in October 2001.

A new and substantially improved version of the database and website was recently launched by Professor Doug McEachern, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Innovation.

This follows a major upgrade of hardware and software for the website and the database which drives it.

In addition, enhanced information on New South Wales state government and politics is being added to the website as part of a project funded by a grant from the Committee for the Sesquicentenary of Responsible Government in New South Wales (this component will be completed by the end of 2006).

The Australian Government and

Politics Project in the discipline of Political Science and International Relations has two components: a database from which data sets can be extracted for academic research, and a website displaying some of this information in a form which is easy to access for the general public.

While the database continues to be used for serious research, it is the website which has by far the broader reach as an extensive resource for students and the public at large.

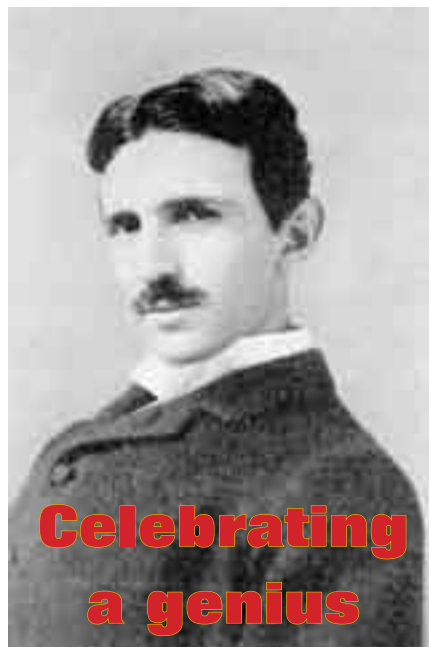
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Celebrating a genius

He has been called *the genius who lit the world*, and the world celebrates the 150th anniversary of his birth this year.

Nikola Tesla was a Croatian-born Serbian physicist whose discoveries are said to have advanced the world into the modern industrial era.

Tesla had 700 patents in the US and Europe and his discoveries include the fluorescent light, wireless transmission of electrical energy, remote control, terrestrial waves and the use of the ionosphere for scientific purposes.

The world celebrates Tesla Day 2006 on Friday July 7. A one-day forum, sponsored by UWA, Scitech, Western Power and Curtin and Murdoch universities will be held at the Perth Convention Centre.

The previous night *Tesla* the play will be performed at the Octagon Theatre, and on July 10 a bust of Tesla will be unveiled in the foyer of the School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering.

The conference will be chaired by Professor Jasmina Vujic, vice president of the Tesla Memorial Society of New York and director of two computing facilities at the University of California Berkley.

For more information about the conference visit www.teslaforum.com or call 0438 295 007.

Bookings for *Tesla* at the Octagon is through BOCS outlets, 9484 1133 or www.bocsticketing.com.au

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED STUDIES

FREE PUBLIC LECTURES

JUNE/JULY 2006

'Writing Out':

The Academy in Dialogue with a Broader Culture

Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st of June 2006, 10am-5pm
University Club, The University of Western Australia

... a program of seminar and master classes for research post-graduates and early career academics co-presented by the Humanities Writing Project, an Australian Research Council funded Linkage-Learned Academies Special Project, and the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of Western Australia

The 'Writing Out' event will run over two days with each day divided into a morning seminar and two concurrent afternoon master classes. The morning seminars will bring publishers, writers and editors from across the nation into dialogue with research postgraduates and early career researchers in humanities disciplines to discuss publishing options and contemporary practices in non-fiction writing. The afternoon master classes will work with participants to develop skills in relation to their specific research and publishing interests.

NO COST

Professor Anna Haebich,

Co-Director of The Centre for Public Culture and Ideas, Griffith University

Remembering back through the heart

Personal engagements with history

Tuesday, 20 June 2006 at 6pm
University Club Theatre Auditorium, UWA

In her public lecture, Professor Anna Haebich reflects on the relationships, experiences and love of history and writing that drive her determination to write histories of value and meaning that challenge and engage a wide range of readers.

NO COST

Belongings: Women, Family and Place

A Symposium to Celebrate the work of Professor Patricia Crawford

Friday 30 June and Saturday 1 July 2006, 6pm and 9.30am-4pm
University Club Seminar room 1, UWA

Patricia Crawford's international reputation as a scholar rests on her contribution to the history of early modern England. However, the other side of her research and writing has been her interest in many areas of Australian history. Her work has ranged across topics such as women and citizenship; the history of women at the University of Western Australia, the history of childhood in twentieth-century Australia; and group settlers and environmental history of the Northcliffe area of the south-west of Western Australia. Much of Professor Crawford's work has explored 'belongings' in various ways. In her long career at UWA, she has been important to many as an esteemed colleague, friend and mentor and by presenting this event it is our intention to celebrate this association.

Registration is essential and available at www.ias.uwa.edu.au

Professor George Ellis Professor of Applied Mathematics University of Cape Town

The Way the Mind Works

Thursday, 29 June 2006 at 6pm
Social Sciences Lecture Theatre, UWA

A specialist in general relativity theory, George F R Ellis is considered to be among a handful of the world's leading relativistic cosmologists, including luminaries such as Stephen Hawking and Malcolm MacCallum. His most recent investigations question whether or not there was ever a start to the universe and, indeed, if there is only one universe or many.

NO COST

Associate Professor Ruth Bereson,

Director of the Arts Management Program, University at Buffalo

The Underbelly of Cultural Policy Making

Friday, 21 July 2006 at 6pm
Geography Lecture Theatre 1, UWA

This talk addresses the theme of the history, and explores the many facets of the term 'cultural policy', through an exploration of its historical meanings in different societies over different times. Great civilizations inevitably collapse and we are often left only with remnants of their cultural and artistic practices. How we interpret the past and how we understand the rise and fall of great cultures and the tools we use, can help inform our study of Cultural Policy. Bereson suggests that the questions raised by Shelley's poem 'Ozymandius' are questions to which we might well give consideration today.

NO COST

For more information and venue maps, please visit www.ias.uwa.edu.au or contact the Institute of Advanced Studies on 6488 1340, or email ias@admin.uwa.edu.au

RESEARCH GRANTS & CONTRACTS

AINSE RESEARCH TRAINING

Prof Sidney Bradshaw, Animal Biology: 'Measurement of Protein Turnover in Free-Ranging Honey Possums'—\$2,695 (2006)

Ms Nisse Goldberg, Dr Gary Kendrick, Plant Biology: 'Radiocarbon Dating of Rhodoliths Collected from Jurien Bay and Esperance Bay, Western Australia'—\$6,488 (2006)

Dr Charles Musca, Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering: 'SIMS Analysis of ICPRIE Processed HgCdTe'—\$13,541 (2006)

Dr Robert Woodward, Dr Timothy St Pierre, Dr Elliot Gilbert, Prof Judy Riffle, Physics, External: 'Small Angle Neutron and X-ray Scattering of Magnetic Nanoparticles for Biomedical Applications'—\$19,360 (2006)

ASTHMA FOUNDATION

Mr Peter Franklin, Mr G Hall, Dr S Stick, Paediatrics and Child Health, External, UWA Centre for Child Health Research: 'Antecedents of Childhood Asthma: Measurements of Infant Lung Function and Airway Inflammation'—\$31,750 (2006)

AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF ANAESTHETISTS

A/Prof Stephan Schug, Medicine and Pharmacology, Psychology: 'Psychological Factors that Predict Patient Satisfaction and Response to Multidisciplinary Treatment for Chronic Pain'—\$17,000 (2006)

AUSTRALIAN DENTAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Dr Agnieszka Frydrych, Dr Linda Slack-Smith, Ms Lynette Colvin, Dr Timothy Threlfall, Dr Gareth Davies, Dentistry, Population Health, UWA Centre for Child Health Research: 'The Influence of Incisional Versus Excisional Biopsy Type on the Long Term Survival of Patients with Oral Squamous Cell Carcinoma'—\$1,500 (2006)

AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL LEAGUE (AFL)

Dr J Berry, Prof Brian Dawson, Human Movement and Exercise Science: 'Assessment and Training of Umpire Decision Making Skill'—\$15,500 (2006)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL: LINKAGE INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT FACILITIES

Prof Craig Atkins, Dr Luis Filgueira, Dr Steven Hinckley, Prof Svend Klinken, A/Prof John Kuo, Prof Nigel Laing, Prof Gordon Parkinson, Prof Zdenko Rengel, Dr Martin Saunders, Dr Timothy St Pierre, Prof Stephen Thurgate, Prof George Yeoh, Prof Arie Van Riessen, A/Prof Brendan Griffin, Prof Lynda Beazley, Dr Peta Clode, A/Prof Sarah Dunlop, Professor Lorenzo Faraone, Centre for Microscopy and

Microanalysis, Anatomy and Human Biology, Animal Biology, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences, Earth and Geographical Sciences, Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering, External, Physics, Plant Biology, UWA Centre for Medical Research: 'The Nanoscale Characterisation Centre WA Analytical Biological Transmission Electron Microscope Facility'—\$723,00 (2006)

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL: LINKAGE INFRASTRUCTURE EQUIPMENT FACILITIES

Dr Zheng-Xiang Li, Prof Mark Barley, Prof Peter Cawood, A/Prof Lindsay Collins, A/Prof Michael Dentith, Dr Iam Fitzsimons, A/Prof David Haig, Dr Sergei Pisarevsky, Dr Steven Reddy, Dr Michael Wingate, Mr Karl Wyrwoll, Dr Zhong Chen, Dr Ian Tyler, Earth and Geographical Sciences, External, Tectonics Special Research Centre: 'Western Australia Palaeomagnetic and Rock-Magnetic Facility'—\$246,000 (2006)

BEYOND BLUE

Prof Osvaldo Almeida, Mr Jon Pfaff, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences: 'Building an Evidence Base & Disseminating Good Practice Regarding Preventing Depression & Suicide in the Elderly via the DEPS-GS Project'—\$50,000 (2006)

CANCER COUNCIL OF WA

Ms Joanne Tonkin, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences: 'Travel Grant - Falk Research Workshop January 2006'—\$1,500 (2006)

CENTRE FOR GROUNDWATER STUDIES

Mr David Reynolds, School of Environmental Systems Engineering: 'Multi-Scale Hydrological Controls on Vegetation Communities in the Playa Lakes of South-western Australia'—\$35,000 (2006)

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr Frank Morgan, Crime Research Centre: 'Across Government Data Collection Project'—\$80,443 (2005)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING - PALLIATIVE CARE PROGRAM

Dr Kirsten Auret, Prof Kathryn White, Medicine and Pharmacology, External: 'Learn Now Live Well: Train the Trainer'—\$119,697 (2006-2007)

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING: MISCELLANEOUS

Prof Jon Emery, Primary, Aboriginal and Rural Health Care, General Practice: 'Primary Health Care Research Evaluation & Development Strategy - PHC RED - Phase 2 - Research Capacity Building Initiative RCBI 2006 to 2009'—\$1,040,000 (2006-2009)

GARNETT PASSE AND RODNEY WILLIAMS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Prof R Ghassemifar, Prof Marcus Atlas, Surgery and Pathology, External, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences: 'The Tympanic Membrane and its Molecular and Cellular Responses to Structural Injuries'—\$238,507 (2006-2008)

GRAINS R&D CORPORATION

Mr Leonard Wade, Ms Christina Grime, Mrs Christine Munday, Dr William Boyd, Plant Biology: 'Barley Improvement Through Germplasm Introduction, Evaluation and Enhancement'—\$464,354 (2005-08)

JOHNSON & JOHNSON MEDICAL

Prof Michael Hobbs, Population Health: 'Program to Establish WA Guidelines for Stenting in the Treatment of Coronary Heart Disease'—\$220,550 (2006)

LAW SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Ms Judith Fordham, Centre for Forensic Science, Law: 'Jurors, Juries and Expert Evidence'—\$34,304 (2006)

MURDOCH UNIVERSITY EX HEALTHWAY

Dr Bonnie Barber, A/Prof L Pike, Dr P Murphy, A/Prof Janet Fletcher, Psychology: 'Promoting Positive Relationships After Divorce and Separation'—\$84,793 (2006-2008)

NATIONAL BREAST CANCER FOUNDATION

A/Prof Martha Hickey, A/Prof Christobel Saunders, Prof Kathryn White, Dr Bettina Meiser, Women's and Infants' Health, External, Surgery and Pathology: 'The Development and Evaluation of a Menopause Information Tool for Young Women Following Breast Cancer'—\$119,785 (2005-2006)

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

A/Prof Ralph Martins, A/Prof Sam Gandy, Psychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences, External: 'Interdisciplinary Approach to Alzheimer Drug Discovery'—\$938,857 (2004-09)

NEUROSURGICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Mr Neville Knuckey, Dr Bruno Meloni, Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences, Medicine and Pharmacology: 'Combined Hypothermia and Magnesium as a Neuroprotective Therapy Following Cerebral Ischaemia'—\$15,000 (2006)

NHMRC SUNDRY GRANTS

Prof George Milne, A/Prof Heath Kelly, Dr Ian Barr, Computer Science and Software Engineering, External: 'Spatial Simulation Modelling of Containment Strategies for Pandemic Influenza'—\$99,534 (2006-2007)

NHMRC TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS

Miss Kendle Estcourt, Centre for Ophthalmology and Visual Science: 'Analysis of CD8 T Cell Memory Generation Following Cell Mediated Vaccination Strategies' (2006-2007)

PFIZER NEURO SCIENCE RESEARCH GRANTS

Dr Julian Rodrigues, Prof Francis Mastaglia, Dr Gary Thickbroom, Centre for Neuromuscular and Neurological Disorders: 'Treatment of Parkinson's Disease Bradykinesia with Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation'—\$46,415 (2006)

PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD SINGAPORE

Dr Jason Antenucci, Prof Jorg Imberger, Mr Matthew Hipsey, Centre for Water Research: 'Kranji Reservoir Study Stage 2'—\$270,492 (2006)

SHIRE OF GNOWANGERUP

Prof David Trigger, Social and Cultural Studies: 'Stirling Range Heritage Research'—\$20,000 (2006)

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN WATER CORPORATION

Dr Jason Antenucci, Dr Jose Romero, Mr Matthew Hipsey, Centre for Water Research: 'Hydrodynamic Modelling for Happy Valley Reservoir'—\$82,748 (2005)

SOUTH COAST REGIONAL INITIATIVE PLANNING TEAM NHT

Dr Geoff Woodall, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences: 'Commercialisation of Native Flora'—\$296,725 (2005-2007)

Dr Geoff Woodall, Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences: 'Expertise Support for Protection, Restoration and Revegetation'—\$28,883 (2005)

TOTTORI UNIVERSITY

Dr Jason Antenucci, Mr Christopher Dallimore, Centre for Water Research: 'Tono Dam Real-Time Management System'—\$33,503 (2006)

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE EX NHMRC

Prof Karen Simmer, Women's and Infants' Health: 'Interdisciplinary Maternal Perinatal Action on Chemical Trials (Impact) Collaboration'—\$105,000 (2006-2010)

UWA RE-ENTRY POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Dr Abigail Bray, Social and Cultural Studies: 'The Cultural Politics of Child Abuse Literacy in the Last Thirty Years'—(2006)

WOMEN AND INFANTS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

A/Prof Robert Stick, Prof Peter Hartmann, Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences: 'AlterNative Sources of Carbohydrate for Pre-term Babies'—\$5,000 (2006)

STAFF ADS

Classified advertising is free to all university staff. Email: staffads@uwa.edu.au

FOR SALE

SCOOTER: Bolwell Jive 50cc, black and silver, immaculate condition. 1800km, service history, 1 owner, c/w helmet and lock. Licensed until Oct '06. \$2500 ono. Please call 0400 763 121

RINNAI GAS HEATER 516TR: Selling new at \$1,000 for sale \$600. Hardly used this heater is surplus to our requirements. Email Sue Lewis: suelewis@cyllene.uwa.edu.au or Ext 2116.

TV CABINET: Coral ash colour, 4 glass doors, cabinet on wheels. Length: 1800mm, width: 1050mm and depth: 470mm. As new, in excellent condition. Must sell. Cost is \$280 ono. Please contact Debra on 1970 for further information.

MOBILITY RIDER: The Disability Office has a 'Gopher' (mobility rider) for sale. About 10 years old. Good condition but needs new batteries (around \$255). Price: \$500 or offer. Contact Deborah Ext 7864 or Barbara Ext 3809.

FOR RENT

WEMBLEY DOWNS: Do you have a visitor coming to the University and need to find accommodation? Rooms for rent are available and would suit visiting academics or students. Includes all amenities, fully furnished, ADSL remote and ethernet connections. Close to beach, public transport and large park (Butlers reserve). \$110 per week. Available for any time period between June 21st until the end of the year. Contact Michael Tobar, Ext 3443 or mike@physics.uwa.edu.au

EAST FREMANTLE: Character house in great location. Available for short-term rent from July to September 2006. Fully furnished. Walking distance to river, cafes, Fremantle and bus route to University. Great character feel with spacious garden. 2 bedrooms. Suit visiting academic. \$250 per week. Contact Tel. 9339 0691.

MARGARET RIVER: Holiday rental property. Apartment 3 is a new and stylish apartment right in the heart of town with a beautiful rooftop outlook to the forest and a very relaxed, holiday feel. The apartment is beautifully designed to take maximum advantage of the winter sun and is fully furnished. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms one with SPA, two balconies, all linen, coffee and tea provided. Call Danni on 0400 731 365 Email: dannijmarshall@westnet.com.au

WHITE GUM VALLEY: Sunny 3 bedroom house, fully furnished. Well equipped kitchen and large lounge opening to big garden. Easy transport to nearby Fremantle and UWA via bus, but can include family car as well. \$320 a week, car negotiable. Available 28 July 2006 to 6 Jan 2007. Contact David on ext 2074 or davidb@arts.uwa.edu.au.

BUSSELTON: "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, and fully self contained. Only need to bring linen. Contact Nick Gibson on 0413 622 269 or Tel: 9305 9059 or ngibson@cyllene.uwa.edu.au and ask for a brochure.

NANNUP: Holiday rental property. Beautiful secluded house set on 6 acres. Sleeps 7/8. Fully fitted throughout to a high standard. Contact Nicky Davison on Ext 4671, 9380 6508 or nicky.davison@uwa.edu.au. Also see website www.kanjarralodge.com.au

FRENCH PYRENEES: Holiday rental property. Characteristic rental property in the small French village of Rodes at the foothills of the French Pyrenees. 40 minutes from Perpignan and 2.5 hours from Barcelona. Sleeps 7. Fully fitted throughout. Contact Nicky Davison on Ext 4671, 9380 6508 or nicky.davison@uwa.edu.au. Also see website <http://www.eyeinthesky.com.au/voletsbleus.html>

WANTED

ACCOMMODATION: Visiting professor and graduate student from Fredericton, Canada looking for a 2 - 3 bedroom house or apartment located near Curtin University to rent from mid-July through October, 2006. References available. For further details, contact Karl Butler: kbutler@unb.ca

ACCOMMODATION: House, two to three bedrooms wanted to rent. Near Shenton College, from mid-July for up to a year for \$250 - \$300 a week. Phone 9386 5832

ACCOMMODATION/HOUSE-SITTING: Going on sabbatical? This could suit you. Professional Kiwi couple with four-year-old daughter seeking accommodation from end of July until at least March/April next year. Non smokers, daughter goes to MLC, currently living in Subiaco. Would like three bedrooms, enclosed yard, garage, air-conditioning, preferably furnished. Please phone Ellen on 9382 3968 or essenm@gmail.com

NOTICES

Attention postdoctoral students

Teaching scholarships, valued at approximately \$17,500, are available to recently-completed UWA postdoctoral candidates.

A three year pilot scheme - **UWA Teaching Scholars Program** (formerly the UWA Postdoctoral Teaching Scholarship scheme) provides for six Teaching Scholars between 2006, 2007 and 2008, one in each semester. Guidelines outlining eligibility, funding and the application process are available on the web at http://www.teachingandlearning.uwa.edu.au/t4/for_uwa_staff/grants_and_funding

The deadline for submissions is Friday, 29th September 2006.

Postdoctoral Supervisors: Please bring this program to the attention of postdoctoral students, or immediate past students, who you believe are (or will be) eligible and would benefit from the program.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
invites all graduates and other members of Convocation to attend a
SPECIAL ORDINARY MEETING of
Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association

to consider proposed changes to :

Statute 7: Admission to Courses of the University

Statute 10: Vice-Chancellor

Statute 20: Guild of Undergraduates

which will be held on **Friday 21st July 2006 at 6.00 p.m.** for a 6:30pm start at the **UWA Watersports Complex** in Hackett Drive

To RSVP, or for further information about the meeting, please contact the Office of Convocation, the UWA Graduates Association, on 6488 3006 or email uwaga@admin.uwa.edu.au Additional information is also available at www.graduates.uwa.edu.au



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REDUNDANT EQUIPMENT

Bids should be accepted by Monday July 3 with schools to have first option

CONDITION refers to the general condition of item (1 = as new, 2 = good, 3 = serviceable, 4 = unserviceable). AGE refers to the nearest year.

Schools are reminded that all university equipment available for sale must be advertised in the **UWAnews**. Receipts should be PeopleSoft account coded 490 (computing with barcode), 491 (non-computing with barcode) or 493 (items with no barcode). If equipment has an existing barcode please contact extension 3618/2546 for details.

	PRICE	AGE	COND	CONTACT
Apple Powerbook, 15.2", 1.5GHz, 1GB RAM, 80GB, wireless, Bluetooth	\$1600	2	2	Computer Science and Software Engineering Chris McDonald Ext 2533
17" Philips CRT monitors x6	\$25	4+	2	Business School Amanda Ext 3879
CRT monitor 109S	\$50	4+	2	Business School Amanda Ext 3879

A commitment to excellence in teaching

It is fascinating to contemplate processes of educational change, and the terms in which we discuss higher education and the position of the student within it.

Certainly over decades, there have been different ways of describing and giving support to that mixture of inspiration, motivation and hard work that underlies engaging experiences for students and teachers alike.

All avid readers of UWA policy and planning documents will be aware that the current emphasis in Teaching and Learning in the University's new Operational Priorities Plan falls upon improving the quality of the student learning experience, and that the Plan anticipates working towards such improvement by focusing on learning outcomes, increasing access to the university, and diversifying students' experience.

There is no doubt that the impact of globalisation, the increasingly explicit commodification and packaging of knowledge as discrete 'bits' to be consumed, and an expectation that universities will achieve better results, with fewer resources, all work to shape a very different context for teachers and students in 2006 and beyond.

This context, I think, creates three imperatives at UWA if we are to be responsive to change, and conserve the best of what we do: a recognition of the need for system-wide commitment to good learning outcomes for students; collaboration between all areas that touch upon student learning, recognising it as a holistic experience; and imaginative approaches that still retain the disciplinary strengths and expertise upon which UWA's reputation has been built. Even on a sunny day, all of that can look like a tall order.

It is fortunate, then that UWA has been successful in securing external resources to underpin systemic improvements in teaching and learning via the Learning and Teaching

Performance Fund. Whatever the flaws in the way the LTPF came to be, and in the process by which funds were distributed, we can be pleased that at a time of such change, we have external resources with which to effect some substantive reform.

The award of \$2.58 million of LTPF funds for 2006 is just one signal of the extent to which teaching and learning has, in recent years, taken on greater significance in public political discourse, viewed as a system rather than as a private transaction between individuals behind closed classroom doors. At this early stage at UWA, it is anticipated that the funds may be allocated in three parts, consisting of:

- Funds based on performance, to be used specifically to reward and promote good teaching within the faculties;
- A significant majority of funds directed to support faculty-based initiatives to improve the student learning experience at UWA;
- Funds to support non-faculty based initiatives referenced to the teaching and learning section of the OPP.

The 2006 LTPF is by no means the only example of a shift in the prominence of teaching and learning at UWA and an emphasis upon system-wide change.

Other UWA schemes and grants have been finalised this year, which include: the award of four new in-faculty teaching Fellowships, and selection of our inaugural UWA Teaching Scholar (an early career teacher, who will work on projects of demonstrable benefit to the wider school and faculty); grants to all faculties to improve student learning experiences as evidenced in Course Experience Questionnaire (CEQ) results; and in-principle con-sideration by several committees and the Guild, of



a major overhaul of the approaches and administration of internal UWA teaching awards.

This last initiative, still subject to detailed faculty input, relates to the administration of teaching awards and is designed to streamline application processes quite radically: once developed, it would lead to a considerable reduction in workload for anybody nominated for an award.

An internal award application, for example, would be based on similar material as that used for the purposes of annual Performance Development Review, or promotion application. The award material could be recycled if a staff member was nominated for a national Carrick award.

Simultaneously, it will be proposed that responsibility for awards be devolved to faculties during 2007, although award winners would still be acknowledged centrally and the process would still be driven largely by the all-important student acclamation of good teaching.

A faculty-based system might better ensure that awards actually recognise disciplinary diversity in teaching and learning approaches: at their best, it is *exactly* such diverse approaches that have underpinned successful UWA education over a century, albeit in a radically shifting context.



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