



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA  
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A CENTURY OF  
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1913 - 2013



# Uniview

Vol. 32 No. 1, Summer 2013







# UWA is in the World Top 100 in its Centenary.

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Dr Michael Chaney AO  
Chancellor  
The University of Western Australia

After a century of excellence in teaching, learning and research, and thanks to the efforts and achievements of people like you, we're now ranked among the world's Top 100 universities.

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For details of the UWA Centenary celebration program, starting with our Alumni Weekend, visit us at [centenary.uwa.edu.au](http://centenary.uwa.edu.au)



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**Cover image:** *Hours to Sunset*, the Venetian glass mosaic on the wall of the University Club, designed by UWA graduate (and Academy Award-winner) Shaun Tan. See *In Focus*.

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**Director:** Doug Durack (doug.durack@uwa.edu.au)

**Editor:** Trea Wiltshire (trea.wiltshire@uwa.edu.au)

**Grad Briefs:** Terry Larder (terry.larder@uwa.edu.au)

**Design:** Graham Harvey and Janine Blackstock, UniPrint (uniprint.uwa.edu.au)

**Advertising:** Trea Wiltshire +61 8 6488 1914

**Editorial:** Public Affairs, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009

Telephone: +61 8 6488 1914, Fax: +61 8 6488 1192

**Address Changes:** Terry Larder +61 8 6488 2447, Fax: +61 8 6488 7996, Email: terry.larder@uwa.edu.au

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### Hillary Clinton visits

US Ambassador Jeffrey Bleich and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton with Australian Ambassador Kim Beazley and Tertiary Education Minister Chris Evans at the Perth USAsia Centre launch. See *In Focus*.

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### Field trip fun

A UWA Botany field trip to Two Peoples Bay in the 1930s makes it clear that field trips – valuable in terms of their findings – were also good fun! See *Building foundations of excellence*.

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A UWA Centenary landmark



Shaun Tan's mosaic *Hours to Sunset*

It will be a celebratory occasion when alumni from across Australia and around the world return to campus to celebrate UWA's Centenary and to make the most of the Alumni Weekend in early February.

The program of Centenary events will crystallise what UWA is all about: celebrating creativity, debating the big issues of our time and encouraging the exploration of uncharted territory – be it medical, technical, social or environmental.

And like the best celebrations, this Centenary event will leave more than memories. Graduate Shaun Tan, an Academy Award-winner and an author/illustrator with a worldwide reputation, has designed a stunning Venetian glass mosaic (pictured above) for the west-facing wall of the University Club.

The colour and style of *Hours to Sunset* were influenced by the medieval *Book of Hours*, an illuminated manuscript featuring gold and lapis lazuli pigments that give special luminosity to representations of the sky and heavenly bodies.

"This combination of old European elements, mixed with my own experience of painting our coast, has produced a work that rhymes well with the sensibility of the University campus and its architecture. Both involved an unlikely juxtaposition: re-worked classical and medieval designs set against the powerful Western Australian light, with its own unique intensity and clarity," observes the artist.

In an age of digital clocks and smart-phone calendars, Shaun relished the notion of an artwork based on a sundial "that reminds us of the origin of all time-keeping, as well as our basic relationship with nature and sunlight, the principal source of life".

And like all Shaun Tan artworks, it takes viewers on a journey.

"I wanted to add humour to the work: the sun as an all-seeing bird regarding its companion, the moon, an all-seeing fish moving in the other direction (ignoring everything we know about suns and moons). Adults and children might appreciate the playfulness of these 'characters' locked in a mysterious and eternal relationship. Each element remains open to interpretation, as in all my work as artist and illustrator."

The work was commissioned by Convocation, Friends of Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Combined Friends and Dr Carmen Lawrence – as a gift to students past and

present – on the advice of Director of UWA Extension Susan Marie. Corporate sponsor Hawaiian Pty Ltd also provided invaluable support for the project.

The sundial will indicate hours to sunset, with a gnomon positioned in the centre, casting a shadow on the wall that will move from the bottom to the top until it is level with the gnomon at sunset.

This extraordinary artwork will be launched by the Warden of Convocation, David Hodgkinson, with special guest – celebrity gardener Sabrina Hahn – at the ceremony on Saturday 9 February. For more information, see *Alumni Weekend Celebrations*.

While Shaun's mosaic will undoubtedly become another well-loved UWA landmark, another Centenary initiative, the *Hakea laurina* will set seed and bloom and disperse on campus – not unlike the questing minds that this University has nurtured for a century.



Academy Award-winner Shaun Tan in his studio

**A year to remember**



*Commerce student Jenna Liddle with Centum*

Flags and banners through the heart of Perth and a string of events through 2013 will ensure that UWA's Centenary celebrations stretch beyond the opening events and into the regions where UWA is extending learning opportunities.

The Centenary mascot – Centum – made its debut on campus towards the end of last year and staff and students are currently meeting the challenge set by Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor Bill Loudon to produce innovative and quirky versions of Centum.

Centenary events will include a Food and Wine Festival planned for June by the University Club and a Gala Dinner in July hosted by the UWA Student Guild. Over the years, the guild has been led by notable graduates including former Prime Minister Bob Hawke and former Australian Ambassador Dr Sue Boyd, who is a current member of Senate and Chair of the Senate Centenary Planning Committee. A summary of Guild events can be viewed at [www.guild.uwa.edu.au/100](http://www.guild.uwa.edu.au/100)

UWA's Centenary website ([www.centenary.uwa.edu.au/](http://www.centenary.uwa.edu.au/)) will keep readers up-to-date with events, as will information on Facebook and Twitter. The website features a selection of great images from UWA Archives that take you on a journey through the history of UWA. We also journey through history in this issue of *Uniview*, revisiting the first makeshift campus at Irwin Street, remembering some of the first students to enrol and following the excitement stirred by the rise of Winthrop Hall in difficult economic times (see *Building foundations of excellence*).

In this issue we also meet just some of UWA's 12,000 alumni living overseas and making their mark – on the world stage (Tim Minchin), in global brand companies such as YouTube (Lee Hunter) and in the English National Opera (Loretta Tomasi). See *UWA's global 'family'*.

**Centenary bloom**



*The UWA Centenary Hakea laurina*

UWA's National Estate-registered gardens will have an added attraction

come winter when *Hakea laurina* is in bloom. The 'Pincushion Hakea' is a native Western Australian species and the Centenary Hakea is a new weeping variety that is both water-wise and attracts birds. It will be available for purchase at various events throughout 2013. Also available for sale (at the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery) will be two pin designs of the Centenary bloom by local artists.

The Friends of the Grounds have also been busy producing a 2013 calendar. *Then and Now* captures the diversity

**Centum takes to the air**



*Dr Adamson with his plane*

UWA's mascot has also been featured in Centenary advertising, including journeying to Geraldton where UWA graduate Dr Stuart Adamson is advancing the University's goal of boosting medicine in regional WA.

Dr Adamson – who is passionate about rural medicine and about flying – has brought together these two great interests, criss-crossing the region in his plane, a 1948 Twin Beech 18. He takes his healthcare skills to hospitals, homesteads, mine sites and rural communities.

The graduate, who has been based in Geraldton for 14 years, acquired his fully restored and reconditioned plane in 2005. "These planes were the Lear Jets of the 1950s and were used during World War II as bomber trainers and light military transports. My wife and I bought the plane before we knew how to fly it, so we got the books, studied hard, flew around Oz a few times and got it down pat!" says Dr Adamson.

And it's clear that along the way Dr Stu Adamson has won a special place in the heart of locals as he flies across the region.



*Treating a patient at a GP clinic*

and natural beauty of the campus with contemporary images (from recent photographic competitions) complemented by archival photos. The calendar is available for purchase from the Visitors Centre and The University Club and you can download an order form from the Friends' website: [www.development.uwa.edu.au/friends/fog](http://www.development.uwa.edu.au/friends/fog)

**Institute of 'good ideas'**

The Institute of Advanced Studies' lectures and seminars featuring distinguished speakers

draw many to the campus and its Centenary program will not disappoint.

One of the first events, The Manning Clark House Day of Ideas 2013, will focus on ideas that will shape the next hundred years. *Illuminating Thoughts – 1913, 2013, 2113* brings to the campus 'good ideas' people from diverse disciplines: architect Fred Chaney, historian Anna Clark and artist and writer Stephanie Radok, along with UWA academics.

To register visit: [www.ias.uwa.edu.au/conf/2013-doi](http://www.ias.uwa.edu.au/conf/2013-doi)



**Marking proud achievements**



*Linda Savage and her daughter Esther Davis*

There are countless inspirational tales embedded in the pavers that make up the Graduates' Walk around UWA's historic Oak Lawn. Acquired by graduates to mark their time at UWA, the pavers' hidden stories invariably reinforce the transformative power of education.

Take the three pavers purchased last year by Law graduate and Member of the Legislative Council Linda Savage.

"They are for my mother Roberta Savage, my daughter Esther Davis and myself," explains Linda as she recalls that her mother grew up in Waroona at a time when the high school only went to year 10.

"My grandfather thought she should leave at 14 and get a job, but my grandmother – who had named her after Roberta Jull, the first woman doctor to set up practice in Perth – was determined she would get a chance to finish high school."

Roberta Savage attended the convent at New Norcia, secured a bonded place at Claremont Teachers College and later received financial support to further her studies at UWA.

"For my mother, this was an opportunity that would never have been possible otherwise ... She always remained grateful and proud

she had had a university education," recalls Linda who also studied at UWA.

"My mother didn't live to see Esther qualify as a doctor and get a Clarendon Scholarship to Oxford but I know she would have been bursting with pride to know that UWA had made that possible for her."

If you would like to know more about the Graduates' Walk initiative (that raises funds for the Centenary Trust for Women) contact Marita Gardener on +61 8 6488 4207 or visit: [www.uwa.edu.au/ctw](http://www.uwa.edu.au/ctw)

**Our 'Tall Poppy' scientists**

Three researchers from UWA and its affiliates were among the winners of the 2012 WA Young Tall Poppy Awards: Associate Professor Kevin Pflieger, head of Molecular Endocrinology at the WA Institute for Medical Research, Dr Alex Hewitt, a glaucoma genetics researcher from the Lions Eye Institute and Research Assistant Professor Lea-Ann Kirkham, a researcher with the Vaccine Trials Group from UWA's School of Paediatrics and Child Health. The awards acknowledge research achievements and the winner's commitment to communicate science and its significance to the community.

**In The Zone**



*Vinay Venkatraman, Elena Douglas, Christian Porter, Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson and Geoff Elliott*

November's *In The Zone* conference explored Australia's increasingly complex global neighbourhoods and what it will take to achieve optimal regional engagement in terms of trade, business and diplomatic relationships.

A number of distinguished speakers tackled the issues from diverse perspectives including Rory Medcalf, Program Director (International Strategy) of The Lowy Institute, who said Australia was well-positioned to play a role in bringing together and engaging with the key powers of the Indo-Pacific region. Vinay Venkatraman of the Copenhagen Institute of Interactive Design agreed, saying WA could be a launch pad for economic and social solutions in the region if it created the right environment to attract talented people. He called for more emphasis on design, cultural aspects of Perth and urban development.

In 2013 *In the Zone* will continue to be a forum to promote discussion on WA in the Asian Century: [www.uwainthezone.com.au/](http://www.uwainthezone.com.au/)

**University Hall**



*Artist's impression of the new University Hall*

This academic year we welcome new residents at University Hall, a major development offering new student accommodation on campus and a project supported by the Australian and State Governments under the National Rental Affordability Scheme.

The development, the largest seen by the University in recent years, delivers enhanced student accommodation and facilities on campus at the former Currie Hall site, which officially becomes University Hall this year.

University Hall provides UWA with a superior level of quality in student accommodation as well as improved amenity areas for student interaction. University Hall will consist of more than 500 new self-contained studio and one-bedroom apartments in three new buildings, offering more students the benefits of a first-class student collegiate experience.

Hillary Clinton visits



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shaking hands with Bates Gill, Chief Executive Officer, United States Study Centre in Sydney, watched by US Ambassador to Australia Jeffrey L. Bleich, Australia's Ambassador to the US Dr Kim Beazley and UWA Chancellor Dr Michael Chaney

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery usually hums with discerning discourse on the merits of the art on the walls, but a quite different scenario unfolded in November: a phalanx of men in sober suits and dark glasses and police surrounded the gallery, making it clear that someone of international

consequence was about to arrive.

Uncertainty about the date of a visit by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton – to launch the new Perth USAsia Centre – meant the function, guest list, security and catering had been seamlessly co-ordinated at very short notice, an operation

involving staffers from the Federal and State Governments, the US Consulate and UWA event and media personnel, along with Hillary Clinton's staff.

In the normally tranquil gallery, the tempo went into overdrive, prompting Cultural Precinct Director Ted Snell to later observe: "While it was a wonderful circus beforehand and gatherings felt like script development meetings for *The West Wing*, Hillary Clinton's team have done this a million times before and very concisely, pleasantly and firmly explained what would be happening. It was an example of steel hand in satin glove efficiency."

On arrival, the Secretary of State immediately remarked on the similarities between UWA and Stanford (her daughter's university) and regretted not having time to explore the gallery. She made it clear to guests that she was delighted to be in "a city sitting on a very strategic part of our planet", observing that Perth was

"Australia's gateway to the vibrant trade and energy routes that connect the Indian Ocean to the Pacific."

The Secretary of State was also delighted to be launching the new UWA-based 'policy think tank' on the Australia-Asia-US strategic and economic relationship, which, she said, would "give an additional impetus to exploring how we can broaden and deepen our commercial, cultural and personal relationships".

Based at UWA, the centre will work in close partnership with the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney while drawing on the distinctive attributes of WA's relationship to Asia.

Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson predicted the Perth USAsia Centre would rapidly become a globally significant institution. The interdisciplinary centre – giving equal weight to teaching and research, policy analysis and community education – would be the 'go-to' resource in this State on US policy, foreign policy, security, business, history, culture and society.



Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson

The Perth USAsia Centre is a \$10 million initiative between the US Studies Centre, the American Australian Association and UWA, with major funding from the Federal and State Governments and US corporations.

Hillary Clinton is the second US Secretary of State to visit UWA, the first being Condoleezza Rice in 2008, at the invitation of Stephen Smith.





**Great Southern gets world-class facility**



*Professor Stephen Hopper*

WA's Great Southern will experience significant advances in rural medicine and natural resource management thanks to UWA's new world-class science facility at the Albany Campus.

The \$6.2 million UWA Albany Science Building was officially opened in October by Minister for Regional Development Brendon Grylls and Education Minister Peter Collier. Also present were the Great Southern Development Commission's Chief Executive Officer Bruce Manning, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Robyn Owens and UWA's new Chair in Biodiversity, internationally renowned plant conservation biologist Professor Stephen Hopper (who recently returned to the University after several years as Director of the UK's Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew).

The Rural Clinical School of WA will use the impressive new centre to teach medical students in a program designed specifically to attract more doctors to regional, rural and remote communities.

This state-of-the-art facility will also expand the leadership role of UWA's Centre of Excellence in Natural Resource Management (CENRM) in solving natural resource management issues. CENRM has expertise in water management, salt-tolerant tree crops, commercial horticulture, dairy farm ecology, abalone farming, nitrogen-induced algal blooms and the environmental impact of mining on wetlands.

Professor Owens said its opening marked a significant milestone in the advancement of world-class teaching and scientific research in regional Western Australia. UWA is currently ranked 26th in the world for life and agricultural sciences and in the band 51-75 for Clinical Medicine and Pharmacy – the only West Australian university to be so highly ranked.

**Appointment of leading archaeologist**

Unlocking the secrets of one of the world's most significant collections of Indigenous rock art in WA's remote Kimberley region, will be advanced by the appointment of Professor Peter Veth, a world expert in Indigenous archaeology. Professor Veth has assumed the Kimberley Foundation Ian Potter Chair in Rock Art in UWA's Centre for Rock Art Research and Management. The Chair has been funded through a \$2 million gift

from the not-for-profit Kimberley Foundation Australia (KFA), the majority of which came from the Ian Potter Foundation. In addition, UWA matched the donation to enable the Chair to be fully endowed. The State Government of Western Australia has also provided an extra \$300,000 to UWA's Centre for Rock Art Research and Management to help fund on-going research and teaching in Kimberley rock art.

**Let there be light!**

The Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery's Festival exhibition, *LUMINOUSFLUX*, features artists who have explored the palette of light as a central motif, employing neon, lightboxes, reflective surfaces and other means to create innovative works. Numerous pieces have been commissioned for this exhibition while others are on loan from the Kerry Stokes Collection.

Also on show in *Dark Portals* are works (from the Cruthers Collection of Women's Art) by Adelaide-based artist and writer Sera Waters who uses traditional needle-work and craft

to depict contemporary themes. Running until June is *Through the Kunai Grass*, showcasing photographs by the legendary Ronald and Catherine Berndt taken in the early 1950s. Using precious Kodachrome 1 film (unavailable in Australia at the time and supplied by Margaret Mead at the American Museum of Natural History) and a small Leica, the couple produced images of astonishing quality of the people in the Eastern Highlands of Papua New Guinea.

For more information visit: [www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au](http://www.lwgallery.uwa.edu.au)

**UWA's newest Rhodes scholar**



*WA Governor Malcolm McCusker and Rhodes Scholar David Sherwood (Photo: The West Australian)*

UWA graduate David Sherwood's strong desire to promote education, in addition to his brilliant academic achievements, has seen him named WA's 2013 Rhodes Scholar. See *The Bunbury connection*.

David says his Advanced Science degree has given him invaluable analytical and problem-solving skills but it was his voluntary work with struggling schoolchildren that really ignited his dreams.

A UWA Fogarty Foundation Regional Scholarship winner, David co-founded the not-for-profit organisation Teach Learn Grow Inc, a volunteer group which sends university students to primary schools to help boost literacy and maths skills. The initiative targets rural and Indigenous populations and provides one-on-one tutoring and mentoring.

David received his scholarship from UWA graduate and WA Governor Dr Malcolm McCusker who is our *Newsmaker* in this issue.

For the second consecutive year a UWA graduate has also claimed a Rhodes at Large scholarship.

Katharine Noonan will undertake a Masters by Research in Psychiatry with the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry section at Oxford. She aims to make psycho-social assistance and medical care more accessible to children and their families – an aim that could help to address the fragmented and under-resourced services revealed by the recent review of the State's mental health system by Professor Bryant Stokes.

The UWA graduate completed her fifth year studies at the Rural Clinical School in Kalgoorlie where she volunteered for the Red Cross Soup Patrol and the Western Desert Kidney Health Project.



**UWA's world-class scientists recognised**



Back (l-r): Mrs Maddy Colquhoun, Mr David Erceg-Hurn, Professor Stephen Hopper, Associate Professor Ajmal Mian and Professor Steven Tingay. Front (l-r): Dr Renu Sharma (on behalf of Professor Peter Quinn), Professor Lyn Beazley, Minister John Day, Alisha Ryans-Taylor and Luan Nyugen

UWA's leadership in science and innovation was once again on show at the Western Australian Science Awards. For the fifth consecutive year UWA claimed top honours when astrophysicist Professor Peter Quinn was named WA Scientist of the Year.

Professor Quinn, Director of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, was recognised for his pioneering research in galaxy formation and dark matter, and his key role in Australia's successful bid for the Square Kilometre Array (featured in the Spring *Uniview*).

Associate Professor Ajmal Mian, from the University's School of Computer Science and Software Engineering, was named Early Career Scientist of the Year for his innovative research in Australia on 3D face and object recognition.

The Student Scientist of the Year award went to PhD student David Erceg-Hurn (evaluating strategies to reduce the stigma associated with clinical depression), and the Science Engagement Initiative of the Year went to the WA Chapter (which includes UWA students) of Engineers Without Borders High School Outreach Program.

A further accolade came with the induction into the Science Hall of Fame of UWA's new Chair in Biodiversity, Professor Stephen Hopper, who was recognised for his outstanding contribution to biodiversity preservation in Western Australia.

Congratulating the winners on their achievements, Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson said the awards confirmed UWA's stature as a centre of international excellence in collaborative research and innovation.

**Graduate's success story**



UWA graduate Veronica Chan

Focusing on ways to minimise the carbon footprint of LNG operations and improve operating efficiency was the challenge offered to Veronica Chan when, after winning a 2010 Chevron Gas Process Engineering Award, she embarked on a Chevron-sponsored thesis. Her thesis was supervised by Winthrop Professor Eric May, Chevron Chair in Gas Process Engineering.

Professor May, who recently won the Malcolm MacIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year, said Veronica was a perfect

example of what the prizes in Gas Process Engineering were established to achieve: to encourage top engineering students to study gas processing and to provide them with industry contacts.

**Extending minds – and vocal cords!**

"Is this the real life, is this just fantasy?" sang Freddie Mercury (and the 1970s rock band Queen) in their signature *Bohemian Rhapsody*. If you loved the music, you'll want to be in the audience for *It's a kind of magic*, the sing-along/performance offered by the UWA Extension Summer School Picnic Concert celebrating the life and music of Queen.

Led by 'queen of choirs' Dr Margaret Pride, the 23 March concert at the Octagon Theatre promises to be a memorable night. There will be an interval so you can picnic in the balmy gardens of the University, but seating in the Octagon is reserved, so you need to book. The concert is just one of many Summer School attractions that will exercise minds

and enhance professional development. You can view the full program at: [www.extension.uwa.edu.au](http://www.extension.uwa.edu.au)

**National award for Indigenous graduate**



National award winner Dr Catherine Engelke

When she received her national award as 2012 General Practice Registrar of the Year, UWA graduate Dr Catherine Engelke paid tribute to the inspirational mentors and peers who helped her achieve her childhood dream of becoming a doctor.

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners award acknowledged the graduate's strong rapport with patients and her holistic approach to health care delivery.

Dr Engelke, a GP Registrar at both Kununurra

District Hospital and the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Council, said she felt blessed to be able to fulfil an ambition that gained momentum when she worked as a nurse and midwife in remote communities of East Kimberley.

While admitting she had lacked confidence initially, the graduate observed: "I cannot believe how much my life has changed for the better since I have realised my potential".

**Graduate group seeks past winners**

Graduate Women WA – formerly the Australian Federation of University Women (WA) – is celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year and members wish to invite past bursary and scholarship winners to a Gala Prize Night in May. If you won an award (from 1971 to the present day) please contact Hilary Silbert, Convenor of the 90th Anniversary Celebrations on 0409 375 148 or [hilarysilbert@westnet.com.au](mailto:hilarysilbert@westnet.com.au)

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# Celebrate, imagine...

Celebrating the past and imagining the future: this is what 2013 will be about for our University as we mark our Centenary in grand style.

When an institution has been an integral part of Western Australia – and a driving force in its economy – for as long as UWA has, it is understandable that the State's first university might be taken for granted.

But this year, we're going to make sure that the UWA story is told far and wide so that people are reminded afresh of how crucial our University has been to the development of city and country WA and how the achievements of our researchers – from 1913 – have made and continue to make positive differences in the lives of people around the world.

So in 2013 we'll be celebrating the past. This includes lauding the research that has contributed to the State's key industries and endeavours. We'll be telling people that it was UWA researchers who discovered the cause of stomach ulcers; invented spray-on-skin for burns victims; developed the WA wine industry and the strain of subterranean clover that underpins much of the State's agricultural industry ... to name just a few examples.

We will be telling people that the Perth International Arts Festival – the oldest cultural arts festival in the southern hemisphere – evolved from the early UWA Summer Schools and that we expect more than 700,000 people to enjoy this year's Festival.

We'll reflect on our University's commitment to Indigenous Australians and to building a dynamic partnership between UWA, the Aboriginal community and the broader society – and to encouraging Indigenous students to reach their full potential.

Since the establishment of our School of Indigenous Studies in 1988, more than 200 Indigenous students have graduated with degrees in Arts, Commerce, Science, Social Work, Psychology, Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry, Health Sciences, Education and Architecture. And we have one of the best success rates nationally for encouraging Indigenous students to undertake and complete Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science.

In our Centenary year, we will tell the wider community about many of the more than 100,000 graduates who have passed through this institution and made their mark on the world – and we will be honouring some of them.

Of course we'll let people know that within a century of its foundation, UWA has joined the ranks of the world's top 100 universities. We are proud of



this achievement but in 2013, we will be imagining the future. We'll be working towards being among the world's top 50 universities by 2050 because when we get there it will be the people of WA, Australia and beyond who will reap the benefits.

We'll be welcoming to our campus more students who would not normally consider a university education, thanks to new access schemes such as Broadway and Fairway. There are sometimes barriers for potential students, particularly from regional and outer metropolitan areas, so we are expanding our on-campus living capacity so that the campus can grow as a vibrant academic community.

We look forward to what the Square Kilometre Array – the world's biggest astronomy project – will tell us about the origins of the Universe and we're excited about the UWA Future Farm's visions for best-practice agriculture, as the world population is tipped to reach 9.5 billion by 2050. As the first university in the world to join the United Nation's international nuclear verification program, we will help to create a safer world by monitoring nuclear safeguard standards.

Our researchers will continue to address global challenges – securing healthy outcomes from infancy to old age; designing livable cities and sustainable homes for growing populations; understanding our unique environment to ensure that it can be enjoyed by future generations; advancing our capacity to promote enterprise and innovation in the global knowledge economy; and enhancing our understanding of different places, peoples and cultures, particularly those relevant to our region and time zone.

We always have been and always will be a leading university in Western Australia, but in the future we will increasingly become a leading global university with research outcomes that will help the world become a safer, fairer and better place.

UWA looks forward to sharing its bright future with you.

**Paul Johnson**  
Vice-Chancellor



# alumni weekend celebrations

**A welcome opening cocktail party, fascinating lectures and seminars, sport and outdoor recreation opportunities, exhibitions and displays, good food and wine and tours of the campus all promise a very special alumni weekend reports Sally-Ann Jones.**

More than 1,500 alumni are expected to return to their *alma mater* for celebrations to mark a century since 184 students became UWA's first undergraduates.

The Alumni Weekend, on February 8, 9 and 10, starts with a Friday evening welcome cocktail party like no other. Graduates will be joined by the people of Perth, who are invited on campus to celebrate *LUMINOUSnight* (see *A LUMINOUSnight to remember*) – a spectacular light and sound show projected onto iconic Winthrop Hall.

The weekend features the first public appearance of four major Centenary projects: the Centenary plant *Hakea laurina*, developed by Friends of the Grounds, will be launched by well-known gardener and ABC broadcaster Sabrina Hahn; the Venetian glass-mosaic Shaun Tan sundial, named *Hours to Sunset*, will be unveiled on the west wall of The University Club (artist, author and film-maker Shaun Tan is the first UWA graduate to win an Oscar); and the Centenary history, *Seeking Wisdom: a Centenary History of The University of Western Australia*, edited by Winthrop Professor Jenny Gregory, will be launched by the Vice-Chancellor along with the *Musical Treasures* CD highlighting the cream of UWA's music talent including Sara Macliver and Iain Grandage.

A Writers' Corner will run across the weekend in the Undercroft (see *A poem in a hundred*) and will showcase award-winning alumni and staff in a series of in-conversation author sessions, panel discussions and readings.

Long and short guided campus tours of the gardens, libraries, historical buildings, laboratories,

theatres, SPIRIT telescope and to other destinations will be available, as will exhibitions in the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery, Berndt Museum, Edward de Courcy Clark Earth Science Museum and the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts.

Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall is one of a stellar cast of lecturers who will share their passion and world-class expertise in venues across campus. Among them, Winthrop Professor Peter Quinn, Director of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research will talk about how the Square Kilometre Array will revolutionise our view of the universe while Director of the Oceans Institute, Winthrop Professor Carlos Duarte, will demonstrate how the oceans can provide us with solutions to address humankind's greatest challenges.

Winthrop Professor Graeme Martin will outline the ways in which UWA is developing the best farming methods to feed the Earth's expected nine billion people by 2050 and Winthrop Professor Leon Flicker will discuss his research on Alzheimer's disease.

Many Faculties and the five residential colleges will host special alumni reunion lunches, afternoon teas or sundowners as well as tours.

Alumni who don't live in Perth or who may want to re-experience college living can book accommodation for the weekend at a college.

There will be many locations around campus, including The University Club, where alumni can enjoy refreshments during the weekend. The Club has offered Alumni Weekend registrants temporary membership for the weekend. And sporting and fitness facilities across



campus will be open and offer activities including tennis, squash, swimming and gym.

The Centenary launch coincides with the opening of the 2013 Perth International Arts Festival – a festival which evolved out of the University Summer School and has a special relationship with UWA.

Throughout 2013, the Faculties will mount a celebratory project in the regions of our State. Known as *UWA Gives Back*, the projects will take the centenary message to the wider community and highlight the University's work in the regions. For example, in the Kimberley a project focusing on children, youth and communities will cover writing, media, art, music, design and digital media; and in the Pingelly, Brookton and Narrogin areas the UWA Future Farm will coordinate agricultural research projects involving teachers, parents and local schools.

Bookings for the Alumni Weekend will remain open until the Weekend starts and available online at [centenary.uwa.edu.au](http://centenary.uwa.edu.au)

## A poem in a hundred



**Dennis Haskell hopes to pen a poem to mark UWA's Centenary, and if he manages it, he'll read it at the Writers' Corner during the Alumni Weekend.**

Award-winning Emeritus Professor Dennis Haskell – a self-described 'ocker Orpheus in shorts and thongs' – will be a special guest at the Writers' Corner.

The well-known poet, who recently retired after a quarter of a century at UWA, says poetry involves both inspiration and perspiration, with a bigger dollop of the former: an ingredient which can't be willed.

The son of a carpenter, Professor Haskell says poetry is also a craft and that the Greek word from which 'poet' is derived means 'maker' or 'creator'. Just as his dad worked in his garage to make wooden toys for his children, Professor Haskell sits down with a blueprint in his head and all the tools and resources he'll need.

These include a deep understanding of poetry and poetic devices as well as recourse to a wealth

of knowledge about how to use words and bend them into intriguing images, rhymes and rhythms.

In contemplating how he'll tackle the centenary poem, Professor Haskell says he'll have to get the form and tone right and make sure it conveys what makes UWA special.

"I'll have to do this without sounding either pompous or colloquial," he says. "It would have been easier to write a poem like this in the 19th century because it was an age of greater formality. But our age, especially here in Australia, has a colloquial culture.

"Without being sentimental, I'll have to relay that what makes this University so valuable is the lively human side of it. And that what the University consists of (as well as staff and students) are community engagement, the way people use the campus, its location, grounds, buildings and of course the importance of Indigenous people.

"I feel I'm now in control of my craft: right at a point where I won't write any really bad poems, but may not write any really good ones either.

"It's a wonderful challenge to be asked to write this poem. Poetry is the oldest, the original literary genre. It concentrates language and experience. It's the soul speaking and that's why it's used at crunch times in people's lives – at weddings and funerals. And at UWA's centenary."

Professor Haskell will be a special guest at the Writers' Corner during the Alumni Weekend.

He will be joined by UWA's Chair in Australian Literature, Winthrop Professor Philip Mead, and other writers including Kim Scott, Alf Taylor, Deborah Burrows, Winthrop Professor Ian Reid, Assistant Professor Ambelin Kwaymullina, Susan Taylor Suchy, Winthrop Professor Susan Prescott, Professor Terri-ann White, Director of UWA Publishing, Nicholas Hasluck, Robert Drewe, Associate Professor Delys Bird, Tracy Ryan, Dr Lucy Dougan, Professor Van Ikin, Dr Tess Williams, Professor Rob Stuart, Susan Midalia and Greenpeace Australia Pacific CEO David Ritter.

There will also be readings from the group 'Well Versed' of work by UWA graduates Dorothy Hewett and Randolph Stow and Foundation Professor Sir Walter Murdoch.

Writers' Corner will run across the weekend in the Undercroft and will showcase the brilliance of our award-winning alumni and staff in a series of in-conversation author sessions, panel discussions and readings. The Co-op Bookshop will have books available for purchase and signing by authors including Robert Drewe and Kim Scott.

To enjoy the Writers' Corner, guests need to register for the Alumni Weekend.

Another Australian poet with a strong UWA connection – Faye Zwicky (with whom Professor Haskell collaborated in *A Touch of Ginger*, 1991) – will also be a guest at the event. ■



# A *LUMINOUS*night to remember

The UWA campus will be THE place to be when the University launches its Centenary Celebrations and welcomes graduates – and the community – for the Alumni Weekend, reports Lindy Brophy.

There isn't a ticket in town that can match it.

A weekend pass for the Alumni Weekend (8 to 10 February) will open a world within a campus and start Centenary Celebrations with a bang ... no, more than a single bang: an enormous, delightful, enchanting, exciting, brilliant explosion of arts, science, entertainment, friendship, history and fun.

From a cricket match to a sumptuous tea party; from one of the country's most outstanding gathering of authors to breathtaking images projected on to Winthrop Hall: the Alumni Weekend will be one of the richest experiences you can imagine.

Alumni from across Australia and around the world are coming together for the event – many of them staying in the University's residential colleges – and the community is invited to the centrepiece that opens the weekend, *LUMINOUS*night. This program of continuous and moving performance and visual art will fill much of the space between the Reid Library and Stirling Highway, including the Sunken Garden and the Somerville Auditorium.

And the star of *LUMINOUS*night is the stunning projection of images onto Winthrop Hall. The pictures

telling the story of UWA will be repeated throughout the night, showcasing the brilliance of projection artist Cindi Drennan and her team from *Illuminart*. This extraordinary event is made possible by generous sponsorship from TDC, the company which is supplying the 10 high-performance projectors which will create the light of 200 million candles.

Music performances around the campus will include teams of musicians from the School of Music; the two bands of Clint Bracknell, the multi-talented musician and academic from the School of Indigenous Studies; graduate Fred Smith, song-writer and folk singer extraordinaire; and the gypsy quartet Saggezza with graduate Cathie Travers and Ashley Arbuckle.

Giant 3D projections of faces will loom out from the trees around campus; *Peacocks*, *Crows*, *Lorikeets*, a 20-minute dance to celebrate the birds on campus, has been created by the aptly named local choreographer Chrissie Parrott; a century-old

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*Above: Fred Smith and the Spooky Men of the West, one of the attractions of LUMINOUSnight. Next page: One of the images which will form part of the amazing light show*



version of the film *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, will screen at the Somerville Auditorium to a live score performed by the Nova Ensemble; and GRADS and the Undergraduate Dramatic Society will present plays and shorts scenes in the New Fortune Theatre.

Rene Van Meeuwen, from Architecture, Landscape and Visual Arts, has developed an app for smart phones that creates an 'augmented reality'. By looking through your phone at specific points around the campus, you will see amazing scenes unfold.

At 10pm, everybody will come together on James Oval for the Fire Finale, a ground-level theatrical fireworks show featuring giant puppets.

Then the party begins again with music in the University Club's amphitheatre until late into the night.

*LUMINOUSnight* was born of an original idea from Ted Snell, Director of UWA's Cultural Precinct, and has been brought to fruition by Ian Lilburne, arts administrator and UWA staff member. As well as the University's centenary fund, the event has been generously supported by Lotterywest and the State Government.

According to co-ordinator, Ian Lilburne, *LUMINOUSnight* has been a fantastic event to organise. "There is a lot of good will toward the University from within the arts community with many people eager to make the centenary celebrations truly spectacular. Add to that the wealth of student and staff talent at UWA – and the more than



200 practitioners from all disciplines working on *LUMINOUSnight* – and you get a sense of this great community with a wonderful spirit. It augurs well for an amazing night. This is the most engaging thing I have worked on since Artrage!"

A ticket for the Alumni Weekend, which includes all activities, tours, lectures, performances, the cocktail party on the Friday evening and morning and afternoon teas during the weekend, costs \$75.

The *LUMINOUSnight* celebrations are free for the general public.

Bookings, including reserving a place at specific events, can be made at [centenary.uwa.edu.au](http://centenary.uwa.edu.au) ■

# PERTH FESTIVAL 2013

Highly original and daring as always, yet with such subtlety that no one may doubt that he (Gesualdo) had one of the most inventive musical minds of his age. GRAMOPHONE

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Detail Sotto Voce 2009, installation by Benjamin Bergery and Jim Campbell, Church of Saint Salvator, Paris. Image courtesy of the artists

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# Festival turns Perth into ‘the coolest place on Earth’

**The Perth Festival has grown from a small on-campus event to the largest multi-arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere, writes Rania Ghandour.**

When ‘angels from France’ descended on St Georges Terrace at the opening of last year’s Perth Festival, some 30,000 spectators were captivated by the spectacle and *The West Australian* declared that their arrival turned Perth into “the coolest place on Earth”.

Such an editorial accolade would have delighted Festival founder the late Professor Fred Alexander, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Director of Adult Education at The University of Western Australia. More than 60 years ago Professor Alexander was inspired to expand the University’s Summer School to encompass a festival for everyone.

More than 42,000 attended the first Festival in 1953. Today Professor Alexander’s vision sees more than 800,000 engage with the longest running arts festival in the Southern Hemisphere. Held over three weeks in February, the Festival offers some of the world’s best theatre, music, film, visual arts, street arts, literature and free community events, and has welcomed to Perth some of the world’s greatest artists.

The 2013 Festival delivers a superb program created by more than 500 artists from Australia

and around the world. Celebrated artists and companies creating work for our Festival include The Berliner Ensemble (directed by Robert Wilson), Philip Glass, Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet, Margaret Atwood, Godspeed You! Black Emperor, Maceo Parker, Jim Campbell, Frédéric Flamand and Ai Weiwei.

Artistic Director Jonathan Holloway says that since the world’s great arts festivals began more than 60 years ago, the best have always combined sensational programming with a strong sense of the city in which they are based.

“Perth in the summer has been the place to go for 60 years,” he observes. “Our program marries international excellence with the beauty, talent and energy of Western Australia.”

*Festival Welcome: Beginnings* signals the opening of the 2013 Festival at dusk on Matilda Bay, next to The University of Western Australia where the festival had its birth. We celebrate on the banks of the Swan River with a Welcome to Country, Shakespearian sonnets in Noongar by Yirra Yaakin Theatre Company, and special guest Archie

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Above: Ballet National de Marseille



Roach performs with a glorious Noongar choir. From 7pm walk across to UWA's Crawley campus for *LUMINOUS*night, a blast of art and light to commemorate the centenary.

From here, the 2013 Festival literally explodes out of the blocks, with the Lotterywest Festival Spectacular: *B.P.M. Bombs Per Minute* from Les Commandos Percu (France). Fresh from opening the 2012 London Cultural Olympiad, these masters of the high-octane arts of explosives, percussion and drumming are ready to get the Perth Festival going with a bang.

The 2013 theatre program traverses the spectrum from the sublime to the surreal. Epic in scale and ambition, three of Australia's most revered artists, director Neil Armfield, writer (and UWA graduate) Andrew Bovell, and artistic associate Stephen Page come together to adapt Kate Grenville's *The Secret River* for the stage. Bertolt Brecht's Berliner Ensemble (Germany) arrives with *The Threepenny Opera*, while The Holy Trinity of Irish Theatre: Gate Theatre Company (Ireland), Samuel Beckett and Barry McGovern come together for the Australian exclusive performance of *Watt*, Beckett's story of an itinerant character and his struggle to make sense of the world. And there are many more theatrical highlights.

In a feast for music lovers, three towering figures of contemporary music make their way to Perth with new commissions. Philip Glass brings his deeply personal piano etudes to Australia, presenting the world premiere performance of all 20, including three commissioned specially by the Festival. Two legendary forces in new music: Laurie Anderson and Kronos Quartet, present a phenomenal evening of electrifying sound, while music and art come together in a Festival commission that sees visual artist Benjamin Bergery and St George's Cathedral Consort present *Tenebrae et Lux (Darkness and Light)*, combining a cappella singing with a new light-based installation in Winthrop Hall.

The Perth Writers Festival is always a much loved celebration of the written word. The opening address will be delivered by novelist, journalist and political commentator Ahdaf Soueif reflecting on her experience in Cairo's Tahrir Square during the 2011 Egyptian Revolution, while 2012 Miles Franklin winner Anna Funder will bookend an incredible weekend with her closing address. Writers attending include Man Booker Prize winner Margaret Atwood, sci-fi genre bender China Miéville; and the ABC's Philip Adams.

Perennial favourite, the Lotterywest Festival Films, is already back at the Somerville with a handpicked selection of the best of international cinema. Among the highlights is the Australian premiere of *Blancanieves*, an evocative and enchanting reinterpretation of *Snow* that reimagines the heroine as a female bullfighter in 1920s Seville; and the 2012 Palme D'Or winner from Cannes, Michael Haneke's

heartbreaking but beautiful *Amour*. In all there will be 250 screenings.

The dance program includes Ballet National de Marseille with *The Truth 25 Times A Second*, an extraordinary collaboration between Belgian choreographer Frederic Flamand and acclaimed Chinese visual artist Ai Weiwei that pushes the limits of human movement. The fantastical *Clouds* by Aracaladanza (Spain) is a journey into the surreal world of René Magritte where clouds are transformed into sheep and giant green apples fall from magical trees.

Perth will rock throughout the Festival to an eclectic selection of sounds from some of the most distinctive performers from around the globe. Cat Power, Maceo Parker, Chrysta Bell are among the highlights of the Chevron Festival Gardens program while Melbourne duo Dead Can Dance make a long awaited homecoming kicking off their first Australian tour in 20 years and bringing their signature ambient, ethereal and neoclassical sounds to the Perth Concert Hall.

Visual arts lovers will relish *LUMINOUSFLUX* at Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery including Greyworld's participatory project *Words*.

Add to all this the Festival's huge free and family programs and you'll see why in summer Perth really is the coolest place on Earth. For details of the full program, visit: [www.perthfestival.com.au](http://www.perthfestival.com.au) ■





The Governor of Western Australia, graduate Malcolm McCusker, rose to the top of his profession as a barrister, with successful representations in high profile cases – often pro bono – involving wrongful convictions. For many years the graduate was a part-time lecturer at UWA in Law and Commerce and last year delivered the John Toohey Oration at UWA. In 2008 he was awarded an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters at UWA. The McCusker name is synonymous with local philanthropy and Dr McCusker is chairman of the McCusker Charitable Foundation which distributes substantial funds to worthy charitable bodies each year. A long-term supporter of important community organisations, the Governor continues to be patron of the McCusker Foundation for Alzheimer’s Disease Research; Landcare (WA) and Royal Lifesaving (WA) and Surf Lifesaving (WA). A long-term member of the North Cottesloe Surf Lifesaving Club, he received a bravery award for the rescue of two people attacked by a shark in 1995. His wife Tonya is also a UWA graduate.

**As a secondary student, did you have a clear idea of what you wanted to study?**

No, I envied those in my class at Perth Modern School who did. When I went to the University on enrolment day, I thought I would study Astronomy, which had always interested me; but there was no School of Astronomy, so, although I had not studied Law at school and knew no lawyers, I enrolled in Law, simultaneously getting a full time job with Shell Oil. At the end of that first year, I decided that to hold down that job while doing a full degree course was too much, so I left Shell, returning to work there in Uni vacations, once my (more lucrative) summer work on the wheat bins finished.

**How did you view your future career when studying at UWA and what were the ‘landmarks’ that helped to shape your career?**

I had no firm idea what career to pursue, so I had kept my options open by studying Spanish and Accountancy. The Dean, Eric Edwards, advised me to do two years of articles, to qualify to practise even if I decided not to pursue a legal career. He arranged articles for me with Bob Wallace. The firm gave me a variety of work. Pay for an articulated clerk was very low. I supplemented it by serving summonses. When my articles ended, the firm generously made me a partner, at no cost. I did a lot of court work, which I enjoyed. I conducted, alone, my first Supreme Court appeal in my second year of practice. That was one of the landmarks that helped shape my career,

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*Above: Malcolm McCusker the student, and with Tonya McCusker, their daughter Mary and Tonya’s sons Nikolas and James*



as I enjoyed court work and found it stimulating. I did a number of trials as junior to Len Seaton QC, an extraordinary barrister who (although by then past his peak) had an encyclopaedic knowledge of decisions and understanding of legal principles. I had enormous admiration and respect for F T P Burt QC – “Red”, as he was called, (by others, not me). Burt, who later became Sir Francis Burt, Chief Justice, then Governor, had been my part-time lecturer in contract, and his ability to explain the law in a very lucid way awakened my interest in law as a possible career. He had a great facility for going to the heart of a legal problem, and his judgements were models of clarity and brevity.

I remained a partner at Kott Wallace and Gunning for six years, then began my own legal practice, ultimately electing to practise solely as a barrister.

One “landmark” was when I was made Queen’s Counsel in 1982 and in the same year became the Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission, a part-time position which I held and enjoyed for nearly 30 years. The appointment as ‘silk’ brought me more complex cases, and more appellate work – Supreme Court, Federal Court, High Court and two in the Privy Council (shortly before Australia abolished Privy Council appeals).

My appointments as Special Inspector to investigate the Rothwells collapse, and as Chairman of the WA Constitutional Centre helped shape my career, as did a number of appeals I took (some pro bono) cases to reverse wrongful convictions, such as Mallard and the Mickelbergs. Cases like those brought home to me how important it is to a proper, effective system of justice that we have not only good judges, but also good, objective, prosecutors, and competent defence counsel.

#### **What are the major challenges of your current role and what are the personal qualities that have proved to be assets in your career?**

When the Premier invited me to become Governor, I felt greatly honoured, but a tinge of regret at leaving

my legal career, which I had enjoyed for 50 years. However, my wife Tonya and I decided that from the position of Governor we could better promote a stronger philanthropic culture in our community. Pursuing that objective, whilst maintaining a balanced lifestyle, is the major challenge. I think that my legal training has helped me in my constitutional duties as Governor and as Chairman of the Executive Council, and my previous philanthropic activity in the community (with the indispensable and tireless assistance of Tonya, also a UWA Law Graduate) have been assets. In my legal career, I suppose my willingness to work hard, and distaste for prolixity have helped. I am conscious that in this I have been influenced by Sir Francis, among others.

#### **What is your working day like and how do you relax?**

No working day is the same. On the statutory side I may have Acts of Parliament for which the Governor’s assent is required, or an Executive Council meeting (usually only fortnightly); and I often have callers – diplomats, community organisations, for example. We are asked to attend many functions, at some of which I am asked to speak. There are invitations to attend events, or become patron (I am patron of nearly 200 worthy organisations, and we do our best to be accessible to them and assist in some way). I relax by reading, sometimes playing with my young daughter, or taking her to our farm in the Chittering Valley, and paddling surf skis with Surf Club friends (I try to do this four times a week, as previously, but usually only manage two or three at best, because of calls on my time).

#### **What does the future hold?**

My commitment is to serve as Governor for three years. I cannot say all that the future holds for me after that, but I do intend to continue, with my wife Tonya’s invaluable support, our charitable activities, to maintain my lifelong interest in farming and agriculture, and to enjoy family life. I may also give way to pressure, and buy a puppy for our daughter Mary, now aged four. ■



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# Building foundations of excellence

AS THE TOWER OF WINTHROP HALL ROSE in the 1930s, it generated daily interest, lifting local spirits during difficult economic times, and signalling hope and high aspirations. The classic buildings at the heart of the University continue to inspire students in the expanding multicultural campus of 2013. As UWA, now counted among the world's top 100 universities, celebrates its centenary, it acknowledges the importance of the heritage buildings that have become well-loved landmarks in our capital city.

Trea Wiltshire reports



Students on a picnic in 1918



Thomas Cullity, one of the first to cross the Irwin Street threshold



One of the Irwin Street buildings



## The legacy of learning

The University of Western Australia opened its doors to students in 1913, a year that charted momentous change across the world: feminist Emily Davison threw herself in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby; Henry Ford rolled out his revolutionary new assembly line; Serbia and Greece declared war on Bulgaria; the Panama Canal opened; Canberra was officially named and HMAS Australia sailed from Portsmouth to Australia to become the nation's flagship. And, in little more than a year, a global conflict would take some of the State's first university students and its staff to distant battlefronts.

However, thoughts of war were far from the minds of those who gathered at a collection of humble timber and corrugated iron buildings in Irwin Street in March of 1913. UWA was opening its city campus and enrolling the first of 184 students in three faculties: Arts, Science and Engineering.

In the Cullity clan, legend has it that Thomas Cullity was among the first to cross the Irwin Street threshold. Excitement and anticipation ran high as students celebrated the fact that they could pursue their studies 'at home' rather than journeying east – for universities had already been established in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Queensland.

The Act establishing the University two years earlier had centred on delivering 'instruction in those practical arts and liberal studies which are needed to advance the prosperity and welfare of the people'. There was a special emphasis on encouraging the participation of those lacking 'opportunity or means', on the absence of religious affiliation and on the extension of entry to 'women equally with men'.

Indeed, one of the first to enrol was Miss Bertha Houghton, who went on to further studies at Cambridge

University and a long career in education. She would later muse: "I hadn't believed we would ever have a university."

The young teacher recalled being enrolled by a young, dark-haired man she thought to be a helpful clerk. Days later, arriving at her first English Literature lecture, she discovered the soft-spoken 'clerk'; was none other than the Foundation Professor of English Literature, Walter Murdoch. Later, Sir Walter Murdoch served as Vice-Chancellor (1916–1917) and UWA Chancellor (1943–1948).

The young professor welcomed Bertha Houghton in one of the Irwin Street buildings that were rapidly dubbed 'Tin Pan Alley' for their extensive use of corrugated tin.

Indeed, the verandah of the only surviving building of that time – the reconstructed old Irwin Street Building at UWA – was bordered with tin and its minimal 'garden' was fenced with the same material. Some of the tin and jarrah buildings had been transported from other parts of the city and even farther afield. The Coolgardie Workers' Hall which housed the 1899 congress that drew up the WA Labor Party's constitution became the University's main office.

## Finding a model

Political and social leaders had been debating the need for a university for decades. Sir John Winthrop Hackett, the University's first benefactor (and first Chancellor and Guild President) had championed its establishment through his position on the Legislative Council and his ownership of *The West Australian*.

Much research went into shaping an educational model suited to this resource-rich State. Historian Jenny Gregory, editor of *Seeking Wisdom*, the Centenary history of the University points out that many of the world's leading institutions were studied. Oxford and Cambridge, with proud histories stretching back to the Middle Ages,



Lamp of Truth – Science

UWA's first benefactor,  
Sir John Winthrop Hackett



**Sir John Winthrop Hackett, observed that the State could not afford to be without a university**

were rejected for their emphasis on the classics and for largely catering to a privileged male elite seeking careers in the clergy, law and medicine and the public service.

The German model, adopted by most European universities, married teaching with research, and emphasised the independence of academia, writes Professor Gregory.

Australia's first university, the University of Sydney (1850), offered a liberal education in literature, science and the arts, and was open to all classes and denominations, while the University of Melbourne was committed to providing avenues of 'social improvement' for a society its founders believed was dominated by the pursuit of money.

As each State shaped its own model, most chose to shift from the classical Oxbridge tradition to a more utilitarian view that was reinforced by the economic depression of the 1890s. The philosophy adopted reflected the view that universities should be places of 'universal knowledge' that would yield benefits to society as a whole.

Sir John Winthrop Hackett observed that the State could not afford to be without a university.

"There are countless problems continually arising in our back country," he wrote. "There are treatment troubles in connection with our ore. Insect pests, poison weeds and stock diseases can only be effectively dealt with when scientifically investigated. A university will be of inestimable service in helping the development of our natural resources."

There was consensus among legislators of the time that the University not only be free, but also provide tertiary education of a practical nature to help develop Western Australia's pioneering economy. At the time of the University's foundation, Perth's population was just 121,000 and its economy relied mostly on agricultural,



The importance of academic dress was established early and, decades later at a Winthrop Hall ceremony, Dr Michael Chaney exchanged his red honorary doctorate robes for those of UWA Chancellor, and received congratulations from former Chancellor Dr Ken Michael

pastoral and mining industries. As a result, the founding professorial appointments were in Agriculture, Mining and Engineering, Geology, Mathematics and Physics, Chemistry, History and Economics, Biology and English. These were balanced to an extent by the appointment of lecturers in Classics and Ancient History, French and German, Mental and Moral Philosophy, and Veterinary Science. Overarching these posts were three faculties – Engineering, Science and Arts.

The Foundation Professor of Mathematics and Physics, Professor A D Ross, who delivered the University's first lecture, would later recall at the 50th anniversary celebrations that an initial burst of activity saw statutes and regulations – covering everything from admissions to the colours of academic gowns – being meticulously drafted in a matter of weeks, before being adjusted and re-adjusted.

As there was no Registrar until the end of the first year, Ross acted as Secretary during Professorial Board meetings and was impressed with the precision and attention to details of those charting the University's future.

"Sometimes when we did tend to overdo things," he later recalled, "Professor Murdoch would bring us back to sanity with a stabilising remark like his 'tripe and onions!' ... Knowing the value of academic dress in forming a right University spirit, we gave early attention to arranging this matter. Royal purple, emerald green and gold were first fixed as the colours for Arts, Science and Engineering respectively ..."





Procession to mark the opening of the Biology and Geology Building (from *Seeking Wisdom, the Centenary History of The University of Western Australia*)

Assistant Lecturer in Geology, Marcel Aourousseau, from *The Forgotten Explorers: pioneer geologists of Western Australia, 1826-1926* by John Glover and Jenny Bevan, 2010, Hesperian Press



Professor Ross in 1935 in his new office on the Crawley campus, and the medals he later won during a brilliant career. The medals were donated to UWA by a graduate, Dr Mike Galvin, to mark UWA's Centenary

(Photos: UWA Archives and Matt Galligan)

## The UWA 'family'

Professor Ross also observed that the first students were of particularly fine quality, many having studied as external students of the University of Adelaide. "Some were at least twenty years older than I," he recalled. "It was easy to pick out students [who were] the sons of men who had won their way to success as pioneers on the Goldfields: the fighting spirit was there, and I remember many of them as the finest students it has ever been my privilege to teach."

Marcel Aourousseau, an Assistant Lecturer in Geology, would later recall the atmosphere of those early years at UWA. This brilliant young man took up his UWA post after serving with distinction in France (he won a Military Cross) and he went on to join the Carnegie Institute in Washington and the Royal Geographical Society in London. Remembering the Irwin Street era, he said that despite varied backgrounds, the teaching staff worked as a cohesive group.

"We had, really, a strong *esprit de corps* ... Inside our departments we were kings in our own castles, and very selfish kings too, for the good of those departments; but in board meetings we generally spoke with one voice ... I realise now that there was a general bigness of character there, which did much to create a spirit ... Our unity was greatly facilitated by the small size of the institution. In 1914 there were only about 250 students enrolled."

Adding to the sense of 'family' was the fact that all lived within a few miles of the University in what he described as "a small and rather captivating city".

When the doors opened for classes in 1913, Professor Ross was not the only professor to have wielded brooms to clear the mess left by a band of carpenters, glaziers, plumbers and electricians hastily completing their refurbishment of the Tin Pan Alley classrooms.

Lectures began on 31 March and a few days later the *Western Mail* applauded "the very presence of this body of higher educationists in our midst". The paper noted that the Irwin Street campus would "act as a tonic on the intellectual life of the community and provoke among all classes a lively interest in every branch of learning".

Professor Ross recalled that the staff felt it important to let the public know something about the nature of their new University by inviting community leaders to visit the new campus.

"It was a great success, and for one night the jarrah University was a blaze of light, with members of the staff all in their academic robes." Music was provided in the largest classroom and science professors set up microscopes with exhibits of flora and fauna.

By his very nature, Walter Murdoch would also be effective in building links with the wider community through columns he wrote for *The West Australian*, radio talks and essays.

In the *Australian Dictionary of Biography* Fred Alexander wrote: "On the young campus he had a considerable following ... In addition to the appeal of his wide-ranging and often informal literary lectures, of his sardonic wit and his ready debunking of the pompous and ultra-respectable, Murdoch was known for his help to students and junior colleagues in difficulties. Sympathy for underdogs and willingness to champion lost causes extended beyond Murdoch's academic environment."

Soon after the University opened, a series of popular Saturday evening lectures was given by members of the teaching staff, along with public lectures in both the city and the country. A University Extension Board was also formed.



View from Mt Eliza, Frederick Garling, 1827 (watercolour, Holmes à Court collection), from a *Landscape of Learning* by George Seddon and Gillian Lilleyman, UWA Press

...Hackett was insistent that students should study in surroundings that would inspire excellence.

### The Hackett bequest

As the small campus established itself, the man who had championed its creation, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, the longest-serving member of the Legislative Council, was reaching the end of his life.

Professor Ross had been quick to appreciate the leadership of the man he described as “a prodigious worker”.

“He naturally took great interest in public affairs, but he was prepared to go much further and, in addition to giving his guiding hand to our University in its early years, he played an active personal part in all movements for the advancement of the State. Museums, libraries, kindergarten unions, organisations for exploring and opening up our beautiful caves – these and many, many other projects were sure of his helpful support.”

However, by 1915 the health of the energetic visionary was failing and in February of 1916 he passed away. His generous bequest to the University would eventually fund the building of St George’s College, Winthrop Hall, the Senate room, administrative offices, library, lecture rooms and Hackett Hall, in addition to bursaries, scholarships and grants.

Hackett requested that the main hall at the University should bear his name and his will stipulated that the design for Winthrop Hall should be selected after an open architectural competition. He was insistent that students should study in surroundings that would inspire excellence.

### Selecting a site

Various sites were considered, including one in Kings Park, another in West Subiaco and the land on which Government House now stands. Finally, in 1922, the battle over sites was resolved when the government granted a 999-year lease for the land at Crawley.



The Hackett Memorial Buildings under construction (Photo: UWA Archives)



Special occasions at UWA are invariably marked by an Indigenous Welcome to Country

The site on the banks of the Swan River had been of great significance to Indigenous people as a meeting place and ceremonial ground prior to the arrival of European settlers in 1829. Both Pelican Point and Matilda Bay had been the traditional homes and hunting grounds of Noongar groups moving along a chain of wetlands. This long and important Indigenous community connection with the site is echoed today in the acknowledgements and ceremonies on campus today (Richard Walley gave the first ever Welcome to Country on Campus in 1976 as part of the Perth Festival Fringe and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in 2006).

The Crawley land had been acquired by the government on the death of its owner, merchant and politician George Shenton. (Shenton House, previously known as Crawley House, is currently the home of UWA’s School of Indigenous Studies).

When UWA assumed ownership of the site the only established plantings were remnants of the Shenton gardens, including an avenue of cork oaks that lined the driveway (and formed the basis of the Oak Lawn). The University’s gardens would be carved out of native bush and swamp at a place dubbed “the marshlands of Crawley” by its detractors (who feared for the health of students and complained about the great distance from the city).

However, all doubts about the site had dissolved when on September 1923 *The West Australian* reported:

“Saturday was a day of rejoicing for those who have at heart the welfare of the University of Western Australia. On a beautiful site, on the hillside at Crawley, with a wide, inspiring outlook over the Swan, the foundation stone of the first section of the permanent home of the University was laid.”





Students in an engineering laboratory class circa 1931. (Photo: UWA Archives)



View from across the University to the river, (possibly from Shenton House)



Laying the foundation stone for the Natural Science building

Engineering was the first Faculty to move to Crawley, occupying historic Shenton House before moving to its home (the building in the background) in 1927. This photo was taken in 1938 (Photo: UWA Archives)

The two-storey Georgian-revival styled Natural Sciences building (now known as Park Avenue) was completed in 1924, providing a purpose-built home for Biology and Geology. It comprised a lecture theatre, classrooms and laboratories and was built of pressed red brick, Donnybrook sandstone and local hardwoods. (The building – extended in 1945 – was entered on the Register of Heritage Places in 1994.)

In 1929 Hackett's son, (later General Sir John Hackett) stood with the State Premier, Philip Collier, as the foundation stone for Winthrop Hall was laid. Having graduated from Geelong Grammar, the young Hackett was on his way to Oxford. He quoted the words of Horace ("I have raised a monument more enduring than bronze") along with Plato ("A life without enquiry is a life not worth living"), knowing that his father would have favoured both.

## The design competition

In 1927 an architectural competition for the building of the Hackett Memorial Buildings attracted many notable submissions including one from the American Walter Burley Griffin (who in 1911 had won a competition to design Canberra).

The winning design came from Melbourne architects Rodney Alsop and Conrad Sayce, but the commission led to a dispute and Sayce withdrew. Alsop is described (in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*) as 'a true Edwardian gentleman, a man of impeccable manners, and thoroughly good company'.

As they watched the tower of Winthrop Hall rising, the people of Perth appreciated that a landmark was taking shape. In *Crawley Campus, the Planning and Architecture of The University of Western Australia*, leading

The bust of Socrates that stands by the Reflection Pond was carved by Victor Wager (whose initials VHW, can be seen at the top of the pedestal beneath the beard). It was carved in the studio of Paul Montford whose signature appears on the rear of the pedestal. When Winthrop Hall opened, the bust had been installed in the Undercroft. Victor Wager's daughter (the late Mrs Elizabeth Sarfaty) studied at UWA



architect R J Ferguson noted that despite some initial reservations about the winning design, criticism waned as the building took shape and the architectural strength of the composition became apparent. "It was not long before it became generally accepted that the Hackett Memorial Buildings presented one of the finest architectural statements in Australia," wrote the architect who has had a long association with UWA.

Alsop wrote of his design: "European architecture is derived from the work of the Greeks, with their love of balance, symmetry and restraint, coupled with an intense feeling for beauty of line, form and colour. Greek architecture realises itself in a serene simplicity of form. It is in this spirit that we have tried to produce a harmonious group of buildings, and we have not hesitated to incorporate architectural ideas from widely different sources – Italy, Spain, Greece, England, Stockholm ..."

He emphasised the use of materials chosen "to suit the climate, resist fire, be easily obtainable and call for low maintenance charges. At the same time, [we] tried to make them dignified, beautiful and expressive – a harmonious work of art".

The foundation stones of Hackett and Winthrop Hall were laid in separate ceremonies in April 1929 in the presence of Lady (Hackett) Moulden and her son John Winthrop Hackett, and construction was completed in 1932. While the new campus took shape, students moved between the city and Crawley. Many travelled by

Key members of the academic staff, circa 1 March 1931: standing (l-r) Frederic Sinclair (English), Rene Collot d'Herbois (French and Spanish), Dr Margaret Clarke (French and German), R M Graebner (German), Francesco Vanzetti (Italian), Stanley Edgar Soloman (Economics and Statistics), Dr Hugh Fowler (Psychology); sitting (l-r) Professor Fred Alexander (History), Associate Professor George Wood (Classics and Ancient History), Professor Walter Murdoch (English), Professor Charles Weatherburn (Mathematics), Professor Alexander David Ross (Physics), Associate Professor Arthur C Fox (Philosophy)



Fine stonework and intricate carving did much to add to the grandeur of Winthrop Hall. Later, in 1960, when additional space was needed, the hall's Undercroft was enclosed. Three of the Italian stonemasons who worked on this project returned to the campus in 2008 to admire their work and recall their most challenging project. All had honed their skills in Italy before emigrating to Western Australia. (l-r) Antonio Fasolo, Wilson Carini and Antonio Giuffre (Photo: Lindy Brophy)



Winthrop Hall, north elevation, circa 1928, by Rodney Alsop



tram, passing the Crawley Baths, skirting Matilda Bay, and crossing a patch of bush near Pelican Point before reaching the terminus near Nedlands Jetty.

As the clutter of Irwin Street days faded into history, the University's humble beginnings would linger in the mind of the students. The congested conditions generated a strong sense of community for graduate Connie Miller. In *Season of Learning: An Autobiography* she recalled: "You literally rubbed shoulders with your fellow students and shared, even if silently, in their arguments and conversations. How much we owed to the professors and lecturers of the period it would be impossible to gauge. The names of that marvellous group file past in glorious procession: Murdoch, Shann, Ross, Fox, Alexander, Beasley, Nicholls, Thompson, Cameron, Flowers and many more, never to be forgotten by us who 'sat at their feet'."

Winthrop Hall was built in the style of a medieval guild hall: an undercroft below and a meeting hall of cathedral proportions above, with a Romanesque campanile-style tower. In his article on the Hackett Memorial Buildings in this issue, Professor John-Melville Jones writes that the glazed terracotta frieze under the eaves shows facing pairs of winged lions that may have been inspired by the winged lion of St Mark, the symbol of Venice.

Construction of the building began in 1929 and stonemasons were soon working the high-grade ancient coastal limestone mined from a quarry at Coogee, south of Fremantle. The Tuscan columns were constructed from fine-grained Donnybrook sandstone.

One student recalled the noise of stone cutters working on the limestone "because it was going on all around us while we were working and we would have to step over these great limestone boulders to get in and out of the rooms ..."

Later, they watched in fascination as artist George Benson painted the beams that supported the ceiling. Winthrop Hall followed a Renaissance tradition that saw the beams of chapels decorated, and the artist had chosen motifs that reflected the designs of Indigenous artists and craftspeople.

Another feature of Winthrop Hall that stirred excitement was the superb mosaic on the foyer floor by the De Marco Brothers, Severino and Annibale, who were specialists in the installation of mosaic, terrazzo ironite and granolithic flooring in Victoria. (While the University was preparing for its Centenary, UWA Archives had a surprise visit from Severino's son Dominic, and Annibale's great granddaughter, Monique. Dominic, now 93 and living in Victoria, was 12 when his father came to work in Perth. Monique now lives south of Perth.)

The marble mosaic floor they came to admire is composed of imported marbles, for Australian marbles are generally too soft for the purpose. The intricate design called for a range of colours including Violet Breccia, Yellow Sienna, and Black Golden Vein from Carrara, Italy; Light Red and Light Antique Red from Verona; Tinos Green from Rome; Belgium Black and English Blue.

As the cacophony and chaos of building sites gave way to the grandeur of the Hackett Memorial Buildings, preparations for the formal opening of the buildings gathered pace.

Frank Gamblen, a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics, later recalled the drama on the eve of the opening of Winthrop Hall. The buildings were ready but the reflection pond was not, so students volunteered their labour.

"Under the supervision of the engineers, the engineers and scientists – being the two main faculties composed almost entirely of males – did all the hard work of digging and laying cement, while the Faculty of Arts, which was





Drawing of the mosaic design for the foyer of Winthrop Hall (Photo: UWA Archives)

Inset: Rhodes Scholar Jackie McArthur with 2011 Fulbright Scholar Anna Rakoczy set against the Winthrop Hall foyer (Photo: Matt Galligan)



## The pond was completed just hours before the ceremony and was filled while the cement was still wet ...



As the Hackett Memorial Buildings took shape, students moved between the Irwin Street and Crawley campuses and got used to the sound of stone cutters at work (Photo: UWA Archives)

Miss Patricia Hackett, daughter of Winthrop Hackett, is greeted by Sir Walter James at the opening of Winthrop Hall on 13 April 1932. Inset: The key to Winthrop Hall



composed almost entirely of women, provided us with morning and afternoon refreshments.”

The pond was completed just hours before the ceremony and was filled while the cement was still wet – and ornamented with instant ‘waterlilies’ that looked suspiciously like dahlias plucked from someone’s garden! It was drained immediately after the ceremony to allow the cement to cure properly.

The last-minute labours were not apparent to dignitaries who gathered for the opening ceremony, and *The West Australian* waxed lyrical about the scene:

“Bathed in the morning sunlight, and in its setting of glistening young gum trees backed by the deep blue of the river, the great stone pile of the hall, surmounted by its tower, stood forth as a serenely beautiful monument to the memory of Sir Winthrop Hackett.”

The paper went on to observe that visitors passing through the Great Gate and entering the magnificent hall, “cathedral-like in its vastness”, would have commended Hackett’s insistence on buildings that would inspire students. The former Chancellor had studied at Trinity College in Dublin, and had noted in his will that fine building would enhance “the education and refinement of the citizens” of his adopted home.

Close to a thousand members of Convocation were seated in the hall, more than 600 students packed the galleries, and on the dais were leaders in church, civic, academic and political life along with members of the forces.

As they entered the hall, guests admired the Great Gate, the fine stained-glass windows and the un-rendered red brick walls of the foyer (a cost-cutting measure that, everyone agreed, actually contributed to the atmosphere of a cloister).

Speaking at the ceremony, Dr J S Battye, the Pro-Chancellor (and the State’s first Librarian) paid tribute to his long time friend, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, saying that the greatest of his many projects had been his creation of the University.

“He left us a great building,” said Dr Battye. “He left us a great financial endowment for the benefit of the students, and he left us, in this University, great ideals. We are trustees of all these things.”

Hackett’s daughter, Patricia Hackett, received the key of the building from architect Rodney Alsop and admitted the Chancellor and members of the Senate and teaching staff, who moved in slow procession down the central aisle in brilliant robes.

It was a proud moment for all, including Rodney Alsop who died suddenly of bronchitis months later, just after being awarded the bronze medal by the Royal Institute of British Architects for his crowning achievement, the Winthrop Hall design.

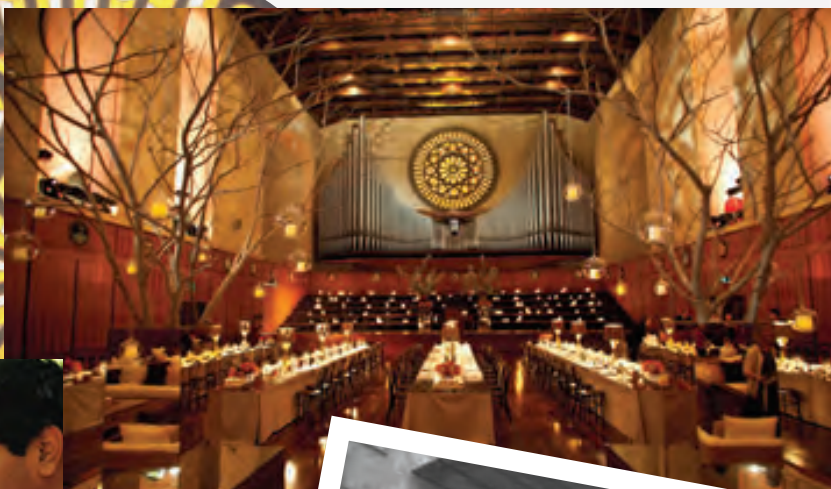
While images of the day show the buildings rising from a stark landscape, the Hackett Memorial buildings would soon be softened by landscaping, with an avenue of Lombardy poplars and Mediterranean cypresses being planted at the completion of the complex in 1932.

Within years of the opening, what is now the Geography/Geology Building was added (in 1935) to accommodate Physics and Chemistry. It was designed by architects Baxter Cox and Summerhayes in the style of the Hackett Buildings.

The same architects also designed the first official residence for the Vice-Chancellor, adjacent to St George’s College. The two-storey neo-Georgian Tuart House is currently the home of the UWA Perth International Arts Festival.



As it celebrates its Centenary the University's multicultural campus welcomes more than 5,000 international students from 103 countries and has forged 130 exchange agreements with universities across the world. Vice-Chancellor Professor Paul Johnson is seen here with high-achieving students in UWA's Bachelor of Philosophy course



Above: The hall transformed for the 2011 CHOGM Prime Minister's Dinner

The awards and accolades that the University's classic buildings attracted established a tradition of architectural excellence that is ongoing. The Reid Library and the Law Building would later be hailed, as have more recent developments such as the Bayliss Building, the Business School and the new University Hall. These exceptional new additions to the campus add environmental and sustainability credentials to design excellence.

In *Crawley Campus, The Planning and Architecture of The University of Western Australian* (UWA Press) leading architect R J Ferguson noted that the palette of pitched terracotta tiled roofs, limestone walls, colonnades, porches and tower of the Hackett Memorial Buildings had set a formidable design standard for subsequent building development.

"Apart from a few instances, later development has displayed remarkable good manners in seeking to honour the qualities of the original buildings and in diverse ways has achieved a totality of design rare on campuses developed over a period of time under a variety of influences," he wrote in the 1993 publication.

When UWA celebrated its 75th anniversary in February 1988, General Sir John Hackett observed: "This University has moved on from small beginnings ... to a great place in the world ... It has been recognised as a highly important member of the university world, not only in Australia but outside it. It has contributed much to statehood and to nationhood and is well poised, in position and prestige, for a major contribution in the future in a world outside the nation.

"The power shift centuries ago from the Mediterranean basin to the Atlantic, and its further move now towards these southern oceans, had put Western Australia, located where it lies so close to Asia, with its boundless resources and formidable future, into what could well become, in this part of the globe, the driving seat."



Preparations for a 1930s occasion at Winthrop Hall

## Winthrop Hall

Winthrop Hall with its landmark tower has retained its pre-eminence as the venue for functions of consequence for UWA and for the wider community.

Whereas back in the 1930s, chairs were constantly loaded and unloaded for formal occasions, today the seating is occasionally entirely removed when the hall is transformed for a grand occasion. Such was the case when the hall was selected as the venue for the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Governments' dinner hosted by Prime Minister Julia Gillard. A pavilion complete with chandeliers was created overlooking the reflection pond, and the hall was set with long tables, their mirrored surfaces reflecting the intricate Indigenous motifs on the ceiling beams.

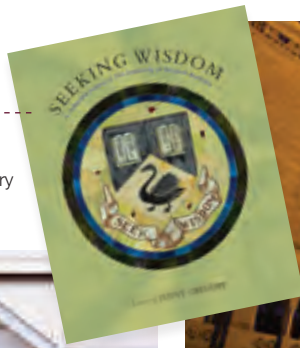
The iconic McGillivray Pipe Organ and the hall's fine acoustics ensure that it is a favourite venue for musical events, and graduation ceremonies in Spring and Autumn are always held in the hall. During such times the classic façade and reflection pond become favourite backdrops for photos.

For staff and students, there are daily pleasures to be enjoyed in this part of the campus: ducklings taking their first swim on the pond; the seasonal blooming of roses, and the inviting manicured green of the lawns. In fact the Hackett Memorial Buildings and UWA's National Estate-registered gardens are frequently cited as one of many UWA attractions by those who work or study on campus.





Seeking Wisdom edited by Jenny Gregory is the history of UWA's first century (see Guest Column)



Former Prime Minister (and UWA graduate) Bob Hawke addressing a gathering after inspecting the new site for the Irwin Street Building that today accommodates the UWA Cricket Club and the University Archives

## Restoration

During the 1930s, some of the original buildings from UWA's city site (including the main Irwin Street building) had been transferred to the Crawley campus and placed in a line dubbed 'Irwin Street'. Various facilities – Law, Botany, Psychology, Extension, the Festival of Perth and Universities Radio 6UWS-FM – occupied the buildings.

In 1981, the University Architect Arthur Bunbury recommended the restoration of the original Irwin Street building and this was achieved by a major fund-raising campaign. The then Warden of Convocation, Mrs Joan Pope, recalls that the campaign galvanised graduates to establish a base far wider than the few thousand graduates for whom the University had recorded addresses.

"The volunteer committee raised money over five years under the 'Preservation for Practical Purposes' slogan and UWA contributed significant support through site preparation works. The restoration made a great 75th anniversary gift to the University from Convocation."

By 1987 restoration was complete and the historic building that had welcomed UWA's first students was officially re-opened on 15 February.

At the re-opening ceremony on 15 February 1988 the Governor, Professor Gordon Reid, conveyed the thoughts of many when he said:

"I am delighted this most evocative example of the times and circumstances in which The University of Western Australia had its origins has now been restored to the style that the original architect originally planned. I hope that it will recapture the spirit of Winthrop Hackett and others, and that on this University site at Crawley, the building will continue to contribute to the broad education of the many people who will enjoy the privilege of using it."

Standing to the west of James Oval, the restored building now accommodates the University Archives with its wealth of historic material, a replica of the original Senate Room and the UWA Cricket Club. Today its wide verandahs echo with the applause or sighs of anguish as cricketing battles are won or lost, and spectators appreciate the shade during long afternoons.

The gardens of the University, along with the Hackett Memorial Buildings, the Reid Library, St George's College and its gardens and the Sunken Garden are all listed

on the Register of the National Estate. Little wonder the popular tours of the classic buildings and gardens on campus led by academics and experts become a stroll through UWA's history.

## The getting of wisdom

What became of those first students we met earlier, Thomas Cullity and Bertha Houghton, who so eagerly crossed the threshold in Irwin Street?

Thomas Cullity, an engineering graduate, was first employed by the forerunner of the Department of Conservation and Land Management and later established Cullity Timbers that was destined to become one of the State's largest timber merchants. His son Denis (also a UWA graduate) succeeded him in the expanding company. The Cullity family boasts four generations of graduates, with Morris Charles Cullity (1958) and Jackie McArthur (2011) becoming Rhodes Scholars and Garrett Michael Cullity (1987) winning a Shell Scholarship to Oxford.

Bertha Houghton's story also perfectly reflects the high ideals of students determined to make the most of their study opportunities. Like so many other graduates remembered on campus through their bequests, scholarships and prizes, Bertha's name lives on a century later (see *An instinct for scholarship*).

From the outset, UWA signalled to the world the singular path it would follow and it was no surprise that when it opened its doors in 1913, it was the only Australian university to adopt a motto in English rather than Latin.

The words proposed by the first Chancellor and approved by the Senate had Old Testament origins. From *Proverbs* came the sentiment: "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

From *Ecclesiastes* came the words: "I applied mine heart to know, and to search, and to seek out wisdom, and the reason of things ..."

The Senate voted by nine votes to four on the simple invitation: "Seek Wisdom".

This memorable motto remains a potent call to those who desire to serve the community, to invest their skills and learning to advance humankind, and who aspire to study at a University now counted among the world's top 100. ■



Architect Reg Summerhayes and Vice-Chancellor Professor Hubert Whitfield during the opening of the Physics and Chemistry Science building in 1935.



## Graduate, architect and war hero

**REGINALD SUMMERHAYES ENROLLED** at UWA in 1914 as the storm clouds of World War I gathered in Europe. The talented Scotch College dux had won an Exhibition to UWA (in Ancient Greek and Latin) but was intent on joining the conflict unfolding across the world.

Too young to join the Australian military, he boarded a ship for the United Kingdom, joining the Royal Engineers in March 1916.

Posted to France, Reg was later awarded a Military Cross that was presented at Buckingham Palace on his 21st birthday in 1918. The citation read: "He worked indefatigably both by day and night, frequently exposed to the heaviest fire, to establish a visual and telephonic system of communication for use during a raid. His system never failed for a moment, and its success was entirely due to his courageous and determined efforts." He was gassed three times during the conflict, and this would contribute to his death forty years later.

After the war, Reg returned to his UWA studies, graduating in 1921. After the grim years of war, he relished working and partying in the Singapore of the Somerset Maugham era – and perfecting a cocktail dubbed 'Summerville'.

"Tennis, sailing and good living were daily pursuits in a carefree bachelor existence in the tropics," records a

family history. In 1924, at the suggestion of his father, he returned to Perth to join Edwin Summerhayes' practice.

The firm E Summerhayes and Son was highly ranked in the Winthrop Hall contest, and the graduate went on to make his mark on Perth architecture, taking on a range of important projects including the Perth Dental Hospital, Lake Karrinyup Country Club, and the Colonial Mutual Insurance building in St Georges Terrace.

Reg was also involved as Associate Architect in the design of the Physics and Chemistry building at UWA designed by Baxter Cox and Summerhayes, along with Tuart House.

While some of his landmark buildings have gone, one remains in the heart of the city: the beautiful bell tower that once stood in the grounds of Loreto Convent in Claremont (built in 1937). When the convent was demolished, the distinctive tower Reg had designed was reconstructed on the site of the Australian Taxation Office in William Street. The 1992 restoration was undertaken by the Holmes à Court family company, Heytesbury Holdings, which had purchased the Loreto site. Its preservation and reconstruction was overseen by Reg's son, architect Geoffrey Summerhayes. ■

(Note: Our thanks to Reg's daughter Eve Shannon Cullity, a UWA graduate, for information from the family history and the photo of Reg in 1926.)

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The ill-fated 16th Battalion, many of whom were killed in action in May 1915 at Gallipoli, including UWA's first Registrar Captain Samuel Edward Townshend (circled). Detail of a photograph of the battalion's officers in the collection of the Australian War Memorial

## Roll of Honour

**AT THE 1919 GRADUATION** ceremony, the Chancellor reminded his audience that 123 members of the University Senate, Convocation, staff and students had served in the Great War and that 16 had been killed in action or had died of their wounds.

Those lost in battle included Captain Samuel Townshend, an impressive Sydney University Law graduate who gained considerable experience in the New South Wales public service prior to his appointment as the University's first Registrar (1913-1915).

At Gallipoli, Captain Townshend and a fellow officer led a group of 40 men from the 16th Battalion that had been thrown into the battle at Quinn's Post on a ridge close to Turkish trenches. In his book, *Gallipoli, the Western Australian Story* (UWA Press), author Wes Olson noted that just after midnight Captain Townshend was asked to take a party to push the Turks back.

"Townshend gave the order to fix bayonets and with the yell, 'Australia forever' led his men over the top," wrote Olson.

As the group sprinted across No Man's Land a number were shot and Townshend took a bullet to the foot. "A sergeant tried to carry the stricken officer to safety but Townshend was hit again and killed. The remainder of the party sought shelter in front of the enemy parapet and started a bombing duel with the Turks. Unfortunately they had neither the numbers nor enough jam-tin bombs to hold the position and were soon forced to retire."

A plaque that remembers the talented Law graduate hangs in the foyer of Winthrop Hall. Captain Townshend enlisted in September of 1914 and was killed at Gallipoli on 10 May 1915. ■

## An instinct for scholarship

**WHILE THE 1913 STUDENT** Bertha Houghton had mistaken Walter Murdoch for a polite clerk, the man who later became Vice-Chancellor was highly impressed with the Honours student majoring in English and Philosophy. He wrote in 1919: "Since the establishment of the University, no other student on the Arts side has done quite so brilliantly as she." The qualities that impressed him were: "not merely intelligence and industry and avidity for knowledge, but originality, independence of mind ... She has the instinct for scholarship."

Bertha's education began at a one-teacher school in a weatherboard church where children paid a few pence a week for tuition. Later, she enrolled at the Claremont Teachers' College and was sent to 'the bush', teaching in a timber-framed school covered with hessian, one wall being torn by "the horn of an itinerant goat". Another challenging placement in Fremantle saw her facing a



The plaque in Winthrop Hall foyer

The roll of Honour in the UWA Administration office



class of 90 pupils in one room, teaching everything from algebra, geometry, Latin, physiology, sewing, scripture and drill exercises. During this time she matriculated and enrolled at UWA.

When she began her UWA studies, Bertha was concerned about finding work and managed to juggle a range of jobs including working in the University library in Irwin Street.

"Though always short of money I scratched along somehow and obtained the BA (Hons)," she later wrote. She was teaching at Perth Modern when news came that she had been awarded the Orient Company's free travel grant to study in the United Kingdom.

In 1919 Bertha sailed to Europe and became a student of Newnham College at Cambridge University.

On her return, the graduate began teaching and in May 1930 was appointed Lecturer in English at the Claremont Teachers' College as well as lecturing in English for Diploma of Education students.

During her lifetime, Bertha created a prize for students who achieved the best academic results overall in the Bachelor of Education studies. A recent recipient was Ian Hardy, the new Warden of St George's College, who, in 2002, left the world of international finance to enrol at UWA's Graduate School of Education. ■



One of the first to enrol, Bertha Houghton



# UWA's global 'family'

More than 12,000 alumni now live overseas in more than 100 countries. Some are locals taking the skills acquired at UWA to every corner of the globe, some were international students now investing their knowledge and experience in their home countries. Tamara Hunter has tracked down just a few of the University's many 'ambassadors'.

For 100 years now, they have come. Year after year, initially in their hundreds, more recently in their thousands: fresh from school, from travelling the world, from another country, or from working, loving and exploring life.

They have come to The University of Western Australia to learn. And when they have palpated and dissected, scrutinised and searched, analysed and discovered whatever it is they came here to find, they have dispersed – headed out into the world to share and grow their knowledge.

In many cases, that knowledge and experience ends up on the world stage. More than 12,000 alumni now live outside of Australia, in almost every imaginable location, from Japan to Russia, Cambodia to Uruguay.

Some have landed in the biggest and brightest cities of them all, like London, New York, Beijing or Singapore. Others have found their way to some of the most troubled or inaccessible parts of the world, like Sudan, Syria, Rwanda or Iran.

Wherever they are, graduates are making a name for themselves across every discipline, with luminaries emerging across the arts, the business and legal

worlds, medicine, education, politics, science, engineering, technology, agriculture, resources, the not-for-profit sector and more.

Among them are well known names like Indonesia's Vice-President, the Hon. Dr Pak Boediono, Australia's ambassador to the United States of America, Kim Beazley, and Jeremy Hobbs, managing director of Oxfam International.

Some were remarkable right from the start, like Dr Akshay Venkatesh who, at 13, became the youngest student to enrol at UWA. He completed first class Honours in pure mathematics at UWA in 1997 and, by 16, was a PhD student at Princeton University. He is now a professor of mathematics at Stanford University.

Others made their mark after years of hard work, like Dr Desmond Collins, a palaeontologist and Life and Physical Sciences graduate (1960). Dr Collins led 18 seasons of field reconnaissance and excavation of the 505 million-year-old Burgess Shale, a world heritage site in the Canadian Rockies. His team

Above: UWA alumni live in 109 countries including: Singapore with 4912 alumni; Malaysia 1958; China 1184; UK 1014; USA 627; Indonesia 438; Thailand 255; and Canada 218





West together at a time of political uncertainty. They included Indonesia's Vice-President Boediono, who graduated with honours in economics in 1967. In 2011 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate for his service to Indonesia and the global community.

Another Columbo Plan student, from Malaysia, studied engineering before changing focus and becoming a much-decorated expert in Indian classical dance. Ibrahim Ramli, who graduated in 1976, trained with the West Australian Ballet Company while studying, then toured with the Sydney Dance Company for six years before returning to Malaysia to establish the Sutra Dance Theatre. He has performed all over the world and is a cultural icon in his home country, which declared him a National Living Heritage Treasure last year. In 2011 he was presented with a UWA Distinguished International Alumnus Award.

The Business School has produced others working at a high level internationally – people like Joel Cohen, executive officer in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support at the United Nations, and Loretta Tomasi, CEO of the English National Opera.

Graduates of other faculties have also scaled international business heights, including Mr Peter Pang, president of Bosch (China) Investment, who received the Australia China Alumni of the Year Award in 2010; Simon Linge, president of New Zealand Steel & Pacific Islands at BlueScope Steel; and Dr Jonathon Sedgwick, who became Chief Scientific Officer for multinational biopharmaceutical company Eli Lilly. His research has focused on the role of inflammation pathways in diseases including autoimmunity and cancer.

Vice-Chancellor Paul Johnson says alumni play a vital role and the sheer diversity of UWA's alumni demonstrates the many ways in which graduates have benefited from the international education offered by the University.

"From our governing body – the Senate – to our on-campus activities, to our international alumni chapters across the nation and around the globe, our alumni play an integral role in the life and work of our University," says Professor Johnson.

At a recent alumni function in Singapore, the Vice-Chancellor told graduates: "You are the reflection of UWA's commitment to education, research and lifelong learning – helping to direct and encourage future generations to aspire to a degree from The University of Western Australia."

UWA graduates around the world keep in touch with the University through the Development and Alumni Relations Office (see *A worldwide network*) and through *Uniview* which has a print run of more than 70,000 and drops into mailboxes around the world, from a single copy in Burkino Faso in Africa to 4,000 in Singapore.

was rewarded in 1992 by the discovery of the fossil remains of moulting arthropods, confirming what palaeontologists had only suspected before – that ancient arthropods shed their outer skeleton during growth just like their modern counterparts.

Some – like 1998 engineering graduate Reece Lumsden and Emeritus Professor Ron Lyon (Life and Physical Sciences, 1950) – looked to the skies and went to work in fields like x-ray astronomy, astrophysics, space exploration, lunar soil research and aviation for organisations including NASA and Boeing.

Others pursued pressing issues like global warming, biodiversity and food security. The calibre of her UWA education led one graduate, Mrs Eviness Nyalugwe, to achieve rapid promotion within the Malawi Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Just a year after completing her Masters in Natural and Agricultural Sciences as an AusAID student in 2008 she had become the ministry's Deputy Director of Crop Production Responsible for Horticulture.

Many Asian students came to UWA on scholarships under the Columbo Plan, a bold initiative begun in the 1950s as a way to bring Asia and the

## Meet just some of our global ambassadors who are putting their diverse skills to good use on the world stage.



**As Lee Hunter walks around the San Francisco offices of YouTube, he is tempted to pinch himself.**

Just 10 years ago Lee completed a Masters in Marketing at UWA, specialising in eMarketing – one of the first degrees of its kind to be offered by a university.

Now, he's the highly creative and dynamic Global Head of Brand Marketing for one of the best known companies on the Internet. Along the way, he propelled a small single product company into a multi-product organisation with an international presence and developed valuable global experience via senior marketing roles in the European divisions of Deutsche Bank and Google.

The list of innovative, high-profile YouTube initiatives and collaborations with his name attached keeps growing.

There's the Google Online Marketing Challenge – an international academic competition he started with former UWA professor Jamie Murphy in 2008 (the inaugural competition was won by five UWA undergraduates); the YouTube Symphony Orchestra which brought young musicians from around the world together to perform at a spectacular week-long celebration of music at the Sydney Opera House last year; and the Olympics partnership which saw YouTube stream the International Olympic Committee's feed of the London 2012 games in 65 countries.

Then there's *Life in A Day*, the feature-length documentary film produced with Ridley Scott which won a Gold Lion at Cannes, and the YouTube Space Lab, a worldwide initiative which challenged 14-18 year-old students to design a science experiment that could be performed in space. The two winning experiments were conducted aboard the International Space Station and streamed live on YouTube last September (NB 2012).

Go back to Lee's UWA days and he was a high achiever there, too. The band he was in, Team Jedi,

toured nationally, released several CDs and in 1997 won a song-writing award as part of Unearthed, youth radio station Triple J's competition for undiscovered talent.

The graduate agrees that with his dual passions of music and technology, his career could well have gone either way.

"I did make a big focus of music for a long time," he told *Uniview*. "I had to be careful to balance the two and make sure my grades didn't suffer. It was a big part of my life and still is a great hobby of mine."

Lee now uses his band experiences to remind himself of what it was like to be a young musician trying to get a break. He has a soft spot for the millions of people creating videos and trying to make things happen on YouTube and says his favourite part of the job is watching people find a platform and let their talent shine through. Sometimes, that happens with spectacular success – as in the case of South Korean pop star Psy and his ubiquitous song, *Gangnam Style*, which in November became the most 'liked' video in YouTube history.

"YouTube is just full of opportunities if you have an entrepreneurial spirit, and that's coming back to the things UWA taught me," Lee said.

When Lee chose his degree, he still wasn't sure what he wanted to be.

"I knew I loved technology and that it was something I really wanted to pursue.

"So when UWA offered up this Masters degree, I just jumped at it. My thought was 'Get in as early as you can, be literally one of the first educated on this. If you have a Masters degree behind you, something good will happen'. And that was the case. I was able to walk into a lot of places and say 'I've taken this really forward-thinking view and tried to educate myself as much as possible in this area, because I love it, I'm fascinated by it'. It took me places."

He said the world-class education offered by UWA, along with the University's international focus, were powerful tools. When he first applied to Google – a business highly focused on finding the very best employees – he discovered the company had UWA on its list of top tier universities.

"That made me very happy with the education that I'd got," he said.

"My job now is global and particularly when I moved to the UK and you have to have a very international view, I was set up really well with my studies for that. It wasn't just focused on Australian issues or Western issues – it gave a very complete picture. That was something I was always very grateful for and it's held me in good stead to this day."

*Above left: Lee Hunter*

*Next page: (left) Loretta Tomasi and (right) Tim Minchin*





**When she's travelling to work on a particularly cold London morning, Loretta Tomasi sometimes wonders what she's doing there.**

It's times like those that the English National Opera chief's thoughts turn towards sunny Perth, where she completed her commerce degree in 1978 and where she returns, twice a year, to visit family and friends.

"One of the main memories about UWA for me is how fortunate we were to go to a university so wonderfully located," Loretta says.

"There are some lovely universities in the UK but when you look at some of the drab places people have been and you compare it to UWA, which is beautiful even on a winter's day – we're just so lucky.

"There's nothing to rival the location, just the feel of that place. That sounds like 'Oh well, it doesn't matter what you do academically'. Of course it does, but if you can get the whole lot as a package, it's even better."

The graduate has been at the ENO for nine years, seven of those as its Chief Executive Officer. There, she's known as the tough Aussie (with no musical background) who turned the company's fortunes around.

Under her stewardship, and in conjunction with others, the ENO has enjoyed growing audience numbers and developed a reputation for bold, distinctive and award-winning work.

Loretta says her education at UWA set her up for the challenges of the role, and is something she appreciates far more now than she did at the time. She can see now how the combination of a lovely environment to work in and good teaching standards helped to shape her.

"When you leave and you first get a job you think a lot of it is all down to yourself but I don't think it is actually," she says. "It's like anything – you never really appreciate something when you're in it because you don't know any different."

She says UWA's smaller size, compared to some of its overseas counterparts, was an advantage.

"Particularly in Commerce – it was large enough but it wasn't so monolithic that you got lost in it. The tutorial classes were relatively small so you could take advantage of the lecturers or the tutors. For me that was quite important and talking to my husband, who went to Manchester University where there are far more students, it seems to me the whole structure was quite different."

Loretta grew up in Balingup, in WA's South-West, and lived at St Thomas More College during her studies.

After graduating she worked with the Stoll Moss Theatre group, then owned by the Holmes à Court family, and later helped negotiate its sale to composer Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. She was there for 12 years before joining the ENO in 2003.



**Tim Minchin, the wild-haired musician, comedian and actor whose intelligent and highly irreverent humour has delighted audiences all over the world, is the first to admit he didn't make the most of his educational opportunities at UWA.**

You'd be way off the mark, however, if you thought that meant he had learned nothing from his University years.

On the contrary, Tim credits much of his approach to performing now to the things that did stick during the arts degree he completed in 1996: the ability to read, articulate ideas, structure thoughts, and think.

"My arts degree and that couple of years of philosophy, a whole lot of text analysis, the psych stuff – it's absolutely embedded in everything I make," says Tim.

"In fact there's probably no comedian in the world now doing material that reads more like an arts degree, about dissonance and fallacies of causation and correlation.

"I'm basically a logic nerd and although I didn't exploit UWA to its fullest at the time, it got me started. It taught me to read and it taught me how to articulate ideas and how to separate bad ideas

from good ideas. In all my material what I'm really advocating is education and critical thinking."

Even though, when asked about his University years, Tim often comes back with a characteristically tongue-in-cheek answer, the more he thinks about it, the deeper and more meaningful the memories become. In the year following his degree, when he decided to try acting and writing music for theatre for a while, he continued to frequent the University via its theatre scene.

"When someone says 'What was UWA like?' I feel like saying 'I just had burgers and I had sex,'" he says. "But of course once you start unpacking it, it's profoundly, profoundly, life altering. My time at UWA was defined by all sorts of stuff, not least of all, I met my wife. And the reason I talk about it in terms of Sarah is because Sarah is the part that's still there.

"But also I have such a connection to the theatres there especially, because of the profound impact of that year where I wasn't actually at the uni but was still exploiting the uni. And not just UWA but His Majesty's and the theatre at Christchurch and all that. I now get to travel around rocking into theatres all over the world and – I Just. Love. Theatres. I love the personalities and the sorts of smells of them.

"We worked at the Dolphin 14 hours a day when we were doing stuff there and I remember sleeping in the grid above the fly tower and doing things we shouldn't be doing ... They were halcyon days.

"The distance between me and that time definitely romanticises it – and I'm also not a very past-focused person – so when I do go back to visit UWA it does sort of come crashing in. I had my first beer there, I told my girlfriend (who I'm now married to) that I loved her, in the 'tav' – the first time I said that to anyone. I played gigs on the Oak Lawn, played songs that I wrote when that same girl dropped me and it made me angry. I had a band and we played songs on the Oak Lawn while some of the people those songs were criticising were sitting in front of me."

In that post-degree year or two, Tim appeared at The Dolphin and The New Fortune theatres in productions including *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Don't Smoke in the Evening Without Yul Brynner* and, notably, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* with Toby Schmitz. Schmitz is now a leading light with the Sydney Theatre Company and in August this year, the old friends will reprise their roles in a considerably more high-profile version of the Tom Stoppard play.

When he first agreed to do the play, Tim was a little unsure of whether his acting skills – more or less abandoned years ago in favour of his comic musical style – were up for it.

Since then, however, he's blazed a highly successful trail with a rave-review performance in the vocally challenging role of Judas in Andrew Lloyd Webber's new production of *Jesus Christ Superstar* (with Melanie C, formerly of the Spice

Girls, and Ben Forster) and a recurring role in the risqué US television series, *Californication*.

He has also turned Roald Dahl's famous children's book *Matilda* into a West End musical which became a runaway success and won seven Olivier Awards last year. *Matilda The Musical* opens on Broadway in April.

"I guess I'm aware of how lucky I am to have been able to exploit my good fortune in one field and shift sideways into other fields," Tim says. "But that doesn't mean I'm a complete narcissist! I don't think I can do everything just because people are happy to watch me play piano and sing stupid songs. I'm reasonably balanced with my ambition versus my fear."

Tim, who lives in London with Sarah and their two children, says wistfully he'd love to live in Perth again. However, he knows his career has been defined by being in the right place at the right time, and that he needs to be ready for whenever opportunity comes knocking.

He comes back whenever he can, though. If his schedule allows, he's likely to pay Perth – and UWA – a visit next month. And when he does, it's likely those memories will, once again, come crashing back in.



**Three months after her first baby was born, paediatric cardiologist and Rhodes Scholar Marina Hughes was faced with a difficult decision.**

The job she'd been waiting on – a six-month training role in paediatric intensive care involving regular 24-hour shifts – had opened up. The job represented the start of her fellowship in paediatric cardiology and if she didn't take the single post available, she would have to wait another two years while someone else started their training.

"So I just did it," Dr Hughes told *Uniview*. "It was part of that 'can do' attitude I learned when I was doing my medical degree at UWA – you just do it. It was hard work, with a lot of pressure. You can only

Above: Marina Hughes  
Next page: David Sinclair



do that when you have a partner who's prepared to do the 24 hours of child-care that you're missing, and fortunately I did."

The hard work paid off, with Dr Hughes, née Barbour, going on to become a consultant cardiologist first at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne, and then the prestigious Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London.

She's now the Clinical Lead for Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging at GOSH, a full-time role that involves scanning children and adults with every sort of congenital heart disease.

"Cardiac MRI can give a complete non-invasive investigation of very complicated hearts, which is just fantastic," Dr Hughes said. "We work closely with the cardiac surgical team and cardiology interventional teams to help with the diagnosis and assessment of the patients. Some patients are scanned frequently, to help with planning the serial operations that they need, as part of their lifelong management.

"It is fascinating and clinically rewarding work, but often restricted in many ways by the limited resources in Britain's National Health System."

Dr Hughes, who grew up in Boyup Brook, attended St Mary's Girls' School in Perth before beginning her MBBS at UWA in 1984. She lived at St George's College for two years before moving into a shared house with fellow students.

"Looking back, I remember a pervasive joy of life," she said of her college days. "We were very fortunate and very happy. There was a can-do attitude: just have a go, you can do it. I remember the activity, the work, the sport and the social energy. I joined a huge variety of clubs in the first years. I taught aerobics in the sports centre, learned how to abseil, do stained glass windows, and massage!"

Academically, she remembered 8am lectures with lecturers using black boards and chalk, being inspired by epidemiology lectures by Fiona Stanley, and drawing confidence from the close-knit community of her fellow medical students.

"There was a spirit of learning and achievement but there was also support and activity and fun. There was a real community spirit at St George's and in the Medical School. Perhaps it was the common foe of Biochemistry exams that first really united us!"

It was the can-do spirit she picked up at UWA which spurred her to apply for a Rhodes Scholarship in 1989.

"Being in Oxford was a culture change, but again it was such an honour to be able to be active in an institution with inspirational friends and teachers," she said.

"I was among really interesting and exciting people. They were fun and funny, they had ideas and they stuck their neck out to challenge themselves at work and at play. I was witness to some magnificent pranks. I was just incredibly lucky to be given that exposure, that education and that experience."



**While Western Australia's wildflowers are a drawcard for visitors, they needlessly brought an early end to the UWA career of one of our most illustrious alumni.**

When David Sinclair, Foundation Professor of Anatomy at UWA's Medical School, left the University in the mid-1960s, it was with a profound sense of both affection and regret. He wasn't leaving voluntarily – he was asthmatic and doctors told him the condition was due to the State's wildflowers. He now believes that this lifelong problem was due to dust mites, not wildflowers.

By the time he realised this, the Scottish-born Professor Sinclair and his Melbourne-born wife, Elizabeth, had moved back to Scotland but he never forgot the University where he had spent "the happiest years of his life".

"I loved the place, and would continue to do so wherever I went," he wrote in his 1989 autobiography, *Not a Proper Doctor*.

The 97-year-old, who obtained two degrees while teaching at UWA, is now believed to be the oldest UWA graduate living overseas. He spoke to *Uniview* in November, shortly before appearing via video-link at The University Club for the Medical Year of 1962's 50th Anniversary Dinner.

Professor Sinclair, the sole surviving Foundation Professor of the School of Medicine, was head of the Department of Anatomy from 1957-1965. He was Dean of Medicine from 1964 until his departure and while at the University, was awarded a DSc for his work on skin sensation. The University has since created the David Sinclair Prize in Anatomy and Human Biology, and the Robert A. Milne Bachelor of Medical Science Scholarship in Honour of Professor David Sinclair.

Before his time at UWA, Professor Sinclair obtained degrees from and worked at both St Andrews and Oxford universities.

During World War II he served in France, Britain and Australia, specialising in research on biological and chemical warfare and the treatment of chemical

warfare casualties. This included serving as a regular medical officer in France, where he was responsible for evacuating an entire field hospital at Dunkirk.

Professor Sinclair has also been a prolific and engaging writer. He contributed the muscles and fascia chapter over several editions of *Cunningham's Anatomy*, a major anatomical text, and has published at least 70 research papers, at least five medical texts, his autobiography and an amusing book called *Outside the Dissecting Room* – a collection of columns written for *The Lancet* medical journal.

On leaving UWA he became Regius Professor of Anatomy at the University of Aberdeen, before returning to WA in 1975 as the Director of Postgraduate Medical Education at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Unable to resist the pull of his childhood home, he retired permanently to Scotland in 1981.

Professor Sinclair recalls that the people of WA captured his affection: "I think it was the general atmosphere of friendliness. Everyone was so easy to talk to and so open. The welcome I got was overwhelming. The other thing of course was the sunshine.

"I think UWA is one of the most beautiful campuses in the world and the students, being just a couple of years older, were easy to talk to. It was an extremely friendly nine years – the happiest time of my life." ■

## A worldwide network

As a graduate, you automatically become a member of the UWA alumni, joining an extensive and impressive worldwide network that gives you the opportunity to develop and maintain lifelong relationships with each other and the UWA community. Development and Alumni Relations is continually in touch with alumni all over the world. Please keep your details up-to-date: email [alumnirelations@uwa.edu.au](mailto:alumnirelations@uwa.edu.au) or phone +61 8 6488 8000. To stay in touch with all the exciting developments on campus and beyond please visit: [www.alumni.uwa.edu.au](http://www.alumni.uwa.edu.au)

An increasing number of alumni are also now choosing to stay in touch via The University of Western Australia Alumni Facebook page. If you have a Facebook account and would like to keep up-to-date with alumni news then simply 'Like' The University of Western Australia Alumni page. Half of those who have already done so live outside of Australia, with followers in 19 countries (11 per cent in Singapore and 11 per cent in Malaysia).

Visit: <http://on.fb.me/TgXgFX>



**Graduates' Walk**  
*Pave the way*

**Don't miss your spot at Graduates' Walk this centenary!**

Graduates' Walk is creating a wonderful walkway displaying the names of graduates from the first 100 years at UWA and many are grouped with family or friends.

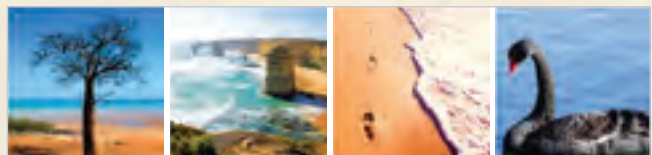
Proceeds from this project will enable The Centenary Trust for Women to help students who face financial, social or physical challenges while completing their education at UWA. All donations to UWA are fully tax deductible.

For further information call Marita Gardner, the Graduates' Walk officer on +61 8 6488 4207 or visit: [www.uwa.edu.au/ctw](http://www.uwa.edu.au/ctw)

Come and see the Oak Lawn and have a look at the pavers. Help us pave the way for generations to come!

GEDFREY IAN CALLOP AC  
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# Distinguished International Alumnus Awards

The Distinguished International Alumnus Award was established by the University Senate to recognise outstanding contributions made by the University's international graduates in places other than Australia, which have served to enhance the University's reputation internationally. The Award is made to an alumnus who, having completed a UWA degree as an international student, has subsequently made an outstanding contribution to a country or countries other than Australia.

Past recipients:

2011

- Mr Ramli Ibrahim (Malaysia)
- Dr Roland Dom Mattu (Malaysia)
- Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Noramly bin Muslim (Malaysia)
- Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Hood Mohamed Salleh (Malaysia)
- Dato' Sri Wong Soon Koh (Malaysia)

2008

- Dr Narongchai Akrasanee (Thailand)
- Associate Professor Varakorn Samakoses (Thailand)
- Professor Benjaven Rerkasem (Thailand)

2007

- The Hon. Dr Pak Boediono (Indonesia)

2005

- Dato' Mohamed Zain bin Yusuf (Malaysia)

2004

- Dato' Syed Abdul Jabbar bin Syed Hassan (Malaysia)

1998

- Dr Michael Fam Yue-Onn (Singapore)
- The Hon Yeo Cheow Tong (Singapore)
- Y Bhg Tan Sri Datuk Ibrahim Menudin (Malaysia)



UWA Distinguished Alumnus Award winners. Top: Professor Dr Boediono (with former Vice-Chancellor Alan Robson and Chancellor Michael Chaney) Above: (left) Professor Emeritus Dato' Dr Noramly bin Muslim with Professor Robson and (right) Dr Narongchai Akrasanee

Historian Winthrop Professor Jenny Gregory, editor of *Seeking Wisdom: A Centenary History of The University of Western Australia* writes about the challenges of ...

# Writing a centenary history of UWA

To write a history of a university is a challenging task. Universities are complex beasts. How can one include every aspect of such a multifaceted organisation that encompasses so many fields? Teaching and research ranges from grammatical constructions to gravity waves. And, to use the idiom, much of it is Greek to me! For me then, when I was first approached to consider writing a history of this University, it had to be a joint endeavour, primarily driven by historians but drawing on the skills and expertise of many others.

It was different for Fred Alexander when he wrote *Campus at Crawley* for the University's 1963 jubilee. At that time there were less than 500 academic staff and just over 4,000 students. But even then his narrative became an 875 page blockbuster. Multiply that up and, with 1,400 academic staff and nearly 24,000 students in this centenary year, that would mean a narrative history of somewhere between nearly 2,500 and 5,500 pages.

Moreover, with the increasing complexity of the institution, a single authorial voice is no longer an appropriate means of recording this University's history. The grand narratives of the past – typified by Alexander's immensely detailed book putting



forward a single view of history – have been largely rejected by the historical profession. Today's historians, recognising that history partly depends on the questions you ask and your point of view, tend to favour multiple voices and perspectives as a more useful way of approaching and revealing the past. That approach became the underlying thrust of this history.

The project has had a long gestation. In 2005 I detailed the possible shape of a history for the Centenary Planning Committee, then chaired by Dr June Jones. It was to be informative, lively and well illustrated. It would showcase the life of the community within UWA and, marking UWA's role as the only university in Western Australia until 1975, the immense role that it has played in the life of the wider community over a hundred years.

I was fortunate that so many of our talented historians, all with links to UWA either current or past, were willing to join in the endeavour. Dr Jean Chetkovich, then Director of the Centre for WA History, deserves special mention, as she played a major part in the project. As well as discussing and

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Above: Winthrop Professor Jenny Gregory



debating its scope and shape, she was responsible for much of the early work in its establishment, for the alumni survey that provided valuable information, and for liaison with authors and expert readers, the bibliography and appendices, helping with proof reading, and associated administration.

How did we approach the task? A chapter outline was developed and potential writers were identified for their knowledge and expertise. A scoping study was undertaken by David Robinson, then a recent doctoral graduate in History. He researched relevant archival holdings (in the UWA Archives, UWA Guild Archives, all UWA Faculties Archives, the JS Battye' Library of WA History, the State Records Office and the National Archives), established the extent of oral history holdings and pictorial holdings, and compiled a comprehensive literature review of existing publications on or related to UWA and other Australian universities. This study was then circulated amongst writers to assist them in their task.

Then the work of research and writing began.

## TODAY'S HISTORIANS ... TEND TO FAVOUR MULTIPLE VOICES AND PERSPECTIVES AS A MORE USEFUL WAY OF APPROACHING AND REVEALING THE PAST. THAT APPROACH BECAME THE UNDER- LYING THRUST OF THIS HISTORY

The project would have faltered without the sustained interest, enthusiasm and commitment of the writers. As each chapter came in, it was sent to expert readers who provided erudite reports with useful comments and suggestions. These then went back to writers for amendment as necessary.

The manuscript was complete by late 2011 and then began the task of selecting photographs from the marvellous collection in the UWA Archives – some 60,000 of them! Let's hope that with adequate resourcing in future, this photographic record of the University can be developed into a treasure trove for future historians.

Dr Cecilia Leong-Salobir, Research Coordinator at the Centre for WA History, and I battled with this for more than three months and we are confident we have selected a representative sample of photographs to illustrate key moments and key

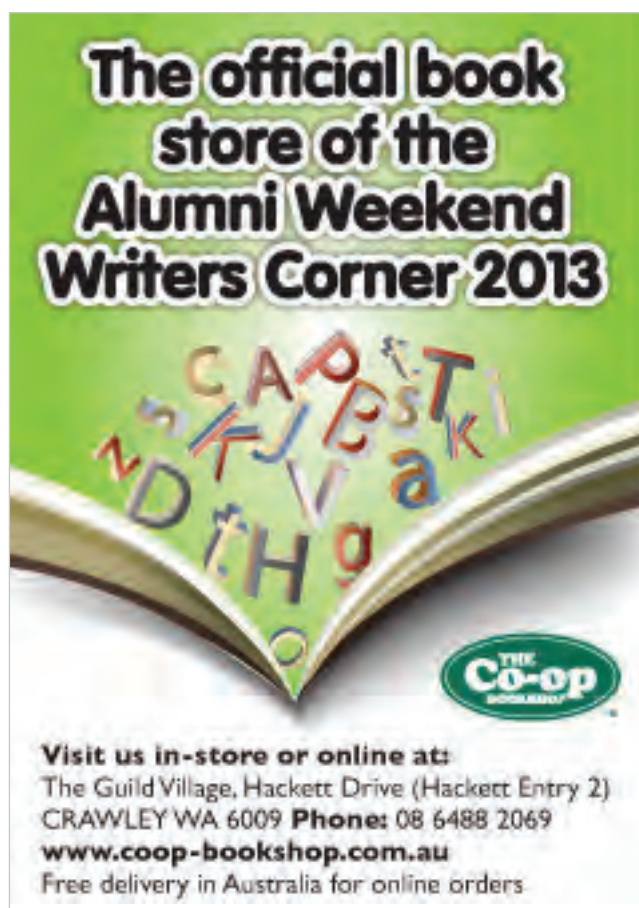
themes. We are immensely grateful to all those who helped us find photos.

By 2013 more than 100,000 students will have graduated from UWA, their lives indelibly marked by that experience. They have been taught by many thousands of academic staff and all have been supported by a raft of administrative and other staff.

Memories of UWA will vary with, for example, the experience of the 1950s differing from that of the 1980s, and the experiences of an Arts student differing from that of an Engineering student. Indeed much that has gone on behind the scenes will have been largely invisible to students. Hence each of our readers – students, staff and others – will have a different understanding of UWA.

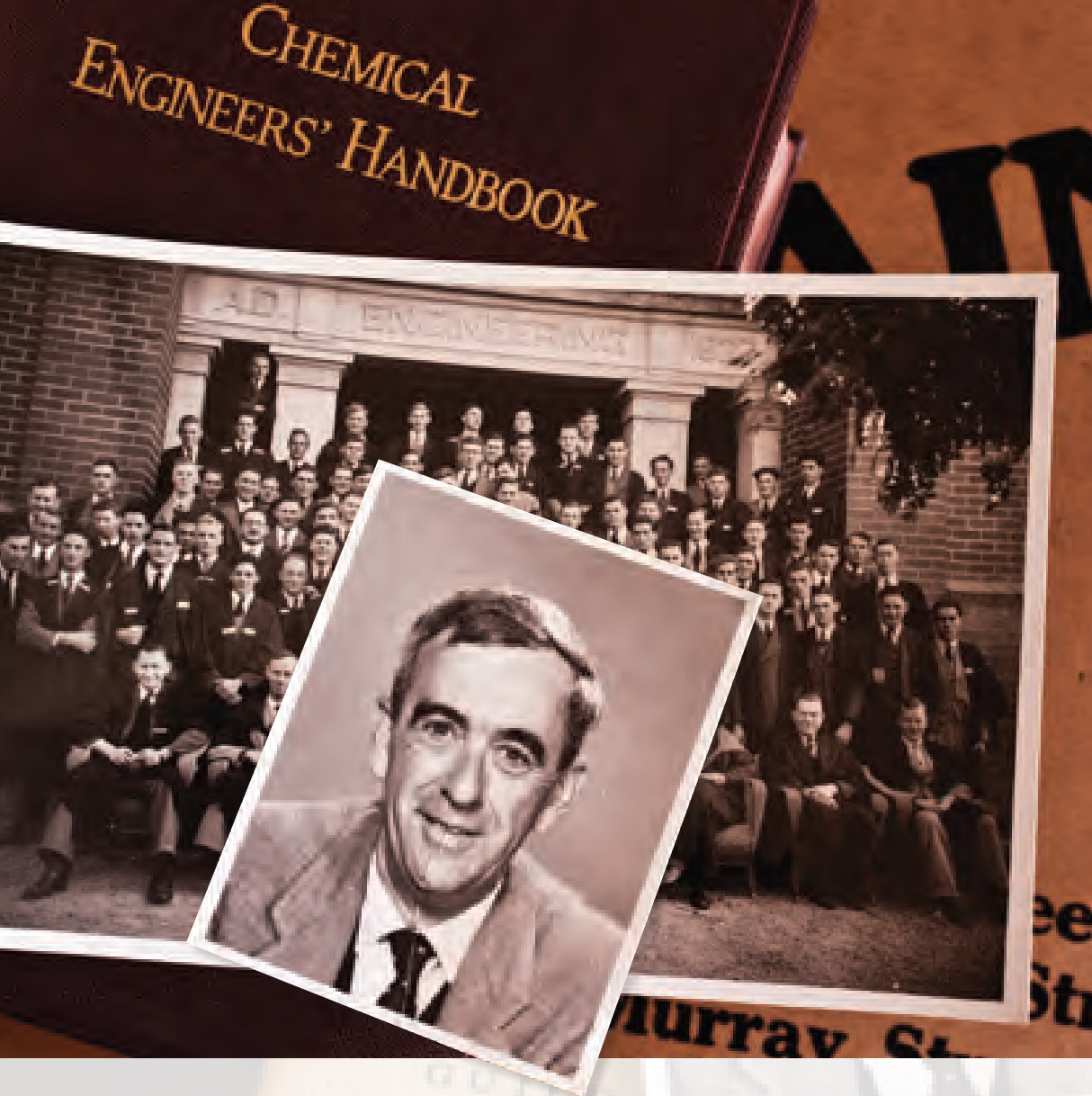
I hope that our research and writing has been sufficiently wide-ranging to convey the sheer variety of the UWA experience and that this centenary history will not only trigger memories amongst readers, but also illuminate their understanding of the workings of the University over time. ■

**Note:** Historian W/Professor Jenny Gregory is Head of the School of Humanities. *Seeking Wisdom, A Centenary History of The University of Western Australia* is a 450-page volume with 200 illustrations. It is available on campus at The Co-op Bookshop and the Visitors Centre, and at selected book stores.



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## Legacy benefits a new generation of engineers

**Frugality was a way of life for engineering graduate Bob Telford – except when it came to others. His generous legacy will benefit mechanical and chemical engineering facilities within the proposed new UWA Engineering Zone, providing world-class facilities for the engineers of tomorrow, reports Tamara Hunter.**

When 91-year-old Bob Telford passed away last year and left almost half of his \$13 million estate to The University of Western Australia, few who knew him were surprised.

Although a frugal man when it came to himself, the UWA-educated engineer had a long history of helping others.

Whether it was funding the education of children of people he knew – often work colleagues who had become friends – or helping out distant relatives and friends he made in his travels, he was always generous with others.

“He was a great benefactor,” said Linton Lethlean, executor of Mr Telford’s estate. “He gave his own money to various people to help them get on in life.

“He was a very talented and modest man.”

Ainslie Robert Telford (Bob) was born on 28 January 1921 at Cottesloe to Robert Mitchell Telford, a chemist and engineer, and Rosa Edith Telford, who had been a nurse. An older brother had died in infancy, and his mother died when he was only 13.

Bob became a boarder at Guildford Grammar and gained entry to UWA in 1939. During WWII he served in the precursor to the Australian Army Reserve,

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*Above: The late UWA graduate Bob Telford and memorabilia of his time at UWA (Photo: Matt Galligan)*



the Citizens Military Force, before interrupting his studies to join the regular army. He served until 1946, completing 502 days overseas and attaining the rank of Captain.

In 1946 Mr Telford applied for readmission to UWA. Soon after, he completed his engineering degree, specialising in mechanical and chemical engineering. He moved to Melbourne in 1949 and continued his career with chemical and explosives company ICI, now known as Orica, before retiring early, in his late 40s or early 50s. His father and his beloved 'Aunt Tot', his father's sister, later joined him in Melbourne.

Mr Lethlean said Mr Telford, a quiet-living man who remained a bachelor all his life, became a shrewd investor.

"He spent a lot of time studying the stock exchange and died with a share portfolio of about \$13 million, but you wouldn't know he had a cent.

"He travelled a lot and he travelled as a loner, with very little. He was known to just put a little rucksack over his shoulder and head off, buying his clothes over there."

Mr Lethlean said that although Mr Telford had very little family after his father and aunt died, he was loved by friends all over the world.

"He didn't have a family as such, but the reality was he had a better family than probably you and I have, because he had this big group of people who loved him. One third were distant family, another third were friends he made when travelling, and the other third were children of his workmates that he stayed in touch with through life. Everyone called him Uncle Bob."

Mr Lethlean said when Mr Telford called him in to draft his will several years ago, he bequeathed about half of his estate to people he had already helped. The rest, he said, he wanted to donate to the mechanical and chemical engineering school at his old *alma mater*. This extraordinary legacy followed donations the graduate had already made to UWA's Annual Fund.

Anne Liddle, UWA's Bequest Manager, said the resulting bequest – almost \$6 million – would go towards the new UWA Engineering Zone at the University's Crawley Campus.

The project, which will include a new \$135 million state of the art engineering building and a \$50 million refurbishment of current facilities, will provide a world-class innovation hub for industry.

Winthrop Professor John Dell, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics, said the success of a university could be measured by the legacies of its graduates.

"Bob Telford's legacy can be measured through his successful engineering career, and by including UWA in his bequest," Professor Dell said. "His generosity and foresight will enable future generations of engineering graduates to have been taught in

world-class infrastructure, helping them realise their potential to change the world."

Ms Liddle, who manages all bequests made to UWA, added: "Often, when I speak to those who include UWA in their wills, they look back on their life and realise the value of their UWA education.

"This inspires them to leave a legacy which will make a difference to the University. Mr Telford's generous bequest is one such legacy that will have a wide-ranging positive impact. His legacy will live on and we will ensure that his memory is honoured."

Mr Telford passed away in hospital in Melbourne on 4 February 2012, after a short illness. ■



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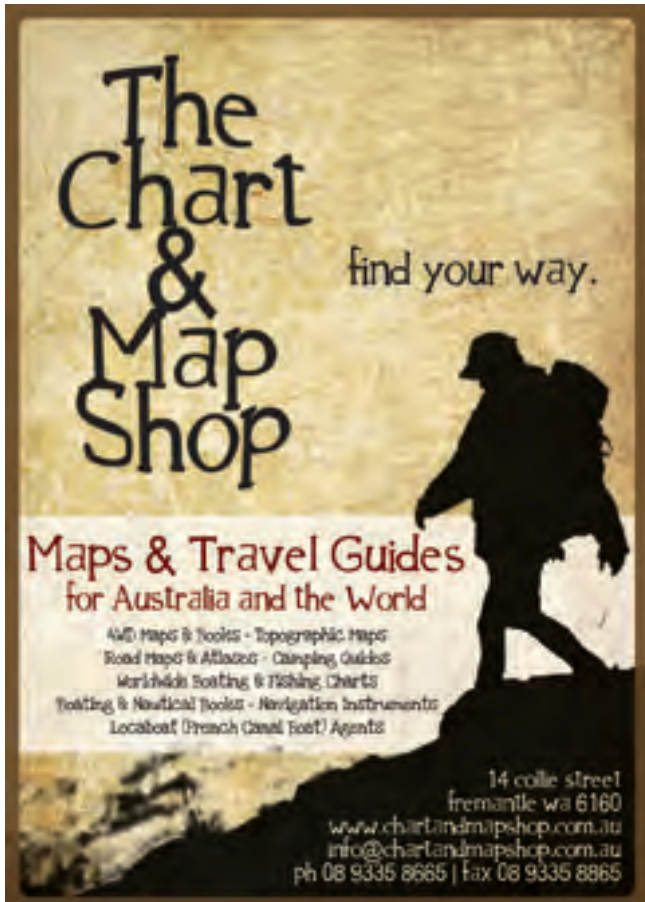
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# An appreciation of the Hackett Buildings

By John Melville-Jones

When I arrived in Australia in 1957, after sending my return fare to an Australian bank so that if the locals were unfriendly I could flee to safety, I was lodged at St George's College and soon after that I saw the Hackett Buildings. I immediately realised that I had come to a good university; such is the effect of good traditional architecture.

These buildings fascinated me and a couple of years later I wrote a short article on the mosaic by Napier Waller, 'The Five Lamps of Knowledge', which sits above the windows of the Senate Room. At that time the members of the Faculty of Arts were accommodated on the upper floor of what is now the Administration building, so I walked in front of this window regularly.

I often wondered why no one had produced a book that could describe and explain the Hackett buildings to students, staff and visitors. Finally, as our centenary loomed, I set about collecting the material.

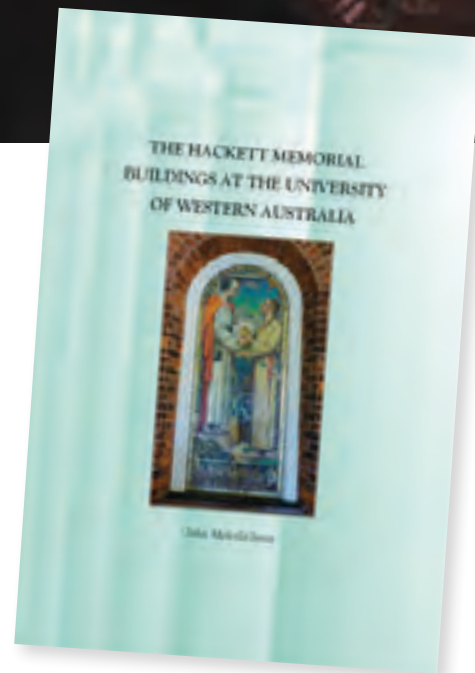
This was an enjoyable experience. I began by looking at Fred Alexander's *Campus at Crawley*, that magnificent repository of information regarding the first half-century of the University's existence. Then I went back to the primary sources, aided by the staff of the University's Archives, and the Library (for Senate Minutes).

In addition, I contacted a number of people who were enormously helpful in providing information from their specialised knowledge: David Tunley described the acoustic properties of the Winthrop Hall, John Glover explained things that I did not know about the stones that were used in different places and Ken Baker and architect Gus Ferguson, who has

been involved for so long with this campus, sorted out problems relating to the columns that support the Undercroft.

I also heard some amusing stories of student pranks, such as the occasion in the 1950s when two male undergraduates, now respected members of the legal profession, dressed themselves in exaggerated female costumes and infiltrated the queue of débutantes who were waiting to be presented to the Chancellor at a ball in Winthrop Hall.

My research made me realise how lucky UWA had been. When Sir Winthrop Hackett died in 1916, his estate was diminished in value because of World War I; however he had wisely ordained that distribution might be postponed. This allowed



Above: Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones  
(Photo: Matt Galligan)  
Inset: The cover of Professor Melville-Jones' new book



his executor Alfred Langler to retain his remaining assets (principally shares in *The West Australian*) until the University began moving from Irwin Street to the Crawley campus.

The eventual bequest was a very large one. As a result, instead of being built in red brick with minimal adornment (like the first permanent building on Park Avenue in 1925) the Hackett buildings could be faced with coastal limestone and Donnybrook sandstone, and richly decorated. Langler's services were recognised by his receiving a knighthood, and by the creation of a mosaic which occupies a window space in the foyer of the Winthrop Hall. This is featured on the cover of my book, *The Hackett Memorial Buildings at The University of Western Australia*.

My researches were not always successful. The architecture and decorations of the Hackett buildings are 'referential' – they are inspired by many other buildings and works of art, and send the message that The University of Western Australia pays homage to the achievements of its predecessors. I cannot confidently explain two items. One is the frieze showing lions (perhaps Venetian) and the kind of ancient Greek harp called a *kithara* that runs around the top of the outside of the Winthrop Hall. Again, two panels on the 'Registrar's balconette' on the western Administration building show peacocks and vines bearing grapes. The symbolism of the latter work is clear: in early Christian art peacocks were symbols of immortality, and vines with grapes were

a symbol of the wine at the Last Supper, and thus of the blood of Christ. The style is North Italian, but I cannot find an exact model. Perhaps a reader may be able to explain it.


When the time came to find a publisher, Peter Bridge of Hesperian Press, which specialises in publishing books on Western Australian history, had no hesitation in accepting the book. And UniPrint, as always, did an excellent job of designing it.

This has been an enjoyable experience, and I have begun what will be a regular pastime, giving occasional talks about the Hackett Memorial Buildings, and walking around them with people who are interested in learning more about them. ■

## CONTACT

Emeritus Professor John Melville-Jones  
Senior Honorary Research Fellow  
Classics and Ancient History (M205)  
Phone: +61 8 6488 2164  
Email: [john.melville-jones@uwa.edu.au](mailto:john.melville-jones@uwa.edu.au)

**Note:** *The Hackett Memorial Buildings at The University of Western Australia*, published by Hesperian Press is available at the Co-op Bookshop at UWA, at the Visitors Centre and selected book stores, or from Hesperian Press: [www.hesperianpress.com](http://www.hesperianpress.com)



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The Institute of Advanced Studies serves as a gateway for research at UWA by showcasing some of the world's most dynamic scholars, artists and public intellectuals. Each year, the IAS presents a rich and vibrant lecture program, many of which are free and open to the public. Lectures in 2013 include:

**Friendly for whom? Rethinking age-friendly communities.**  
by Professor Norah Keating, University of Alberta  
**Date:** Tuesday 12 February  
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**Venue:** Webb Lecture Theatre, UWA

**Public welfare v private charity: some lessons from medieval and early modern Europe**  
by Professor Sharon Farmer, University of California Santa Barbara  
**Date:** Thursday 21 February  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Venue:** Webb Lecture Theatre, UWA

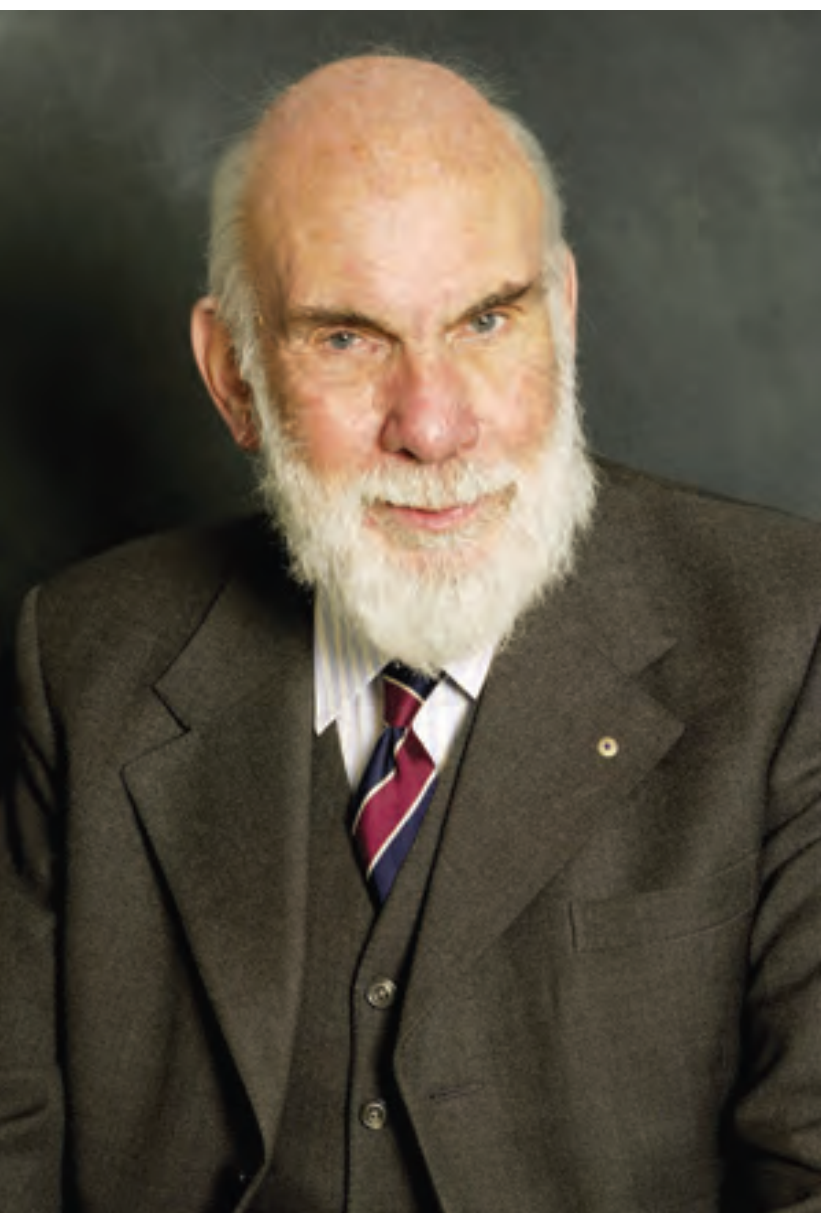
**Reading and writing historical novels in the age of instant messaging**  
by Kunal Basu, author  
**Date:** Tuesday 26 February  
**Time:** 6pm  
**Venue:** Webb Lecture Theatre, UWA

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# A belief in opportunity

On the cusp of celebrations marking UWA's Centenary, we asked eminent historian, former staff-member and graduate Professor Geoffrey Bolton about the ways in which the University has contributed to the Western Australian community over the 100 years since enrolling its first students. Sally-Ann Jones reports.



FROM ITS EARLIEST YEARS, THE UNIVERSITY WAS COMMITTED TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Professor Bolton has been intimately associated with eight universities and visited many others throughout the world and as a result has both an insider's and an outsider's perspective of UWA's unique relationship with its neighbourhood.

He sees UWA's century in three phases: a pioneering period from 1913 to the end of the 1950s; a period of consolidation during the 1960s and 1970s; and a period of international achievement that began with the years of Emeritus Professor Alan Robson's Vice-Chancellorship.

Professor Bolton believes that from the beginning, the University played a crucial role in ensuring the survival of the fledgling State and its capital city.

In 1913, Perth was perhaps the most isolated capital city in the world, more than 2,000 kilometres from Adelaide, its nearest metropolis. Its population was only about 122,000 in a State of 320,000, by contrast with Sydney's 700,000 and Melbourne's 650,000.

"UWA was the only university in the British Commonwealth that didn't charge a tuition fee," Professor Bolton said. "Coupled with Perth Modern School, this made university accessible – a situation that persisted even in the Depression during the 1930s. The University's founders believed in opportunity.

"From its earliest years, the University was committed to community engagement. For example, extensive Adult Education services and Summer Schools – which evolved into the Perth International Arts Festival – enabled people who weren't necessarily students to access culture and scholarship. There was a commitment and energy placed in outreach, which was very fine.

"At first, WA's community was much more rural and the University's strong Institute of Agriculture reached a peak in the 1940s and 50s under the leadership of Professor Eric Underwood who provided a strong science backing.

"At about the same time, Professor Frank Beasley as the first Dean of Law did great work in founding a law school with the best of English traditions adapted to modern Australia.

"And my own mentor, Professor Fred Alexander, the founding head of the History Department, was a



driving force in public affairs, helping to break down people's feeling of isolation. Founding Professor of English, Walter Murdoch, too, through his writing in the press and his willingness to embark on controversy, challenged complacency.

"In other fields – for example in chemistry and mathematics – UWA was setting down a good tradition of people working in isolation, having brought to WA international standards. Professor Edward de Courcy Clarke in Geology commanded respect in the community and contributed to knowledge of the State's natural geological resources.

"The establishment of the Medical School at the end of the 1950s was the keystone and a great finale to the pioneering period. It was an intensive effort achieved without Federal funding, with the help of Rotary."

Professor Bolton said if it had not been for the Winthrop bequest, staff and students may have struggled on in the make-do buildings at 'Tin Pot Alley' in Irwin Street in Perth.

"Hackett also ensured that good people were recruited and able to blossom," he said.

While people blossomed on campus so did the magnificent Winthrop Hall and Hackett buildings set in landscaped grounds.

"I believe one of the reasons why UWA saw no violent protests and graffiti during the late 1960s and 1970s, when the 'concrete' universities almost invited anti-Vietnam slogans, was because studying in this environment has a calming influence," he said.

In a similar vein, UWA's student Guild – neither a council nor a union and with none of the antagonism that is sometimes seen between bosses and a union – enabled students and staff to be part of one body.

UWA's next period, consolidation, was a time when the University concentrated on developing infrastructure such as the Reid Library and specialised laboratories.

"With an influx of British academics here, we were still looking over our shoulder at other countries but hadn't yet formed the resolve to become internationally competitive," Professor Bolton said.

"There was a constellation of professors in the Medical School of a very high standard and they played a part in University life as well. They laid the basis for Barry Marshall and Robin Warren's Nobel Prize win later.

"In the 1960s and 70s there was great liveliness on campus and drama did a big leap forward thanks to the range of new theatres such as the Octagon, Dolphin and New Fortune. Professor Allan Edwards' English Department provided an umbrella under which writers – Dorothy Hewett, Faye Zwicky, Veronica Brady and others – thrived. And Edwards set up the University's art collection, buying the Sydney Nolans."

The third period was a time when the University recovered its vision.

During this time, the interest in Indigenous studies that had been sparked by UWA anthropologists Ron and Catherine Berndt in the 1950s continued to grow and UWA became the first university in Australia to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which the campus was built.

In addition, the international links that began even before the Colombo Plan of 1951 were further strengthened.

"Building on the traditions of the pioneer and consolidation periods, the University is now listed among the top 100 in the world, and can realistically aspire to progress further," Professor Bolton said.

THE UNIVERSITY IS NOW LISTED AMONG THE TOP 100 IN THE WORLD, AND CAN REALISTICALLY ASPIRE TO PROGRESS FURTHER

After studying at both UWA and Oxford University, Professor Bolton became a Research Fellow at Australian National University and later a Senior Lecturer at Monash University before returning to UWA to take up the position of Professor of Modern History.

In 1973 he was appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor and Foundation Professor of History at the newly established Murdoch University and was its Chancellor from 2002 to 2006.

Professor Bolton also found time to be a Visiting Commonwealth Fellow at Cambridge University and Professor and Head of Australian Studies at the University of London. As well, he was Professor of Australian History at the University of Queensland and Professor of History at Edith Cowan University.

He was named Western Australia's 2006 Australian of the Year, was General Editor of the five-volume Oxford History of Australia and is the author of 13 books. He is currently writing a biography of Sir Paul Hasluck. ■

## Convocation Annual Elections

Election of Warden, Deputy Warden and eight members of the Council of Convocation.

Voting papers must be received by the Returning Officer no later than 12 March 2013.

For more information contact the Returning Officer, [juanita.perez@uwa.edu.au](mailto:juanita.perez@uwa.edu.au) or +61 8 6488 1336.

# Dancing student wins Convocation applause

**Jessica Dunn has brought her love of dance to audiences since she was three years old and now dance has earned her the Convocation 2012 Matilda Award for Cultural Excellence – or should that be a ‘Waltzing’ Matilda Award? James Marzec reports.**

Born in 1989, Jessica became an alumna of the Jodie Waldo Dance Academy and since she was 11 has taught and choreographed. She has performed nationally and internationally at competitions, festivals, conventions, pageants and charity events and was a cheerleader for the Perth Glory.

Trained in jazz, tap, ballet, hip-hop, contemporary, lyrical, acrobatic, Irish and musical theatre styles, Jessica also has a passion for study and after completing her BA in Law/Arts in 2013 hopes to go on to further study overseas.

Jessica has pursued her twin passions of study and dance at University by becoming involved in the University Dramatic Society (UDS).

“In my freshman year I began following amateur musical theatre at UWA,” says Jessica, “and I knew immediately that I wanted to bring my choreography to the theatre scene at my University.

“I love choreographing because it gives me a chance to express myself creatively and work side-by-side with equally enthusiastic people and so it was a foregone conclusion that I would fall in love with what UWA had to offer.”

For her work in choreographing shows such as *Bullet Betty*, *Greenwicks* and *The Devil Downtown*, Jessica won back-to-back Robert Finley Independent Theatre Awards for Best Choreographer – all while participating in summer legal clerkships at some of the country’s top commercial firms.

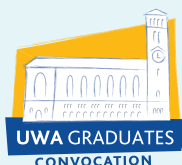


At the same time, she was working at UWA’s University Theatres, holding positions on the UDS, Arts Union and Blackstone Committees, being involved in Uni Mentoring and Uni Tutoring, competing in law competitions, language and dance classes and one memorable summer spent as a children’s performer for the King’s Park Wildlife Festival.

In 2012, Jessica choreographed and starred in Showroom Theatre Inc.’s inaugural production, *Lawyers and Other Communicable Diseases*, and she is relishing a future that will see her developing her skills even further. “Dance is an art form that takes years of practice to perfect, and I still have much to learn,” says Jessica. ■



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## Convocation

invites all graduates and other members of Convocation to attend the

### First Ordinary Meeting

to be held on Friday 15 March 2013 at 6.30pm for a 7pm start at the Banquet Hall, The University Club.

The results of the 2013 Convocation elections will be announced at the meeting.

**Guest Speaker:** Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton AO

Who will speak on: ‘The search for wisdom: the first hundred years’

RSVP on (08) 6488 3006 or via [convocation@uwa.edu.au](mailto:convocation@uwa.edu.au)

Refreshments will follow the meeting.



# From the Warden



**One of the more important events on our calendar is the Convocation postgraduate research travel awards ceremony, held in November each year.**

These awards – established by Convocation to mark the 75th anniversary of the University – assist UWA graduate research students by providing an opportunity to travel interstate or overseas to augment their research.

One award is provided by BankWest, and the remaining awards are provided from donations by University graduates and from funds provided by the University Research Committee, the UWA Postgraduate Students' Association and the UWA Student Guild.

This year we were fortunate to have a number of special guests attend the ceremony, and their presence reinforced the significance of the event. These guests included two former Chancellors of the University – Dr Ken Michael (also, of course, a former Governor of Western Australia) and Clinical Professor Alex Cohen AO.

An award named in honour of another Chancellor of the University, the late Geoffrey Kennedy, was presented by Mrs Alison Kennedy.

We were also fortunate to have the University's Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Winthrop Professor Bill Loudon and Winthrop Professor Alan Dench, Dean of the Graduate Research School, in attendance. Professor Loudon made the opening address. And Mr Alex Leyland, BankWest's Head of Strategy, presented the BankWest Postgraduate Research Travel Award.

A number of award recipients were not able to attend the ceremony. One such recipient, Scott Bennett, asked me to record his thanks as follows:

"Thank you to Convocation for this award and the opportunity to travel to South Africa for my research.

Without funding from Convocation this trip would not have been possible. This award has opened up some fantastic research opportunities comparing the effects of climate on coastal reefs of South Africa and Western Australia with our colleagues in the University of Cape Town for which I am very grateful."

Scott's remarks, I think, demonstrate the value of the Convocation postgraduate research travel awards and the benefits that can accrue to recipients of the awards.

These Convocation awards are not possible without the assistance and involvement of the Postgraduate Students' Association, the Graduate Research School and, in particular, UWA Research Services. The role of Research Services is to advise, make recommendations and provide information to the Academic Council on research matters including the formation of the research component of the University budget, the allocation of research funds, and the formulation of University research policy and the research management plan.

Convocation is, needless to say, very grateful for the support of these UWA bodies.

To conclude the ceremony, a recipient of a Convocation Postgraduate Research Travel Award last year – Zarin Salter – gave an inspiring account of her research and the research benefits resulting from the award. Zarin is a PhD candidate at UWA, undertaking research in the field of education for sustainability. Her research explores the impact of whole-school education for sustainability on the environmental knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour of upper-primary school students and their families.

Zarin's award allowed her to travel to the US to extend her PhD work on using mind maps to explore primary school students' understandings of sustainability and the environment.

On another matter – and as you may know – Convocation's Centenary gift to the University is, as the major sponsor, the creation of a Shaun Tan sundial, 'Hours to Sunset', in Venetian glass mosaic tiles on the west-facing wall of the University Club. Shaun Tan, of course, is the first University graduate to win an Oscar, Hollywood's highest accolade. I am very pleased to be able to host the launch of the mosaic, which will take place at sundown on 9 February as part of the University's Alumni Weekend Centenary celebrations. I look forward to seeing as many graduates as possible at the launch and on the weekend. ■

**Best wishes**  
**David Hodgkinson**  
**Warden of Convocation**



Alan, Ann and Michael Osborne at Oxford



David Sherwood, WA Rhodes Scholar 2013

# The Bunbury connection

The line connecting Bunbury and Oxford may not, until now, have appeared very clear. There's a world dividing the relatively young South-West port city and the prestigious university town established almost 1000 years ago.

But in the past two years that connection has grown noticeably stronger, with Bunbury delivering both of the last two WA Rhodes Scholars – The University of Western Australia honours students Rachel Paterson (2012) and David Sherwood (2013). In addition, the town has produced one of Oxford's newest lecturers, Dr Michael Osborne.

The secret to all this Oxford success may have something to do with a quiet pair of Bunbury high school teachers who have UWA practically running through their veins.

That pair happens to be Michael Osborne's parents, Alan and Ann Osborne, both UWA graduates who met on campus in the early 1970s. Alan lived at St George's College, while Ann was at St Catherine's College.

Alan Osborne has just retired after 39 years as a teacher, 25 of them at Bunbury Senior High School where David Sherwood studied, while Ann was at the Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School – from which Rachel Paterson graduated – for 20 years before she, too, retired.

On being named this year's Rhodes Scholar, David Sherwood said of his teacher: "If I could name the person who has inspired me the most throughout my education, it would be Alan Osborne."

Alan Osborne returned the compliment, saying David was part of a unique class of brilliant students, a number of whom went on to UWA.

"They all could have been duxes in their own right," says Mr Osborne. "We have never had another year like it. I taught David in chemistry, and he would be doing the prac work before the other kids were out of bed. When a kid like that steps up, everybody else grows a little bit more. You only need one

of those every 20 years or so and then you think yeah, the job is worthwhile."

David has just completed his Bachelor of Science (Advanced), with honours in Chemistry and a thesis on the application of nanotechnology to sexual reproduction in honey bees. When he heads to Oxford this August, he plans to change his focus from research to politics, philosophy and economics, with a view to a career in educational reform.

Thanks to his former teacher, he won't go in completely blind – Alan Osborne plans to link him up with his Oxford-based son, Dr Osborne, when he visits Bunbury in March.

Dr Osborne, who graduated with first class Honours in mechanical engineering and later received a British Industries scholarship, is now a lecturer and Engineering Science tutorial fellow at Exeter College, Oxford, and external tutor at Somerville College, Oxford.

It's perhaps no surprise, with a family so steeped in education, that Dr Osborne should be drawn to academia. The Osborne family is full of not only teachers, but UWA graduates, including Alan Osborne's other son Geoffrey who, like his brother, studied engineering and became an honours student.

"My own brother is a UWA graduate, there's myself and my wife Ann, my two sons, my cousin Ian and his ex-wife Sue, and several nieces and nephews," says Alan. "I have sent heaps of kids to UWA as has Ann, particularly to St George's College and St Catherine's. I feel almost like an ambassador.

"We just feel we are very small players on the stage but we have been lucky to have fantastic connections with the kids." ■



# Your legacy to UWA

Dr John Harriot  
UWA alumnus and supporter

The University of Western Australia was founded on a spirit of philanthropy with a bequest from Sir John Winthrop Hackett. His legacy continues to thrive as we prepare to celebrate our Centenary.

Alumnus Dr John Harriott is continuing this tradition by leaving a bequest to establish an academic chair in a field of psychiatry at UWA. His support will have a long-lasting positive impact on the mental health of future generations.

Join John and become part of the University's next 100 years by including UWA in your will.

For information contact the Bequest Manager, Anne Liddle on +61 8 6488 8537, email [anne.liddle@uwa.edu.au](mailto:anne.liddle@uwa.edu.au) or visit our website [development.uwa.edu.au/bequests](http://development.uwa.edu.au/bequests)



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# Thanks to the UWA Business School's many supporters, our Centenary ambitions are now even greater.

# 100

The UWA Business School building opened in 2009 after a successful fundraising campaign supported and driven by WA's business community.

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This means our faculty is conducting even more innovative research, our students are driving greater positive social change, and our graduates are taking on even greater leadership roles.

To our many alumni, corporate partners and donors whose generous and ongoing support have made, and continue to make, these achievements possible, we have just one thing to say:

Thank you.

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 <b>ALCOA</b>		 <b>ATCO AUSTRALIA</b>		 <b>ERNST &amp; YOUNG</b> Quality In Everything We Do		 <b>Mitsubishi Development Pty Ltd</b>	
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 <b>mivac</b>		 <b>NWQ</b> National Workforce Quality		 <b>RESCUE</b> Australia's Leading		 <b>Aviation Corporate Limited</b>	
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