15 SEPTEMBER 2010

1 PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

UWA students win prestigious Governor-General’s Undergraduate Essay Competition

Two UWA law students have performed exceptionally in taking out the top two prizes in the Governor-General’s Undergraduate Essay Competition conducted by the Constitution Education Fund Australia (CEFA). Recognised as Australia’s most prestigious essay competition, first Prize was awarded to Peter Congdon, a law student at UWA. Peter wrote an essay discussing the role of the Crown in today’s working Australian Constitution.

Virginia Gogan, also a UWA student, was awarded the Second Prize in the competition. Virginia’s essay was on whether Chinese investment in Australia represents a threat or an opportunity for our nation.

All finalists are interviewed by an eminent panel chaired by The Hon Robert French AC, Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, and also a graduate of this University.

UWA student wins Law Student of the Year

A final-year Law student at The University of Western Australia has been named Law Student of the Year at the inaugural 2010 Lawyers Weekly Icon Awards.

Clare McKay, of Shenton Park, who is studying Law and Arts, was recognised for her participation in several mooting competitions and presentation of many significant papers as well as four vacation clerkships in leading commercial law firms, stints as a barrister’s research assistant and volunteer community work.
She is Education Vice-President of the Blackstone Society, UWA Law Students' Society, where she has established a students' academic mentoring program for first-year law students.

**UWA Students win global Google Online Marketing Challenge second year running**

A team of students from The University of Western Australia Business School have recently become the global winners of the Google Online Marketing Challenge. The team of UWA postgraduate marketing students beat 3,033 other teams from 60 countries. This is a fantastic achievement.

This year's winning team, was made up of Lauren Williams, Ganesh Chaudhari, Jeeana Atmarow, Allison Miller, Mohammed Assiri and Hui Min Chua. Each member of the team will receive a laptop and an opportunity to visit the Googleplex in Mountain View, California.

This is the second year that UWA has won the global competition, after a class of undergraduate marketing students won in 2008. This year, another UWA team working with Kirby Swim Mandurah also reached the final fifteen teams globally.

**UWA Students win Australian Championship of Students in Free Enterprise Competition third year running**

The University of Western Australia Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team has won the Qantas SIFE Australia Championship for the third year running. The team of 15 UWA students travelled to Melbourne for the competition. The team competed against 28 other universities, making it through three rounds to finally emerge as the national champions.

SIFE UWA was represented by Hayden Teo, Calvin Coyles, Catherine Mah, Ajay Malhotra, Sonia Paris, and Hannah Berdal. The SIFE UWA team is assisted by Dr. Doina Olaru and Dr. Donella Caspersz, both from the UWA Business School. The staff and students involved have made an exceptional effort to win the national championships and the University community wishes them the best of luck in the world championships, which will be held from 10-12 October in Los Angeles.

**UWA researchers win Eureka Prize**

A research project from The University of Western Australia that has revolutionised the surveillance and monitoring of potential threats in the nation's vast air, sea and land space is one of the winners of the 21st Annual Australian Museum Eureka Prizes.

Winthrop Professor Ba-Ngu Vo, his brother Assistant Professor Ba-Tuong Vo, and Winthrop Professor Antonio Cantoni from UWA’s School of Electrical, Electronic and Computer Engineering have developed a new family of algorithms for tracking multiple targets - a system which outperforms and is cheaper than previous methods.
The team is the first to measure the margin of error in defence tracking systems and their work - already in use in international surveillance including the US Space Fence - has led to systems being simpler and more accurate. Their findings also enable thousands, rather than hundreds, of targets to be tracked using standard computers and the system can be adapted for other uses including traffic control.

The team's prize was awarded in the category of Eureka Prize for Outstanding Science in Support of Defence or National Security.

**UWA scientist and Premier's Fellow elected to the Royal Society - Professor Malcolm McCulloch**

Coral reef expert, Premier's Fellow and research leader at The University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute, Professor Malcolm McCulloch, has been elected to the prestigious Royal Society.

Professor McCulloch is one of 44 new Fellows to join the ranks of the UK and Commonwealth's leading scientists as the Royal Society celebrates its 350th Anniversary. Professor McCulloch's election to the Society has put him alongside the leading scientists of his generation.

The Royal Society is the world's oldest scientific academy in continuous existence, and has been at the forefront of enquiry and discovery since its foundation in 1660. The backbone of the Society is its Fellowship of the most eminent scientists of the day that are elected by peer review for life.

Professor McCulloch is a distinguished isotope geochemist who, over many years, has made highly original contributions to our understanding of the Earth and early solar systems.

Over the past decade he has been a trailblazer in developing innovative new indicators of climate change preserved in coral skeletons. He has demonstrated a direct link between the degradation of the Great Barrier Reef and the build up of human activity in Australia following colonisation, examining the effects of river runoff on inshore reefs, and of climate change and ocean acidification on coral reefs.

He is one of two Deputy Directors at UWA's Oceans Institute and in 2009 was responsible for establishing a new node for the ARC Centre of Excellence in Coral Reef Studies at UWA. He has received a number of prestigious awards, including Fellowships of the Australian Academy of Science (2004), the Geological Society of Australia (2007), the Geochemical Society (2008) and the American Geophysical Union (2002). In 2009, he was awarded the Jaeger Medal in Earth Sciences by the Australian Academy of Sciences.
**Clunies Ross Award for pain and risk free liver test developer - Professor Tim St Pierre**

Professor Tim St Pierre, a UWA physicist who has researched the magnetic properties of iron in biology and medicine for 25 years, won a Clunies Ross award in May 2010 for his 'significant and positive influence on the lives of many Australians'.

Presented by the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE), the award honours leading Australian innovators impacting global development in fields such as nuclear science, mining technology, microelectronics and health whose work bridges the gap between research and the marketplace.

Professor St Pierre follows in the footsteps of previous UWA winners including Nobel Laureate Professor Barry Marshall and Winthrop Professor Fiona Wood.

Professor St Pierre, of the Biomagnetics Group in UWA's School of Physics, has developed a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)-based method of measuring and imaging tissue-damaging iron deposits in the human liver caused by iron-overload diseases such as thalassaemia and hereditary haemochromatosis. The method is non-invasive, risk free and pain free.

**UWA researcher wins NSW Literary Prize - Professor Philip Mead**

The University of Western Australia's Winthrop Professor Philip Mead has won the New South Wales Premier's Literary Prize for Literary Scholarship for his book, *Networked Language: Culture and History in Australian Poetry*.

Professor Mead was appointed Chair in Australian Literature at the University last year.

This award enhances Professor Mead's role as a national and international leader in the study and appreciation of Australia's creative writers and their work, and in taking Australian literature to national and international audiences.

In awarding the prize, the judges said: "This book appealed to the committee as adventurous and forward-looking as well as profoundly scholarly. It is insightful and constructive in its diagnosis of academic and public culture in Australia, and to changing attitudes to poetry as a 'national' medium. It locates the local and national very thoroughly in the global. Finally, it looks back but also forward to a poetry that is perhaps not yet fully intelligible or recognisable."
RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Life and Agricultural Sciences at UWA – highest ranking in Australia

The disciplines of Life and Agricultural Sciences at The University of Western Australia have been ranked the highest in Australia and 34th in the world according to the prestigious Shanghai Jiao Tong University World University Rankings in 2010.

Our University has been supporting agricultural industries across Australia since its establishment nearly 100 years ago and the University’s high standing is an important reflection of the significance of agricultural teaching and research at UWA.

UWA's contribution to international efforts to combat climate change, in identifying and dealing with land and water management, herbicide resistance, the development of drought-resistant and salt-tolerant plants, in sustainability and the efficiency of agricultural and animal production and in plant energy biology are fundamental to feeding the world and the survival of our planet.

In the field of Clinical Medicine and Pharmacology, the University was ranked in the top 51-75 Universities in the world. UWA's medical faculty is also highly-regarded and consistently ranks among the world's top 100.

The University has moved into 112th place overall in the international research rankings, cementing its place as one of Australia's leading universities.

UWA performs well in ARC Linkage Grants awards - $12.6 million in funding

West Australian industry and the State Government have contributed more than $22 million to a series of research projects that won Federal Government funding in the latest round of linkage grants for The University of Western Australia.

The industry and government support will enable the University to conduct research into a wide range of areas, including agriculture, mining, business and management, education, health and science and the environment.

The 22 grants involve more than 50 partner organisations, $12.6 million in Federal funding and $22.2 million in partner organisation funds.

UWA to lead world class research national centres of excellence - $24.5m awarded to Centre of Excellence in the History of Emotion

The University of Western Australia is leading or collaborating in more than half of Australia's new Centres of Excellence announced in July by the Federal Government.

UWA will be home to a $24.25 million Centre of Excellence in the History of Emotion and will work with other universities in Australia, Canada, China,
Europe, Israel, the United Kingdom and the United States in research ranging from astro-physics to geotechnical science and engineering.

UWA's inclusion in seven of the nation's 13 Centres of Excellence ranked it second in Australia in these research ventures. This is outstanding recognition of the high quality of our researchers across a spectrum of disciplines.

The Centre of Excellence in the History of Emotion will be directed by UWA historian, Winthrop Professor Philippa Maddern of the School of Humanities. Emotions shape our mental, physical and social well-being and this research will illuminate this crucial aspect of Australia's cultural and social heritage, and invigorate Australian culture through major reflective performances in drama, opera and art.

By addressing the big question of how societies think, feel and function, it will provide greatly enhanced understandings of how to improve emotional health among modern Australians. It will train and mentor a new generation of young Australian researchers and heighten Australia's international reputation for excellence in Humanities and Performing Arts research.

UWA is also involved in six other Centres of Excellence:

- **All-Sky Astrophysics** will expand Australia's research capabilities and boost Australia's track record as a world leader in astronomy, including work at UWA on the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project.
- **Core to Crust Fluid Systems** will develop new frameworks for mineral and energy exploration based on fundamental advances in geodynamics and a new understanding of fluid transport at lithosphere scales.
- **Engineered Quantum Systems** will produce novel devices and technologies through the engineering of quantum coherent systems, enabling powerful new applications across a range of fields.
- **Environmental Decisions** will generate the knowledge and tools needed to make the best use of available resources for conservation.
- **Geotechnical Science and Engineering** will provide engineers with new science-based tools for predicting the safety of offshore and onshore geostructures such as oil and gas platforms, roads, railways, tunnels, dams, and port facilities.
- **Study of Cognition and its Disorders** will inform the diagnosis and treatment of a range of cognitive disorders, including dyslexia, language impairment, autism, dementia and schizophrenia.

**Researchers win $9 million for national centres of excellence**

In July, researchers at UWA were awarded more than $9 million in Federal funding to focus on Aboriginal health, asbestos-related diseases and early childhood respiratory disease. On 20 July, the Federal Parliamentary Secretary for Health, the Hon. Mark Butler MP announced the National Health and Medical Research Council funding for three new Centres for Research Excellence at a press conference held at UWA.
Winthrop Professor Fiona Stanley, Director of the Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, received $2.5 million over five years to lead research into Aboriginal health and wellbeing.

Winthrop Professor Bruce Robinson, Director of the National Centre for Asbestos-Related Diseases, has been awarded $4.5 million over five years to further his centre's research focusing on improving diagnosis, early intervention strategies and improving treatment of asbestos-related diseases.

Researchers led by Clinical Professor Stephen Stick were awarded almost $2.5 million over five years to continue their ground-breaking research into early cystic fibrosis lung disease as well as improve understanding and management of other chronic lung diseases.

The announcement recognised the outstanding quality of UWA's medical researchers and indicated that the University remained on track to achieve its aim of becoming one of the world's top 100 research universities by 2013.

The teaching and research strength of The University of Western Australia has ensured the State's medical research community continues to produce research outcomes for the benefit of the entire community - locally, nationally and internationally.

**UWA researchers dominate health awards**

More than half the outstanding new researchers awarded funding to carry out important medical and health research in WA are from The University of Western Australia.

Assistant Professor Anita Chua, Assistant Professor Wendy Davis, Dr Brad Zhang, Dr Shelley Gorman and Dr Graeme Zosky were among nine recipients of the 2010 New Independent Researcher Infrastructure Support (NIRIS) Awards, announced by Western Australia's Chief Medical Officer Simon Towler.

They have been awarded $10,000 each for projects ranging from the effects of red meat on bowel cancer and the effect of sunlight-induced vitamin D on immune responses to the origins of chronic lung disease and the cost and impact of type 2 diabetes. The awards give the new researchers the funds needed to obtain the resources and infrastructure required to further develop their research careers.

The WA Department of Health funds the awards, recognising the need to sustain and enhance innovative medical and health research in WA. More than 70 WA-based researchers have received NIRIS funding since the award's inception in 2001.
3 EDUCATION

Australian Learning and Teaching Council funding to Engineering

UWA's latest grant winners for funding from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council both come from within the field of engineering.

Winthrop Professor Caroline Baillie from the School of Environmental Systems Engineering within the Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics has been successful in attracting funding of $200,000 with her project 'Engineering thresholds: an approach to curriculum renewal'. A unique opportunity has arisen at UWA to build on the global developments in threshold concept driven curriculum development and to adopt the framework as the underlying basis of a new Engineering Foundation program, which most UWA engineering students will take.

Mr Chris Rowles, an Associate lecturer within UWA's School of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering, is part of a project team being led from the University of Queensland. The project titled 'Curriculum Renewal in Engineering Through Theory-Driven Evaluation' attracted a grant from the Australian Learning and Teaching Council of $219,000.

The aims of the project are to provide a comparative evaluation of the EWB Challenge, an analysis of the mechanisms and contexts that result in good learning outcomes and a theory of curriculum renewal which can be tested across multiple disciplines.

UWA staff recognised in Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC) awards

Six staff from The University of Western Australia have been recognised for their outstanding contributions to student learning in the ALTC awards announced in July. They are:

- **Winthrop Professor Lesley Vidovich** of UWA’s Graduate School of Education: for motivating and inspiring students. Professor Vidovich is particularly interested in social justice and in education in countries across Asia, Europe and Africa as well as Australia.

- **Winthrop Professor Lawrie Beilin** of UWA’s School of Medicine and Pharmacology: for three decades of exemplary leadership in teaching and learning.

- **Winthrop Professor John Campbell Murdoch** of UWA’s Rural Clinical School: for leading the team which developed WA’s first rural medicine curriculum, setting up a ‘bush faculty’ despite many saying it couldn’t be done.

- **Professor Carolyn Oldham** of UWA’s Faculty of Engineering, Computing and Mathematics: for increasing the diversity of student learning experiences in engineering, including encouraging the ‘Engineers Without Borders’ competition in which students apply engineering skills to solving third-world problems.
• **Winthrop Professor Michael Tobar** of UWA’s School of Physics: for inspiring Physics students to reach their full potential through sharing knowledge between people of diverse backgrounds and experience. By including all his students in ground-breaking research, they are transformed into successful research scientists.

• **Professor Paul Fournier** of UWA’s School of Sport Science, Exercise and Health: for 15 years of post-graduate teaching and research supervision in exercise biochemistry, diabetes research, evolutionary biology, and nutrition biochemistry.

Citations, valued at $10,000 each, are awarded nationally to both academic and professional staff who have demonstrated sustained dedication to improving the quality of the student learning experience. The UWA winners will receive their awards on Wednesday 11 August in the Perth Town Hall.

**UWA Awards for Excellence in Teaching**

The University of Western Australia has awarded its highest accolade for excellence in teaching to six exceptional teachers selected from the UWA nominations to the national Australian Learning and Teaching Council Awards.

Two *UWA Awards for Excellence in Teaching* were presented to Winthrop Professor Lawrie Beilin from the School of Medicine and Pharmacology at the Royal Perth Hospital, and to Environmental Systems Engineer, Professor Carolyn Oldham.

Winthrop Professor Campbell Murdoch from the Rural Clinical School in Bunbury and Assistant Professor Mark Pegrum from UWA’s Graduate School of Education both received an Award for Excellence in Teaching (Innovation).

The School of Physics' Winthrop Professor and Australian Research Council Australian Laureate Fellow Mike Tobar received the UWA Award for Excellence in Teaching (Postgraduate Supervision).

Graduate Education Officer Dr Krystyna Haq was presented with the UWA Award for Excellence in Teaching (Teaching and Learning Support).

It is extremely important that we celebrate the achievement of our fine teachers. UWA recognises those who are excellent in their own field and those who promote excellence in their work. In so doing, they have a very positive impact on both our students and the University as a whole.
UWA Open Day 2010

The UWA Open Day was held recently on Sunday 15 August. The day was a tremendous success with many thousands of West Australians flocking to the Crawley Campus to enjoy the event. The University grounds were busy all day from the opening at 10.00am through until late in the afternoon. The information sessions for prospective undergraduate students were extremely popular with venues being full to capacity. Fortunately, the weather was exceptional which only added to the good spirit of the day.

I would like to thank all staff and students who volunteered their time on a Sunday to support the University. It is a measure of the dedication of our staff and students that so many actively and enthusiastically participate in the UWA Open Day on their weekend.

Good Universities Guide 2011

Australia's foremost independent non-government rating publication - The Good Universities Guide - has just been released and confirmed The University of Western Australia's position as the premier University in the State and one of the best Universities in Australia.

The Good Universities Guide 2011 has given UWA a top five-star rating for student demand, graduate outcomes, getting a job, graduate starting salary, staff qualifications, staff-student ratios, research grants, research intensivity and rigorous entry standards ("toughness to get in").

The University received the Guide's second highest ranking for teaching quality, generic skills, graduate satisfaction, access by equity groups and international enrolments.

The Guide recognised UWA's ambition to be in the top 50 universities in the world by 2050. It described the University as having "a very strong and growing research track record" and assessed UWA as the university of "... first preference for the top achievers among WA school leavers".

The Guide also noted what it described as UWA's push to "... ensure it secures the brightest and best from all groups through a range of scholarships, awards and outreach programs ...".

The rating is very welcome as it again confirmed the high quality of UWA's staff and students and the University's excellent results from teaching and research. Our lecturers and researchers are of the highest quality, giving the leaders of tomorrow - our students - the best possible education.
Perth International Arts Festival appoints new artistic director 2012 – 2015

The director of one of the UK’s largest and most vibrant arts festivals has been appointed as artistic director of the Perth International Arts Festival, founded by The University of Western Australia.

Jonathan Holloway, currently artistic director and chief executive of the 238-year-old Norfolk & Norwich Festival, will take over the artistic direction of the Perth Festival from 2012-2015, following the departure of current artistic director Shelagh Magadza after the 2011 Festival.

Mr Holloway’s career embraces festival artistic direction, production, creative direction, theatre direction, writing, education and a contribution to the arts through board membership. Mr Holloway would further strengthen the Perth International Arts Festival’s reputation as one of the most exciting festivals in Australia, and the world.

Jonathan Holloway’s stewardship of the Norfolk and Norwich Festival since 2004 has transformed that festival’s scale and influence. Audiences have grown ten-fold, turnover has increased by over 500 per cent, ticket sales have tripled and the festival is now the fourth largest city arts festival in the UK.

Mr Holloway will commence work in Perth later this year, observing the full 2011 program, before guiding the artistic direction of the next four festivals.

UWA a founding member of international university network

The University of Western Australia has become a foundation member of a new international network of high-quality universities across seven nations. The leading research-intensive universities, which pride themselves on the quality of the university experience, are among some of the oldest institutions in their respective countries. They include:

- Dartmouth College (New Hampshire, USA; est. 1769)
- Durham University (England; est. 1832)
- Eberhard Karls University of Tubingen (Germany; est. 1477)
- Queen's University (Canada; est. 1841)
- University of Otago (New Zealand; est. 1869)
- The University of Western Australia (Australia; est. 1911); and
- Uppsala University (Sweden; est. 1477).

The group, known as the Matariki Network of Universities, is a select group recognised for their international practice in teaching and learning. They are universities which encourage their students to live on and around campus to enrich their experience of student life and learning.

UWA's membership of the select group would have significant benefits for the University and its students, and the network would harness their combined expertise to tackle world-wide issues. Our University is very proud of its
reputation for excellence and its record in providing an outstanding student experience. This international collaboration will enable UWA to extend our teaching and research networks and enrich the education of our students even further.

This network will complement our current direction in broadening the education of our students with a range of new courses to add breadth and depth and to enhance critical thinking, research and communication skills.

An inaugural meeting of the Matariki Network has already discussed a program of activities including exchange programs for academics, students and administrative staff, research networks, visiting fellowships, joint postgraduate programs and collaboration on major international projects, as well as social responsibility projects, cultural and sporting activities.

‘Matariki’ is the Maori name for the group of stars called the Pleiades, which are also known as the Seven Sisters. ‘Matariki’ is also the word for the Maori New Year, symbolising a new beginning.

**New Child Care Centre**

Staff and students of The University of Western Australia will benefit from a new 100-place childcare centre to be built on the University's campus at the corner of Clifton and Gordon Streets, Nedlands. Work on the centre started in May and is expected to be completed in 12 months. Local residents, staff and students have been advised of the commencement of the project, which was approved by the WA Planning Commission in 2008.

The single-storey building will meet the highest standards of environmentally sustainable design, including passive solar heating, glazing to minimise the use of artificial light, use of recycled rainwater for toilets and energy use indicators. The building plan has been designed to preserve many large mature trees on the site.

The University has a long history of support for the provision of on-site childcare for the benefit of its staff and students with family responsibilities. It was one of the first public institutions in Western Australia to establish a childcare facility.

The centre will provide long day care for up to 100 children up to five years old, primarily the children of mature-age students and staff of the University.

**Alan Robson**
**Vice-Chancellor**

*Office of the Vice-Chancellor, The University of Western Australia*