



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WESTERN  
AUSTRALIA**

# Graduation Ceremony

**Winthrop Hall**

Tuesday, 19 December 2023 at 10am



# A message from the Chancellor

## The Hon Robert S French AC CtiWA

Graduation from The University of Western Australia is an achievement reflecting years of commitment to higher learning. It also marks the acquisition of the ability to continue to learn, to reason critically and, over time, to acquire the wisdom that comes by joining learning and reasoning to life experience.



It is an achievement which makes you all part of our history. As the holder of a degree at The University of Western Australia, you join generations of students who have passed through the lecture theatres and tutorial rooms at the University, since it came into existence in 1911. You are now part of its history as much as it is part of yours.

The prime mover in the establishment of the University was its first Chancellor, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, a leading Western Australian politician, philanthropist and the proprietor of The West Australian newspaper.

The University's purpose, from its foundation, was expressed in practical terms – to provide instruction in 'practical arts and liberal studies' which would help develop the fledging economy of Western Australia and thereby 'advance the prosperity and welfare of the people'. The University's motto encompasses that purpose with a higher ideal in urging all who pass through it to 'seek wisdom'.

The first 184 students enrolled at the University attended their lectures, which began on 31 March 1913, in timber and iron huts located in Irwin Street, Perth. From those humble beginnings the generation and transmission of knowledge, expertise and innovation at The University of Western Australia has played a significant part in the economic development of Western Australia. It has inspired the work of thousands of researchers and equipped tens of thousands of graduates to contribute in myriad ways to our society.

UWA is one of the world's leading universities. Our graduates go into the world equipped with skills and qualifications which will enable them to engage with the pressing challenges of the day and to advance our society in all fields of human endeavour.

I wish you well as you apply your learning, and the wisdom acquired by life experience combined with that learning, for the benefit of Western Australia, our nation and the wider global community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert French". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# A message from the Vice-Chancellor

## Professor Amit Chakma

Graduation day is a special day for the University, our graduates and their families and friends.

On this occasion, we gather as a university community to celebrate your academic success and to wish you the very best as you embark on your respective journeys.



I offer my warmest congratulations to all our graduates. You have worked hard and met the demanding standards of a UWA degree. You are to be commended for your academic achievements.

As you graduate, please remember that your learning days are not over. Learning is a lifelong process. We have prepared you to be master learners. Continue to Seek Wisdom.

We have not given you answers to all questions. We hope that what remains with you is the ability to approach new issues objectively and with an open mind, and always tempered with empathy for the human condition.

You are graduating at a time when humanity is facing many challenges. The need for highly educated and talented people has never been greater. Our world needs talented young people like you to bring a fresh perspective and knowledge in tackling these problems.

You are among the fortunate few to have attended one of the finest universities in the world. You have what it takes to take these challenges on and chart a brighter course for yourselves, your community, your country, and indeed for humanity. As citizens of the globe, you are our gift to the world. We are counting on you for your ingenuity, creativity, and leadership. Go out there, be bold, live a life of impact, and make us proud.

As graduates, you become members of convocation. You are forever a cherished member of this great institution founded over a century ago. Wherever your life's journey may take you, UWA will always be your home. Come home, and come often. Your Alma Mater will be waiting for you!

Congratulations to all of you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amit Chakma'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

# Indigenous commitment

## Dr Richard Walley OAM

### Indigenous protocol

As Noongar people: We respect place and people, plants and animals. It is a holistic respect. We pay tribute to events and ceremonies. We embrace people and change while maintaining links to ancient cultures and practices.

### Noongar people

Noongar people are the original inhabitants of the South West of Western Australia and form one of the largest Aboriginal cultural blocks in Australia. The 14 different language groups – Amangu, Yued/Yuat, Whadjuk/Wajuk, Binjareb/Pinjarup, Wardandi, Balardong/Ballardong, Nyakinyaki, Wilman, Ganeang, Bibulmun/Piblemen, Mineng, Goreng, Wudjari and Njunga/Noongar – have ownership of all Noongar kaartdijin (knowledge) and culture.

### Boodjar (Country)

The ancestral lands of Aboriginal people. UWA is situated on Noongar Boodjar, in the land of the Whadjuk Noongar people.

### Welcome to Country

A Welcome to Country celebrates Aboriginal people's connection with the land, acknowledges Aboriginal people as the traditional owners of the land, and welcomes visitors and guests to their land.

### Acknowledgement of Country

An Acknowledgement of Country occurs when an elder or custodian is unavailable to deliver the Welcome to Country. In this case a senior representative of the organisation recognises the traditional owners and their ongoing connection and responsibilities to Country.

### Blessing

A blessing is delivered by an Elder, or custodian of the country, who extends best wishes for future journeys to individuals who have spent time on Country.

## National Anthem

The assembly is invited to sing the first verse of the Australian National Anthem.

Australians all let us rejoice,  
For we are one and free;  
We've golden soil and wealth for toil;  
Our home is girt by sea;  
Our land abounds in nature's gifts  
Of beauty rich and rare;  
In history's page, let every stage  
Advance Australia Fair.  
In joyful strains then let us sing,  
Advance Australia Fair.

## The Procession

The ceremony commences with the entrance of the Procession.

There is an order of precedence, with the most senior ranking persons appearing at the end of the Procession. Thus, lecturers and senior lecturers will enter the Hall first, followed by the professoriate and former honorary degree recipients. They are followed by members of the Senate, which is the University's governing body, and the Warden of Convocation, representing the body of graduates of the University. The highest ranking officials of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor and Chancellor, are the last to mount the stage.

The Procession can also include representatives of other universities and dignitaries of local, state and national governments.

# Order of Proceedings

Organ recital by the University Organist\*

Introduction by the Chair of Academic Board\*

The procession will enter and the assembly is requested to stand

The National Anthem

Proceedings will be opened by the Chancellor\*

Welcome to Country

Vice-Chancellor's Address\*

Guest Address

Conferral of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Awards

Conferral of Doctoral Degrees

Welcome Address by the Warden of Convocation\*

Valedictorian Address

Proceedings will be closed by the Chancellor\*

The procession will retire and the assembly is requested to stand

*\*On occasion, a representative may fulfil this ceremonial role.*

# Guest Address Speaker Profile

**Professor Archa Fox, BSc(Hons) UNSW PhD USYD**

Professor Archa Fox studied her Bachelor of Science at the University of New South Wales, majoring in molecular genetics. She went on to study her PhD at the University of Sydney (awarded in the year 2000) and carried out her postdoctoral research in Dundee, Scotland.

There she learnt to combine cell biology and microscopy with molecular biology. In 2006, she started her own research group at the Western Australian Institute for Medical Research, now known as the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. In 2015 she took up an academic position at the University of WA.

She has been the recipient of the Marshall Medal of the Harry Perkins Institute in 2012, and the emerging leader award of the Australian/NZ Society of Cell and Developmental Biology in 2017. In 2020/21 she was a Director of the International RNA Society and has been the Chair of the RNA Network of Australia since 2015.

Archa's work focuses on gene regulation mediated by long noncoding RNAs, specifically subnuclear paraspeckles in homeostasis and different diseases.



## Your UWA graduate community

Graduating from University is a momentous achievement and it is our great pleasure to offer heartfelt congratulations on behalf of your fellow UWA graduates.

We'd like to thank you for choosing to study at UWA and for showing admirable dedication in pursuing your educational goals. As a graduate, you will now embark on an exciting new journey – stepping beyond the guidance of professors and tutors – to follow your dreams and fulfil personal and professional goals. However, graduation is only the beginning of a proud, life-long affiliation with your University.

Welcome to your global community of over 145,000 UWA graduates, you are now all members of UWA's Convocation!

To ensure you receive event invitations, voting ballots and graduate communications, please update your contact details by visiting [alumni.uwa.edu.au/update](https://alumni.uwa.edu.au/update), or by scanning the QR code.



We wish you well in your future endeavours and look forward to celebrating the success you find.  
ConGRADulations!



## Stay involved with UWA

Through the power of UWA's graduate network, you'll find avenues for personal growth, life-long learning, volunteering, social engagement and fellowship with your peers. Wherever you go in the world, you will have access to peers who can support your career goals.

As a graduate, you are now a member of the Convocation of UWA Graduates, a legally constituted body – unique to UWA – which provides you with the opportunity to share in, and contribute to, the future intellectual and cultural prosperity of the University.

You are eligible to vote for members of the Council of Convocation and representatives on the Senate of UWA, and to be nominated for these roles. To find out more about how to get involved please visit [convocation.uwa.edu.au](https://convocation.uwa.edu.au).

We encourage you to continue your relationship with UWA – to vote, attend events, stay in touch and get involved in UWA alumni life!



**Lead:** in ways that reflect your passions. Bring together other graduates to achieve great things and share your story to inspire others.



**Learn:** through events, thought leadership, short courses and resources like library membership, UniHub, alumni newsletters and *Uniview* magazine.



**Network:** with your global community of over 145,000 graduates.



**Volunteer:** as a mentor, network ambassador, committee member, or by sharing your story, hosting a work integrated learning student or organising a reunion.



**Give:** through the UWA Alumni Fund where the kindness and generosity of our UWA graduates, staff and friends continues to change the lives of UWA students.

Find out more by visiting [alumni.uwa.edu.au](https://alumni.uwa.edu.au)



# The University's Graduation Ceremonies at Winthrop Hall

The first students to graduate from UWA graduated on 29 July 1914.

Graduation ceremonies were originally held in the Government House Ballroom, until the official opening of Winthrop Hall on 13 April 1932. The Hall is one of the Hackett Memorial Buildings financed substantially by the very generous bequest received from the estate of Sir John Winthrop Hackett. It is located at the southern end of Whitfeld Court, contributing a great deal to the impressive nature of the University's entrance.

In those early years, a single annual ceremony was sufficient for all graduating students. Today with more than 25,000 enrolled students and more than 6,800 degrees, diplomas and certificates awarded annually, the University conducts more than 20 ceremonies each year, all in Winthrop Hall.

Measuring 41 metres long by 18 metres wide and with a height from floor to ceiling of 15 metres, Winthrop Hall seats 1069 people in the body of the Hall and 150 or more on the dais. The foyer features a mosaic floor of Italian marble, a gilded mosaic panel in memory of Sir Alfred Langler, whose financial skill as administrator of the Hackett estate resulted in the University receiving a considerably enhanced bequest, and a stained glass window in honour of Dr William Hancock, a pioneer of radiology in Western Australia and former member of the Senate, the governing body of the University.

Upon entering the Hall, the impressive sights of the McGillivray Organ and the Rose Window sit above the dais at the opposite end of the Hall. Jarrah panelling lines the lower half of all other walls, each of which bears the shields of other Australian and some overseas universities. The shield for this University is hung centrally at the back of the dais and is a modified version of the shield in the original UWA Coat of Arms registered with the College of Arms in 1972.

The ceiling was decorated by George Benson in 1931. In 2007, during the restoration of the organ and the cleaning of the Rose Window, University staff rediscovered some secret paintings. Benson included 10 caricatures, two unfinished, of various local dignitaries at the time. Only four of the caricatures have been identified to date: Dr James Battye, Sir Walter James, Judge John Northmore and Dr William Somerville, while the others still remain a mystery.

## Academic gowns

The practice of wearing academic dress on formal occasions has a long and illustrious history. The title of Chancellor was originally bestowed on important officials in the medieval church and was later applied to the chief dignitary of a university. It also refers to the chief judicial officer of England, the Lord Chancellor, whose robes are similar to those worn by university chancellors. Thus, it is important to remember that the gowns of the Chancellor (who is appointed by the Senate), the Pro-Chancellor (who is elected by the Senate to act on the Chancellor's behalf when he or she is unavailable), and the Vice-Chancellor (who is the Chief Executive Officer of the University), are not strictly academic gowns: they do not signify the wearer's degree but the office held.

The **Chancellor's gown** is of black silk faced with white silk and trimmed with gold braid down each front. A flap collar at the back is faced with white silk and trimmed with gold braid and with open sleeves fully lined with white silk, trimmed with gold braid and turned back to form a triangle bisected by two loops of gold cord from the shoulders. The cap is a black velvet trencher with gold tassel and button and trimmed with three centimetres of gold braid.

The **Pro-Chancellor's** gown is similar to the Chancellor's gown but trimmed with gold cord down each front with a flap collar at the back faced with white silk. This is also trimmed with gold cord, with open sleeves fully lined with white silk, trimmed with gold cord and turned back to form a triangle bisected by a loop of gold cord from the shoulders. The Pro-Chancellor also wears a black velvet trencher cap with gold tassel and button and trimmed with one-and-a-half centimetres of gold braid.

The **Vice-Chancellor's** gown is trimmed with silver braid down each front with a flap collar at the back faced with white silk. Silver braid trims this collar and the open sleeves are fully lined with white silk, rimmed with silver braid and turned back to form a triangle bisected by two loops of silver cord from the shoulders. The black velvet trencher cap has a silver tassel and button and is trimmed with three centimetres of silver braid.

# Officers of the University

As at December 2023

## **Chancellor**

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA

## **Pro-Chancellor**

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng *W.Aust.*

## **Executive**

### **Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Amit Chakma, Diplng IAP, MAsc PhD UBC, DEng (Hons) Waterloo, DSc (Hons) Dhaka, PEng, ICD.D

### **Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Tim Colmer, BSc(Agric) *W.Aust.*, PhD UC Davis

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)**

Professor Anna Nowak, MBBS PhD *W.Aust.*, MLdshp Deakin, FRACP, GAICD

### **Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education)**

Professor David Sadler, FRSA, PFHEA, NTF, MAICD

### **Chief Financial Officer**

Ms Leona Marquand, BA(Hons) UOP, DipIFR ACCA, GradDipAppFin FASEA, FCA

## **Other principal office-bearers**

### **Chair of the Academic Board**

Professor Raymond Da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD *W.Aust.*

### **Visitor**

His Excellency the Honorable Chris Dawson AC APM, Governor of Western Australia, *ex-officio*

### **Warden of Convocation**

Emeritus Professor Jenny Gregory AM, BA PhD *W.Aust.*

### **Immediate Past Warden of Convocation**

Clinical Professor Lesley Cala, MBBS MD *W.Aust.*, DMRD, FRANZCR, FRCR

### **Pro Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous Education)**

Professor Jill Milroy AM, BA *W.Aust.*

# University Senate

## **Ex officio – Chancellor**

The Honourable Robert S French AC CitWA (Chancellor and Chair)

## **Ex officio – Vice-Chancellor**

Professor Amit Chakma, Diplng IAP, MAsc PhD UBC, DEng(Hons) Waterloo, DSc(Hons) Dhaka, PEng, ICD.D (Vice-Chancellor)

## **Appointed by the Governor**

Ms Susan (Sue) Murphy AO, BEng W.Aust. (Pro-Chancellor and Deputy Chair)

Ms Joanne Farrell, BSc W.Aust., GradDipMgt Curtin, BLP UNSW, SLP LBS

Ms Linda Kenyon, BJuris, LLB W.Aust., FGIA

## **Elected by Convocation**

Adjunct Professor Warren Kerr AM, BArch W.Aust., MHP UNSW, LFRAIA, FACHSM, FAIM, Hon. AIA, Hon. FNZIA

Adjunct Professor Dr Brett Davies, BJuris, LLB, LLM, Dip.Ed, B.Arts(Hons), SJD W.Aust. MBA Murdoch, CTA, AIAMA

## **Ex officio – Chair Academic Board**

Professor Raymond (Ray) da Silva Rosa, BCom PhD W.Aust.

## **Elected by Academic Staff**

Professor Serena Dipierro, BMath MMath UniBa, PhD SISSA

## **Elected by Students**

Ms Indi Creed (Student Guild President)

Mr Christopher-John Daudu, BBiomedSc GradCertIntReIns W.Aust. (Post-Graduate Student Association President)

## **Elected by General Staff**

Ms Jill (Jillian) Benn, BComm(Media)(Hons) E.Cowan, GradDip(InfoLibStds) Curtin, GAICD, PFHEA

## **Co-opted**

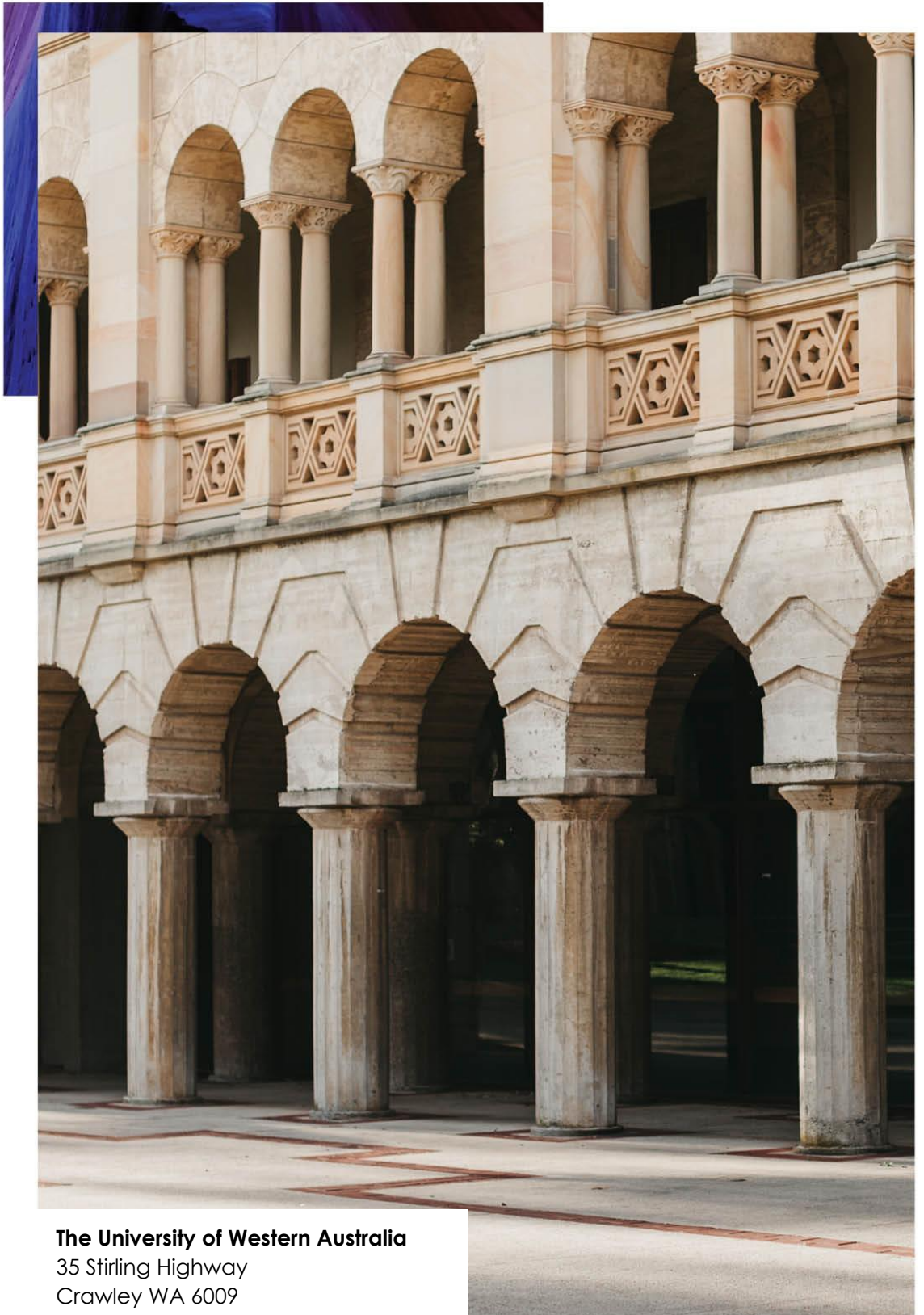
Mr Michael Byrne, MSc DU

Dr Robert (Bob) Olivier, BSc W.Aust., BSocSc(Hons) Curtin, PhD W.Aust.

Ms Julie O'Neill, BEc(Hons), EMBA W.Aust.

Dr Jane den Hollander AO, BSc(Hons) MSc Wits, PhD Card., Hon Doc Deakin, Hon Doc Card.

The Honourable Neil McKerracher KC, LLB W.Aust.



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