

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA



## Adelaide research fuels petrol alternatives

### ● Automotive Engineering

With higher fuel prices here to stay, is biodiesel one of the answers to our reliance on petroleum-based fuels?

University of Adelaide researchers are investigating biodiesel's potential, not just for larger vehicles such as trucks which are the traditional users of diesel, but for engines in cars and even motorcycles.

Dr Colin Kestell and Dr Con Doolan oversee the new and extremely popular Automotive Engineering degree offered by the University's School of Mechanical Engineering, and will be working together with industry and Automotive Engineering undergraduate and postgraduate students to research and develop biodiesel as a viable and sustainable fuel.

They say biodiesel has many advantages compared with petroleum and even other mooted fuel alternatives.

"Biodiesel is a sustainable fuel which is already available and is being used around the world," Dr Kestell said.

"There are a number of councils and transport authorities around Australia that are using it, with garbage trucks, buses or road sweepers using either a mix of traditional diesel and biodiesel, or biodiesel alone.

"What we are looking to do is to use the research expertise available here at the University, and in conjunction with industry, look at developing smaller engine systems for cars or

even smaller vehicles which can use biodiesel effectively and efficiently."

Diesel engines differ than from petrol engines because they compress air to high temperatures to ignite the fuel, rather than use spark plugs. As a result, diesel engines are more fuel efficient but rely on a heavier, less refined and less volatile fuel.

This has seen diesel engines used primarily in bigger vehicles with correspondingly bigger engines, such as buses, trucks and tractors. But recent developments in engine technology mean that smaller, clean, efficient and quiet diesels can be used in everyday cars.

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# Adelaidean

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

I've been reflecting recently about the ways in which our University engages with the community. This engagement is an important part of what we do, and several recent events have underlined our success.

Last month I travelled to Tasmania to help promote the first group of University of Adelaide-trained dentists undertaking clinical placements in the Tasmanian dental system. Under the scheme, the Federal Government allocated our Dental School extra places to be filled by students who would then be placed in Tasmania for clinical practice. Tasmania is experiencing a shortage of dentists and we were delighted to be able to help, in the same way that we are working with authorities in New South Wales. It also has the added benefit of strengthening the teaching and learning quality in our Dental School.

What did strike me was the overwhelmingly positive response from Tasmanians towards our assistance. It reinforced that the University of Adelaide, while it obviously has a major impact on the South Australian community, also has a strong engagement with communities across the country. Of course, these links have also involved partnerships with the University of Tasmania and the University of Newcastle, and this has been an added benefit.

This national contribution became even more apparent with the announcement of University alumnus Dr Robin Warren as a joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine. Dr Warren graduated from Adelaide in 1961 with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery, and has been based for some time with the Royal Perth Hospital. He received the award for his work with Barry Marshall on the link between a particular type of bacteria and stomach ulcers.

He becomes the fifth member of the University of Adelaide alumni community to receive a Nobel Prize – quite an accomplishment for a university of our size and in this country. Dr Warren's achievements reflect a lifetime of dedication to engaging with the community and making a more than sizeable impact upon it, and I congratulate him on his success.

I also recently attended a function to recognise the formal links between the University and Australia's foremost dance institution, the Australian Ballet. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Ballet,

and have begun work on a major joint research project with the Ballet and the National Library of Australia.

Led by Elder Conservatorium lecturer Dr Mark Carroll, this project received the largest ever research grant (almost \$370,000) for Australia's Performing Arts from the Australian Research Council. It will examine the ongoing impact of the Ballets Russes tours to Australia between 1936 and 1940 which in themselves thoroughly engaged the community of the time, and the research project and associated performances by the Australian Ballet promises to further engage us over the next three to four years.

These are just some of the latest demonstrations of our community engagement, and there are many others.

However, while all this is happening, it is depressing to read in the OECD's *Education At A Glance* publication for 2005 that Australia is one of the OECD countries which is not increasing its investment in tertiary education in line with rising student numbers. Locally, the new book *State of South Australia*, edited by the University's John Spoehr, highlights that more needs to be done to keep young people from lower socio-economic areas in education for longer. These issues are not unrelated with one being a visible demonstration of the value we place on education and the other an outcome of that investment. The University can engage with the community, energise our economy and promote social wellbeing, but only if resources are made available.

We are already taking some direct action: we have reached an in-principle agreement with the Smith Family which will see us work together to increase participation and access to education for students in Adelaide's north-western and western suburbs. It is vital that every member of our community is able to achieve their potential, and, in turn, contribute to our future.

JAMES A. McWha  
Vice-Chancellor

# Adelaide research fuels petrol alternatives

continued from page 1

"The 'bio' in biodiesel stems from the fact that it can be derived from almost any type of oil: oil-yielding plants, algae, or even waste fat and oil, such as discarded oil from fish and chip shops," Dr Doolan said.

"It is cheap to make and it is eco-friendly, because the source of the fuel absorbs carbon dioxide as it grows, rather than fossil fuels which are non-renewable.

"The main issue associated with biodiesel is the associated

emissions of some pollutants. We hope to provide a better understanding of the biodiesel combustion process in internal combustion engines, and look at engine designs which maximise fuel efficiency and performance while also minimising emissions."

Dr Kestell said that in 2006 final-year Engineering students, as part of their course, will design and build a biodiesel motorbike to show how versatile the fuel is.

"It's only going to be a one-off prototype, but it still makes an important statement, that a biodiesel engine doesn't need to be big to be effective," Dr Kestell said. "You could have a canola farmer using a biodiesel motorbike to check on his crops, and to run it with the fuel which comes from the oil in the canola plants he's checking!

"A common criticism of biodiesel is that it will be impossible to produce sufficient quantities for current

or predicted fuel demands. We think biodiesel isn't the definitive alternative fuel that will replace all others – rather, it's just one part of an overall solution which involves hydrogen fuel cells and other biofuels such as ethanol.

"In Germany, biodiesel already accounts for 10% of its transport diesel consumption and if that figure is applied worldwide, then it's quite significant."

Story by Ben Osborne

# Graduate's Nobel success

## ● Achievement

The University of Adelaide's most recent Nobel Laureate once again exemplifies the quality of graduates who have been recognised worldwide for their creativity, knowledge and skills.

And 1961 Medicine graduate Dr J. Robin Warren, who last month jointly received the Nobel Prize for Medicine with Professor Barry Marshall, joins an impressive list of University of Adelaide scientists who have made an impact on people's lives through their research.

Dr Warren and Professor Marshall demonstrated the association between peptic ulcers and a new species of bacteria they had discovered called *Helicobacter pylori*. Eradication of the bacteria resulted in healing of gastritis and the ulcers rarely recurred.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha congratulated Dr Warren on this exceptional achievement.

"I congratulate Dr Warren for being awarded the Nobel Prize in recognition of his contribution to medicine," Professor McWha said. "It is always a proud moment when a graduate excels, especially on the world stage."

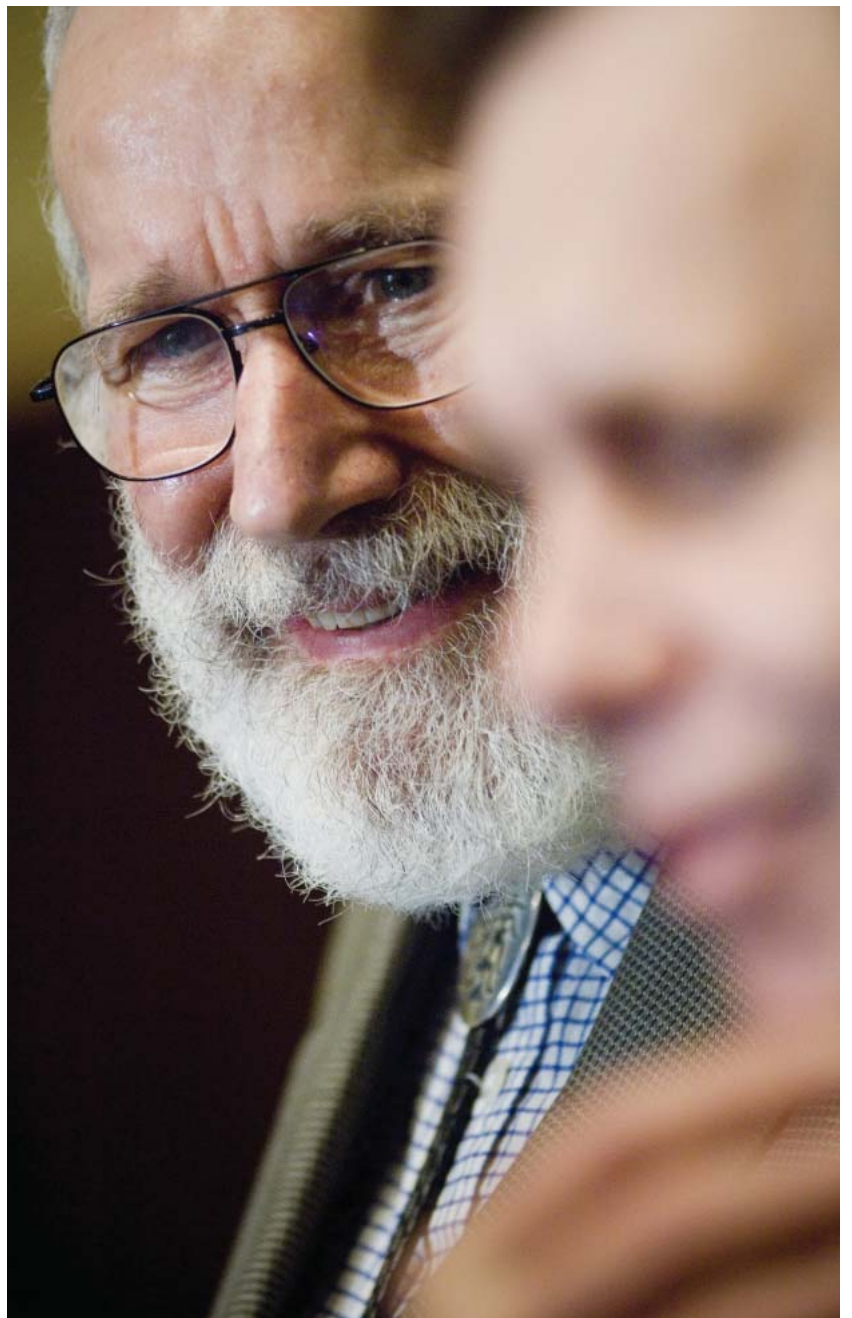
"I am sure everyone at the university will be as thrilled as I am at Dr Warren's achievement."

With Dr Warren's success, the University of Adelaide is now directly associated with four of Australia's 12 Nobel Laureates, and one international recipient.

The other winners are:

- Father and son team William Henry Bragg and William Lawrence Bragg became the first Australians to win the award when they won the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1915. William Henry was a Professor of Maths and Physics at the University while William Lawrence – still the youngest person to have won a Nobel Prize, at age 25 – graduated in Mathematics in 1908.
- Howard Walter Florey was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945 for his pioneering work in penicillin after graduating in Medicine from Adelaide in 1921.
- South African Dr JM Coetzee, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2003, is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide's Discipline of English.

Story by Howard Salkow



Robin Warren (left) with Barry Marshall

Photo by Tony McDonough, courtesy of Raw Image

# \$15.6m health funding boost tops State

## ● Research

The University of Adelaide continues to lead the way for medical research in South Australia after winning more than \$15.6 million in funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council.

The University was awarded more than double the amount of the other two South Australian universities combined, with Flinders University receiving \$6.4 million and the University of South Australia \$0.86 million.

This year's funding for the University of Adelaide also represents more than 64% of the total funding of \$24.2 million awarded by the NHMRC to South Australian institutions, and is an increase of 6% on last year's NHRMC funding for the University of Adelaide of approximately \$14.7 million.

"It is an encouraging result and further highlights the quality and diversity of research conducted at the University of Adelaide," University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said.

"What it also shows is how our researchers are engaging with the community – they are working hard to better understand and find solutions to medical problems which impact on all of us."

### Funding highlights include:

- Professor Caroline Crowther from the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology receiving the largest grant of more than \$1.2 million for a randomised controlled trial of vaginal progesterone for the prevention of neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome;
- Professor Michael Sawyer from the Department of Paediatrics leading two research teams, and being involved in a third team led by Associate Professor Peter Baghurst from the Women's and Children's Hospital, working on children's and mother's mental health issues;

- Professor Shaun McColl from the University's School of Molecular and Biomedical Science being awarded funding of more than \$960,000 for two projects on tumour cells and immune system functions.

"I am very pleased that the NHMRC has recognised our research strength in areas such as reproductive medicine, children's mental health, and molecular and biomedical sciences," Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Neville Marsh said.

In all, the University received 28 new project grants and two five-year research fellowships. Researchers come from the University's Faculty of Health Sciences and Faculty of Science, and University research partners at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Royal Adelaide Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Child Health Research Institute, Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and the Hanson Institute.

Story by Ben Osborne

# Brad's catch of the day: yellowtail kingfish, and research!

## ● Environmental Biology

University of Adelaide researcher Brad Smith is enjoying the best of both worlds as he pursues wild yellowtail kingfish in Port Augusta.

The avid fisherman, who holds the South Australian record of 36kg for a kingfish in the 24kg line class, is currently in Port Augusta capturing, tagging, and then releasing kingfish as part of a project to investigate their seasonal migratory habits.

Awarded to the University of Adelaide, the aim of the \$500,000 three-year project is to learn more about the habits of wild fish.

"Limited data exists on wild populations of yellowtail kingfish in South Australia and the commercial fishery in South Australia is small. They are, however, a prized catch for recreational anglers," says Dr Bronwyn Gillanders, a Research Fellow in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide.

"Kingfish are believed to migrate to northern Spencer Gulf seasonally, possibly as part of a spawning migration.

"Adult kingfish are thought to leave the Spencer Gulf in summer and disperse after congregating for a brief period in areas such as Coffin Bay. The exact nature of kingfish migrations in Spencer Gulf remains unknown."

Dr Gillanders said this is one of a number of 'Innovative Solutions' research projects jointly funded by the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation and Primary Industries Resources South Australia that focus on the sustainable management of resources, establishing environmental benchmarks, improving aquaculture productivity and better use of technology in aquaculture.



Brad Smith with a yellowtail kingfish  
Photo by Kate Hutson

Earlier this year, Brad tagged 10 fish over 15kg including a 36.2kg fish, all landed using rod and reel. One was recaptured in the same location three months later.

Brad is now working with Reggie Godfrey, a retired professional fisherman from Port Augusta, to capture, tag and release even more of these large fish.

Representatives from the Adelaide Game Fishing Club have also volunteered for the project. South

Australian Fish Tagging, who co-ordinate the database on tagging and recaptures, provide the tags.

Certain information is required if a tagged fish is caught: tag or serial number; the date the fish was caught; the location where it was caught; the species of fish caught (whether it was kept or not); and the fish's length and weight (or estimate if released).

Story by Howard Salkow



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# Roseworthy's \$81.5m pork boost

 Agricultural Science

(from left) Professor Neville Marsh, Dr Roger Campbell and Minister Peter McGauran  
Photo by Lisa Reid

A guided tour of the Roseworthy campus piggery for Federal Minister for Agriculture, Peter McGauran, put a fragrant finish to the official launch of the Pork Cooperative Research Centre at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy campus last month.

The University of Adelaide's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Neville Marsh, accompanying the Minister for the launch, said the Pork CRC would be a major resource for the Australian pork industry.

"The Pork CRC will bring together researchers working on pork production, benefiting industry through research in the use of

feed grain, gains through genetic improvements and nutritional developments flowing from improved feed conversion," Professor Marsh said.

"Almost all of Australia's pig research and development institutions are involved and the benefits of sharing resources and research findings will pay huge dividends for the pork industry, making Australia more competitive in the global market."

The Pork CRC will receive \$81.5 million over seven years, made up of cash, labour, in-kind and research and development contributions worth \$55 million, as well as \$26 million contributed by the Federal

Government. It is hosted by the University of Adelaide at its Roseworthy campus.

The Pork CRC's newly-appointed CEO, Dr Roger Campbell, said the gaps in the efficiency and competitiveness of the Australian industry need to be more clearly identified, allowing the Pork CRC to develop innovative research and development programs to overcome these issues.

"I am excited to be part of what will be a revitalisation of the Australian pork industry, and see potential for marked improvements in efficiencies and cost reductions," Dr Campbell said.

"We are seriously disadvantaged in Australia by the cost and supply of grain, so we will be researching ways of reducing grain usage, developing grains better suited to pigs, enhancing the availability of nutrients from grains and developing animals and systems that do not require high levels of feed.

"The programs we are developing in reproduction, animal health and new consumer pork products are also truly innovative and will certainly help in making Australia more competitive in the global market place and having Australia recognised as a world leader in pig research and development."

Story by Lisa Reid

# High praise for online learning

## ● Learning & Teaching

An on-line roleplay simulation that gives engineering students the opportunity to learn real-world skills has just won its creators another major award.

The Mekong eSim project, developed by Associate Professor Holger Maier for Civil and Environmental Engineering students, won the High Commendation from the Australasian Association for Engineering Education in the Curriculum Team Project Category of the Excellence in Engineering Education Awards.

Dr Maier developed the Mekong eSim with Dr Rob McLaughlan from the University of Technology, Sydney and in collaboration with Judi Baron, Allan Carrington and Dayle Hall from the University of Adelaide's Centre for Learning and Professional Development.

This is the eSim developers' fourth award, and Dr Maier's commitment and skills in engineering education have also been recognised by the University of Adelaide with a Stephen Cole the Elder prize for excellence in teaching in 2002.

"Developing engineering graduate attributes of communication, teamwork, sustainability and multidisciplinary and international practice is not an easy task in a traditional classroom setting," Dr Maier said.

"As the students adopt the roles of various stakeholders participating in public enquiries surrounding proposed engineering developments in the Mekong region in South-East Asia, they see the project from multiple perspectives and gain an understanding of the complexity of engineering projects and the drivers in decision-making processes.

"The Mekong eSim helps students learn that engineering is not about sitting at a desk with a calculator. It's about communicating."



An image from the Mekong eSim

The concept of the eSim as a learning and teaching tool has broad applications and Ms Sheila Kavanagh, a Burns Nurse educator from the University of Adelaide's Department of Clinical Nursing, has developed a "Disaster Down Under" eSim to assist nursing students to develop experience in emergency burns nursing practice and decision-making.

Ms Kavanagh, who received an Order of Australia for her part in the response to the 2002 Bali

bombing, understands that having experience in emergency response is critical to the success of a recovery from a major incident or disaster and has worked with Dr Maier to develop this eSim to give students a chance to work through the issues they might one day have to face in a real-life situation.

Story by Lisa Reid

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# Computer students' next program: the world!

Team KQ (from left) Patrick Coleman, Khang Tran and Alex Flint  
Photo by Ben Osborne

## ● Computer Sciences

A team of three Computer Science students will travel to the US next year to compete in the finals of the world's most prestigious programming contest after winning the regional finals recently.

The team – Alex Flint, Patrick Coleman and Khang Tran, and known as “KQ” – defeated 72 other elite Australian teams to win the South Pacific region of the Association for Computing Machinery International Collegiate Programming Contest.

They will now travel to San Antonio, Texas, in April next year, along with New Zealand winner, the University of Auckland, for the world finals

which will feature the best 80 teams from universities around the globe.

Amazingly, in a competition open to students in up to their fourth year of study, two of the winning team are first-year students and none is more than 18 years old. The team is also the first from South Australia to advance to the world finals.

The Head of Computer Science, Professor Mike Brooks, praised the students for their achievement and says it symbolises the ability and potential of Computer Science students at Adelaide.

“To be successful in this competition you have to be more than just a

programmer – you have to be able to problem-solve and think creatively,” Professor Brooks said.

“These are skills we aim to develop in our students at the University, and they’re skills that employers want in our graduates.”

For the contest, teams have five hours in which to solve a number of problems on one computer. Judging is relentlessly strict, with teams either given a “correct” or “incorrect” response to their complex answers.

For the regional finals, KQ got six out of nine questions right in the time allotted, while making the fewest mistakes.

“Part of the entertainment comes from the pressure you are put under due to the brutality of the testing – it’s either pass or fail, even if you’re

90% correct you still have to try again,” Khang said. “Sometimes it’s the last 10% that can take the most time to get right.”

“With three people in your team but only one computer, quite a bit of the success comes from effective teamwork, and being roughly the same in ability we seem to work together well,” Patrick said.

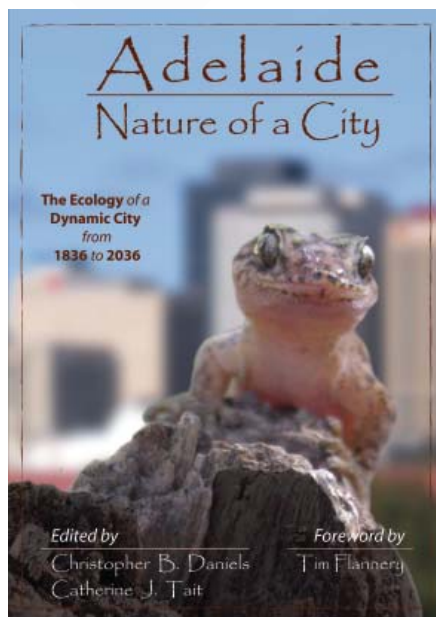
“Getting through the regional contest is a fantastic achievement – the competition is incredibly strong,” said University of Adelaide Computer Science lecturer and team coach, Brad Alexander.

“There were more than 4000 teams around the world which started the contest, so to make it through to the top 80 is a real achievement.”

Story by Ben Osborne



# The nature of – and how



## ● Environmental Biology

*Adelaide Nature of a City: The Ecology of a Dynamic City from 1836 to 2036* is the history of Adelaide as a habitat, a story that is unique because of our position as a city that was located by its founders on the most fertile, biodiverse land in the state.

Featuring contributions by 75 authors from virtually all the major scientific organisations in the state, the book has been produced by BioCity, the environmental research, education and communication centre based at the University of Adelaide.

Dr Chris Daniels, Associate Professor and Senior Research Fellow in Environmental Biology in the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences is one of the book's two editors. The other is fellow BioCity researcher Ms Catherine Tait.

"We are an extremely lucky city, but we could lose it all," Dr Daniels said.

"We're not doing enough to maintain the habitat we are fortunate enough to live in. If we don't want to lose our

natural biodiversity, we are going to have to do some work to keep it."

The book outlines the natural history of Adelaide and gives detailed descriptions of native and introduced species, the way the city was planned, the way it has grown, and its potential – for better or worse.

According to Dr Daniels, every house in Adelaide should have a copy of the book.

"What do you know about the land your house is on? This book enables everyone in Adelaide to read about their house, their suburb, the history of the area, the nature of the landscape," he said.

"Most mistakes result from a lack of information. This book tells you all about the land you're living on. If you are on a floodplain, you are going to get flooded, sooner or later. It might only happen once in a hundred years and it is highly likely there is infrastructure to protect you, but you need to know about that.





# our city *you can help*

"This sort of information also helps people to form a connection with the land and its history. Do not view your house and its yard as an investment or something that is yours and yours alone. It is part of the community. You have a responsibility as part of the community to know about your environment and to act within it.

"What we're saying here is not that your garden has to be native. If you like roses, that's great, that's part of the culture we live in. This book shows the bigger picture."

*Adelaide Nature of a City* outlines native and introduced species across Adelaide and also guides readers as to which are pests and which should be encouraged.

"I like to say 'express yourself in the front yard, but in the backyard, do something for the birds, lizards and butterflies,'" Dr Daniels said.

"It is great that we are all starting to think green, but it needs to be understood in terms broader than only electricity and water usage. To be truly green there must also be emphasis on habitat. It's about trees and animals, not just power and water."

Story by Lisa Reid



*Adelaide Nature of a City: The Ecology of a Dynamic City from 1836 to 2036* will be launched on Tuesday, November 22.

All proceeds from sales of the book will go back into Biocity. To find out more, read sample chapters, or download an order form, go to [www.biocity.edu.au](http://www.biocity.edu.au)



# Asha to help tsunami victims see brighter future

● Medicine

*Later this year, University of Adelaide medical student Asha Patel will travel to Sri Lanka to help families affected by the Boxing Day tsunami in December 2004. She writes for the Adelaidean about what she hopes to achieve.*



In November and December this year, I will be one of 18 Australian medical students who will be working with Unite For Sight and Sri Lanka-United Nations Friendship Organization (SUNFO), to provide eye care for the 24,580 families in the refugee camps in the tsunami-affected region of Galle, Sri Lanka.

The program has been organised by a number of passionate medical students and the Australian Medical Student's Association. It includes a five-day cultural and ophthalmology training course in Perth, followed by a month in Sri Lanka where we will be prescribing eye glasses, implementing education programs, screening for disease and bringing patients to an eye clinic for diagnosis and treatment.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, Eric Schwartz, visited Sri Lanka from September 2-6. He reported that eight months after the disaster, tens of thousands of tsunami survivors are living in basic shelters and shacks, with frustration on the rise.

As of August this year, some 800,000 people remain displaced in Sri Lanka by both the island's long-running civil war and the December 26, 2004 Tsunami disaster. All these people require shelter, food, water, sanitation and healthcare. Having lost their homes and incomes, their health has suffered immensely.

Organisations such as SUNFO are working tirelessly to help treat and prevent many diseases, and we hope that our contribution to eye health

will make a positive difference in the lives of the people in Galle; we know that even small changes can have a huge impact on people.

One of the key problems organisations like the Fred Hollows Foundation face is the lack of optometrists who can prescribe eyeglasses. This means the visiting ophthalmologists have to spend time doing these tasks, instead of performing more critical tasks such as cataract surgery.

Hopefully, our team can help Unite for Sight complete tasks, so that more experienced and qualified people can go ahead and better spend the time and resources they have. This way, even if we spend three weeks moving boxes of medical supplies, we will know we've helped make a difference.

At the same time, I do hope we won't just be moving boxes! Personally, I would love to learn about eye healthcare, but the chance to gain clinical experience is not my main motivation for going.

I want to get out of my usual life, out of my comfort zone, and test my limits.

I want to come home having learnt something about dealing with problems like losing personal space, homesickness and feeling out of my depth, so that I can be a better and more confident person and future doctor.

The long-term health needs of the community will definitely involve projects that are sustainable by community members, and in the few weeks that

Asha Patel with some of the supplies she will be taking over to Sri Lanka  
Photo by Howard Salkow

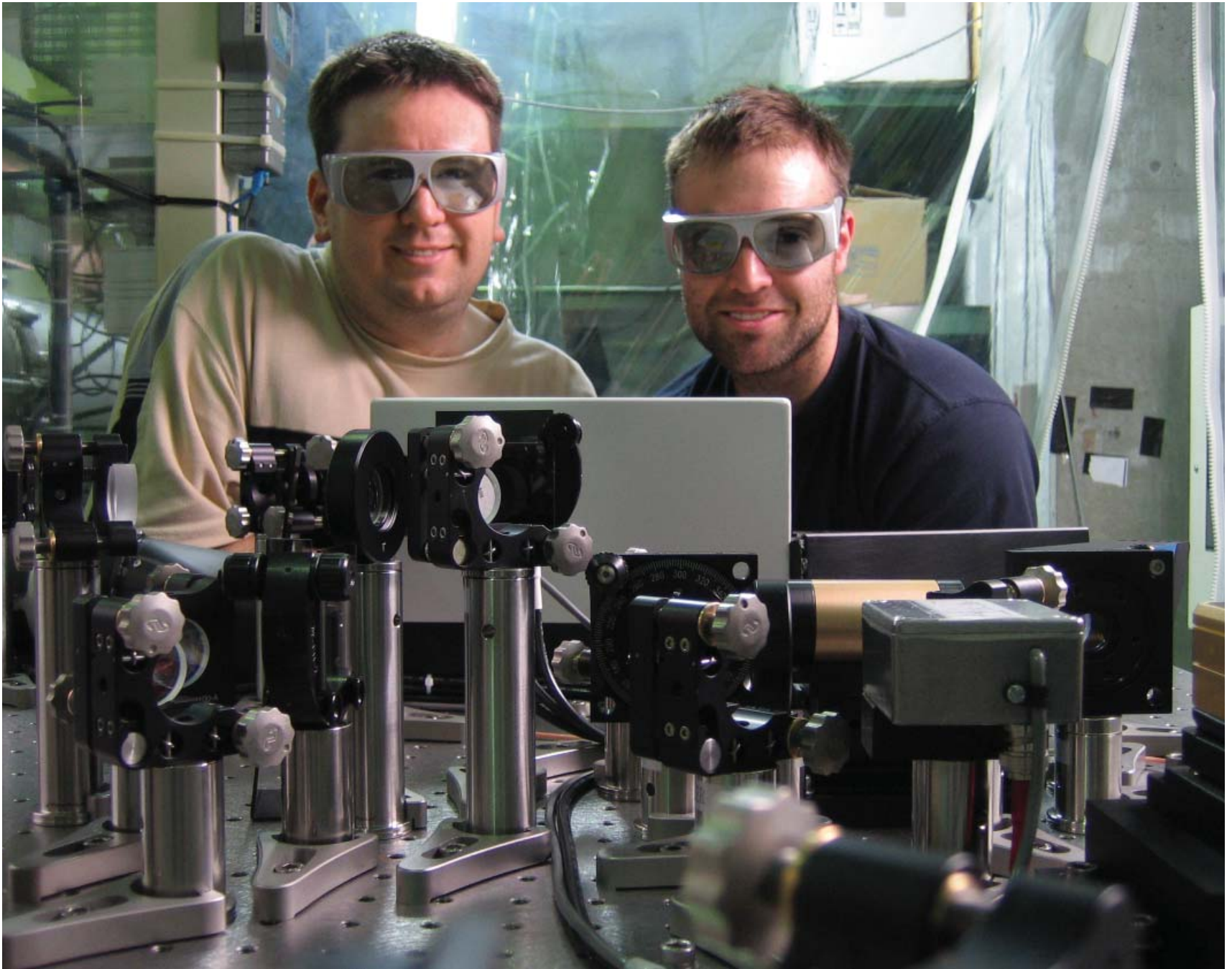
we are there, I hope we can help with training or planning these projects.

So far, preparations for the trip have been going well, and I have received a lot of support from my peers, and people in the community.

The University of Adelaide has always been a generous supporter of its students, and Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Professor Justin Beilby have given me a generous grant to pay for airfares and medical equipment. Optometrists Mark Parsons and Kevin Rooney have also taken time from their busy North Terrace practice to show me how to use equipment and screen for diseases.

The latest official figures show that by the end of July, foreign donors have delivered less than half of \$1 billion pledged for tsunami recovery. There is still such a long way to go, and I hope that we can come away from Sri Lanka feeling satisfied with our contribution. But I expect there will be times when we feel overwhelmed by the vastness of the tasks left to do.

I want our trip to help other Australians see that although there is a mountain to move, we can all lend a hand.



# New laser makes waves in Japan

## ● Physics

The University of Adelaide's Discipline of Physics is making its mark on the world stage by designing, building and exporting a high-tech laser to Japan.

After several years of development, students and staff have this month installed a super-stable laser on the Japanese TAMA-300 Gravitational Wave Interferometer, located at the National Astronomical Observatory on the western outskirts of Tokyo.

The laser is a 10 watt, single frequency, single mode, ultra-stable laser developed at the University of Adelaide, with a purely South Australian heritage linking it back to a pulsed laser range finder originally developed by the DSTO.

"The collaboration with Japan was developed through workshops with the Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy, of which the University is a founding member along with Australian National University and the University of Western Australia," said Professor Jesper Munch, Professor of Physics in the School of Chemistry and Physics.

"Our laser was chosen because of its superior performance and design, and will replace a laser manufactured by a large Japanese company."

Professor Munch said the scientific collaboration is expected to continue once the laser is incorporated into the interferometer.

"At that time the laser will have to work continuously, 24 hours per day, seven days a week, often completely unattended.

"It is required to emit 10 watts continuously, and be locked to the interferometer to result in an ultra-stable laser beam with extremely tight specifications for amplitude and frequency noise.

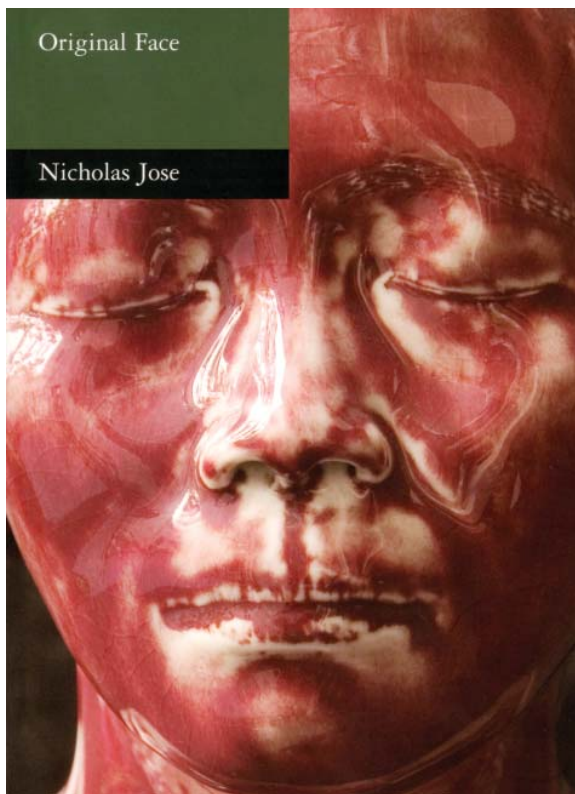
"Our laser is one of a very few in the world that can comfortably meet these requirements."

The development and fabrication was carried out in the Physics Department, primarily by PhD student, David Hosken, and post-doctoral research fellow, Dr Damien Mudge.

Laser developers Damien Mudge (left) and David Hosken  
Photo courtesy of Jesper Munch

They received expert technical assistance from technical officers, Blair Middlemiss, Trevor Waterhouse, Neville Wild and Bob Nation, and guidance from Dr Peter Veitch and Professor Munch.

"The complex hardware and electronic control system were all designed and built in the Physics Department, which for the past 15 years has established itself as a leader in laser and photonics research, including worldwide recognition as a leader in stable lasers for remote sensing," Professor Munch said.



Original Face

Nicholas Jose

# A new face for Jose

## Creative Writing

Professor Nicholas Jose, who recently joined the University of Adelaide as Chair of Creative Writing in the School of Humanities, is about to release a murder mystery, *Original Face*.

Part thriller, part satire and a very engaging murder mystery, the story starts with the skinning of a man and the disposal of his body at a rubbish tip.

"I had a Chinese friend who was a taxi driver. He was intelligent and well connected, but his passengers made judgements about him because of his what he did for a living and the assumptions they made about his understanding of English," Professor Jose said.

"He became invisible to them. As he drove politicians and business people across Sydney, they would talk openly in front of him about all manner of affairs, assuming he did not understand.

"In the end, his knowledge of so many things that were going on in the city was amazing because he was able to put together all the pieces from his many influential passengers.

"But all the clues are there if you see them, and he inspired me to put a taxi driver at the centre of *Original Face* because they are in the perfect position to see all the different communities in a city and how they interact as they cross the city carrying passengers from location to location."

*Original Face* is Professor Jose's seventh novel and the fourth dealing with Chinese subjects, reflective of the time Jose spent in China, both teaching and as Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy in Beijing from 1987 to 1990.

*Original Face* is published by Giramondo Publishing and has an RRP of \$27.95.

Story by Lisa Reid

# Examining our animal behaviour

## Social Sciences

Understanding why people seek out animals in their natural environment forms the basis for Professor Chilla Bulbeck's latest book, *Facing the Wild: Ecotourism, Conservation and Animal Encounters*.

Professor Bulbeck, who is the Foundation Chair of Women's Studies in the School of Social Sciences, said the book had its genesis from her personal experience with the renowned Monkey Mia dolphins in Western Australia in 1988.

"The experience was indescribable, not a situation for a social scientist. That sun-drenched dolphin-touched day was the first step on a journey of a thousand citations," she said.

"To understand Monkey Mia, I had to comprehend human relations with animals, the lure of wildness and the development of ecotourism.

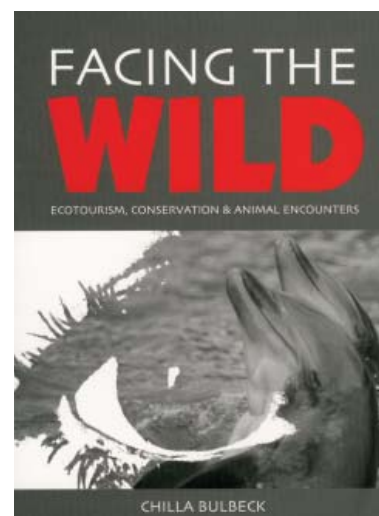
"I needed to explore these across time and space, looking for historical and cultural patterns. I wanted to know why humans in the West, despite (or perhaps because of) their animal-deficient environment, went in search of communication with dolphins, eye contact with big cats, and the vistas of apparently untouched nature."

Professor Bulbeck says that with encounters with wild animals we attempt to 'escape' our daily existence and work demands to a space where time is our own.

"Wild animals symbolize that leisure and pleasure – particularly those animals whose lives appear effortless and fun-filled, such as dolphins. After writing this book, I have come to the conclusion that some things about contact with animals cannot be said: those things which are not about the 'I' reflected in their 'eyes', but which are indeed about an indescribable, mysterious, deliriously pleasurable other," she said.

*Facing the Wild – Ecotourism, Conservation and Animal Encounters* is published by Earthscan, and is available from DA Information Services at [www.dadirect.com](http://www.dadirect.com)

Story by Howard Salkow



## Coming Events

### Wednesday, November 2

#### 6pm Young Investigator Award 2005:

Featuring guest speaker A/Prof Michael James, "Drug development: Where commerce meets ethics". Art Gallery of South Australia, RSVP by October 26 to (08) 8161 7165.

### Friday, November 11

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

One of Australia's finest pianists, Ian Munro, performs works by Chopin, Debussy, Ravel, and Beethoven. A rare opportunity to see one of Australia's leading musicians. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets \$5, and available at the door from 12.30pm.

### Friday, November 18

#### 1.10 Lunch Hour Concert Series:

**Allans Classical Music Awards**  
Four finalists from the Elder School of Music will compete for a total of \$2,400 in prize money, with winners announced at the end of the concert. Elder Hall, North Terrace. Tickets \$5, and available at the door from 12.30pm.

### Friday, November 25

#### 8pm Evening Concert Series:

The Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, in association with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, present Mahler's magnificent and moving Ninth Symphony in one

of South Australia's musical events of the year. Adelaide Town Hall, tickets available from BASS on 131 246

### Sunday, December 4

#### 11am Waite Arboretum guided walk:

Discover one of Adelaide's botanical treasures in the company of a knowledgeable guide. Waite Arboretum, Waite Campus (meet in front of Urrbrae House – enter from Fullarton Road. Free car park available).

### Monday, December 5

#### International Volunteer Day

The University celebrates the enormous contribution from its volunteers. North Terrace Campus.

# Lauren broadcasts message of awareness



Lauren Kandelaars  
Photo by Ben Osborne

## Media

Bachelor of Media student and Radio Adelaide volunteer Lauren Kandelaars has won a prestigious award for using her personal experiences to improve awareness of depression.

Lauren's five-part series *Living with the Black Dog* won the Media section of the Dr Margaret Tobin Award for Excellence in Mental Health 2005, for "Excellence in promoting positive

mental illness and mental health in a balanced and respectful way". She was presented with the award at a special presentation ceremony by State Health Minister, Ms Lea Stevens.

"I am so thrilled about this award. A lot of heart and soul went into this project and I'm just really excited that everything worked out well," said Lauren.

For the series, which aired on Radio Adelaide as part of its contribution to Mental Health Week, Lauren

drew on her personal experience of depression, discussing the onset of the illness, its treatment and her recovery.

She said young Australians are at risk of depression, with statistics showing one in five people will experience it at some point in their lives.

"It feels as if one half of your brain is constantly reminding you that what you are doing is not good enough, whereas the other half is telling you that everything is alright. I felt as though my mind was persistently

dragging me down," Lauren said.

"I kept trying to remind myself that 'Lauren, you are not like this', but basically it's not something that you can just snap out of.

"The series was a valuable therapy session as it helped me to get over things. By speaking openly about it, I realised that it is OK to express what you're feeling and that I shouldn't feel silly.

"I have never felt better in my life."

Story by Jasna Rojevic



## Macquarie Trio concert series

### Music

The Macquarie Trio Australia (from left) Michael Dauth, Kathryn Selby and Michael Goldschlager

Elder Hall will play host to one of Australia's leading piano trios, Macquarie Trio Australia, as part of its 2006 National Concert Season.

Featuring a new member, distinguished international violinist Michael Dauth, the trio will perform five concerts at Elder Hall beginning on March 26. Concert programs include masterworks by Beethoven, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Mozart, Dvorak and Shostakovich, as well as piano trios by Hummel, Lalo, George Rochberg and J.S. Bach.

The Sunday concerts will be held at 2.30pm on March 26, May 21, June 25, September 3 and November 5 at Elder Hall.

For more information, visit: [www.macquarietrio.com.au](http://www.macquarietrio.com.au)

### Giveaway

In conjunction with Macquarie Trio Australia, the *Adelaidean* is giving away two double subscription passes for its 2006 season in Adelaide, valued at \$200 each!

To enter, phone editor Ben Osborne on (08) 8303 5414. The first two callers will receive one double pass each.

# Helping students gain a start

## Scholarships

Starting university can be a daunting proposition, and for students coming from the country or interstate it can be especially challenging.

Since 2002, the University of Adelaide has provided the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund each year to help two exceptional students begin university life. Awards are available for up to four years of study, subject to satisfactory progress, and at least one scholarship each year is awarded to a student from a rural area.

The most recent recipients of the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund are Jeff Duncan and Natalie Payne.

Jeff, who hails from near Wentworth in New South Wales, is studying for a double degree in Mechanical Engineering and Economics, and said the Fund has helped relieve some of

the financial burden associated with studying away from home.

"It's helped me achieve a more balanced lifestyle, for which I am very grateful, and has made the transition to full-time university study in the city as smooth and as enjoyable as possible," he said.

Natalie, who comes from Tailem Bend, is studying Medicine and said the Fund has helped such things as purchasing textbooks.

"It's allowed me to concentrate on my study at university without having to worry about finding part-time work," she said.

"In a course such as medicine the contact hours are quite high, and the amount of work I'm required to do outside of university hours wouldn't allow me much time for a part-time job."



Natalie Payne



Jeff Duncan

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund – and the University of Adelaide's many other undergraduate scholarships – help students like Natalie and Jeff to achieve their academic goals.

For more information about how you can help, please contact the Alumni and Development Office on (08) 8303 5800, or visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni)

# Dairy expert wins ROCA merit award

## Alumni



Ron Mertin (left) receives his ROCA Award of Merit from ROCA president Mark Seeliger

dairy industry while in the Commonwealth Public Service," Mr Seeliger said. "His first overseas assignment was in 1976 when he was seconded to the then Australian Development Assistance Bureau Program to assist Pakistan in the development of dairy herds, dairy plant operations and village cooperative societies.

"Then followed a 20-year association with the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN and other agencies in other countries, including Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Bangladesh.

"In 1995 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to Australian-Asian relations as an adviser on dairy plant management. He was also a volunteer consultant with the Australian Expert Services Overseas Program serving in Vietnam, Fiji and Laos.

"Testament to his skills is that last year, at age 81, he was asked by the National Dairy Development Board of India to conduct a critical study of milk packaging systems in a network of milk plants, plus the logistics of milk distribution to New Delhi markets."

Mr Mertin joins a select group of Merit recipients including oenologists John Vickery and Philip Laffer, research scientist Graham Mitchell, and innovative horticulturist and marketer Grant Paech.

A Roseworthy Agricultural College graduate with a distinguished record of service to the dairy industries both in Australia and overseas is the winner of the 2005 Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association Award of Merit.

Mr Ron Mertin AM was presented with the award at the ROCA annual dinner in Adelaide last month.

In presenting the award, ROCA president Mr Mark Seeliger said Mr Mertin, who graduated in 1949 with a Diploma in Dairying, had had a 60-year career laced with achievements.

"Firstly, he managed dairy processing plants in SA and the ACT, then had 12 years high level service to the national

## Development & Alumni Events

### 1961 Roseworthy Graduates Reunion and Celebration Dinner

During the evening the group will have the opportunity to view the Wine Centre and an archival exhibition "A Century Partnership with Roseworthy", which will be on display from November 18 until the end of January 2006.

**Date:** Friday, November 18  
**Time:** 5pm  
**Venue:** National Wine Centre  
**Contact:** Harry Nash on (08) 8251 1062

### Cornell Chapter AGM and Dinner

Guest Speaker: Brett Sheehy, Artistic Director Adelaide Festival of Arts 2006

**Topic:** The Crisis in Art (and it's not art's fault)  
**Venue:** Ballroom, St Mark's College  
**Date:** Thursday, November 10  
**Time:** AGM 6.15pm, Dinner 7pm  
**Cost:** \$45  
**Bookings:** Alumni office on (08) 8303 5800

### Commerce Alumni End of Year Dinner (preceded by AGM)

**Venue:** First! - Level 1 Richmond Hotel (AGM held in Burnie Mills Room, Level 2 Security House, North Tce)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 23  
**Time:** 7pm onwards (AGM from 6pm-7pm)

**Cost:** Set Menu - \$38 per head  
**Bookings:** Places are strictly limited, RSVP to commerce.alumni@adelaide.edu.au by Monday, November 16

### Commerce Alumni Monthly Wine Tasting

Join your colleagues for some free wine tasting and a chat every month

**Venue:** Melbourne St Cellars, Melbourne St, North Adelaide  
**Date:** First Thursday of the month  
**Time:** 6pm-7pm  
**Cost:** FREE

Booking information: Just turn up. Any queries, email commerce.alumni@adelaide.edu.au

### Friends of the Library Author/Scholar Event

Guest speaker: Gay Bilson, renowned restaurateur and writer, won the 2005 Age Book of the Year Award and the 2005 Kibble Award for women writers with her book *Plenty: digressions on food*.

**Venue:** Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library  
**Date:** Thursday, November 17  
**Time:** 6pm for 6.30pm  
**Cost:** Free (gold coin donation invited)  
**Bookings:** Karen Hickman phone (08) 8303 4064.



# A musical alliance to the power of nine

## ● Music

The Elder Conservatorium of Music will finish off 2005 in style when it joins forces with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra later this month for one of the musical events of the year.

The final in the Conservatorium's Evening Concert Series, the November 25 performance will see the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra combine with the ASO at the Adelaide Town Hall to perform Mahler's renowned *Ninth Symphony*. To be conducted by ASO Music Director and Chief Conductor Arvo Volmer, it is believed to be the first performance of the work in South Australia for a number of decades.

Elder Professor of Music and Dean of the Elder Conservatorium,

Professor Charles Bodman Rae, said that the Mahler collaboration was a fitting end to an exceptional year of collaboration between the Conservatorium and the ASO.

"The ASO began its 2005 season with a performance of *Beethoven's Ninth Symphony*, with the stunning choral dimension provided by the strong, young voices of the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, which for the performance was known as the Adelaide Symphony Chorus," Professor Bodman Rae said.

"We are culminating our season with another collaboration with the ASO and another magnificent Ninth Symphony – this time, Gustav Mahler's."

Professor Bodman Rae said he was delighted that the ASO was able to collaborate with the Conservatorium, and acknowledged both their investment of orchestra

time and the substantial grant to the Conservatorium from the Helpmann Academy which has made the project possible.

"We chose Mahler's *Ninth Symphony* for this collaboration because it is one of the towering peaks, one of the grandest utterances of the symphonic repertoire," he said.

"It is a huge work that neither we nor the ASO would normally be able to tackle alone.

"For us, the Mahler project is all about the paradigm of professional mentoring, where students will sit alongside ASO principals who, in many cases, are their teachers at the Conservatorium.

"By combining forces, with the master-mentor idea permeating all sections of the orchestra, we are able to offer all the participants – performers and audience – a truly memorable experience.

Elder Conservatorium cellists Louise McKay (left) and Therese O'Brien (right) with ASO Principal Cellist and Conservatorium lecturer Janis Laurs  
Photo by Ben Osborne

"It is decades since this symphony was last heard in South Australia, so it promises to be one of the musical events of the year."

The Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra and the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Arvo Volmer, will perform Mahler's *Ninth Symphony* at the Adelaide Town Hall on Friday, November 25 at 8pm. Tickets are \$30/\$25/\$20 and are available from BASS outlets or Dial'n'Charge on 131 246, and are selling fast!



# Rower's rapid rise more than a stroke of luck

 Sport

Chris Morgan had never rowed before when he sat down on a rowing machine that formed part of the Adelaide University Boat Club's display during O Week in February 2003.

The 22-year-old Commerce graduate and Computer Science student was interested solely in the prize on offer for the fastest time over the machine's simulated 500m course: a carton of beer.

Chris not only got the beer, but in the process launched an international rowing career which in just two years has seen him make the national senior men's team and win gold at the World University Games.

"I remember thinking that the machine was the hardest thing I had ever done – it didn't last for very long but I was stuffed at the end of it," he

said. "They looked at the time and asked me if I'd like to come out and row for the club, and it's gone on from there."

Growing up, Chris had shown promise as a walker but decided not to pursue it as a long-term sporting option. He completed the first two years of his degrees in 2001 and 2002 without competing in any sport, and had been keeping fit by going to the gym.

"My nickname around the club is 'Walker'," he said. "When I came out for my first race, the person filling out the sheet put my name down as Chris Walker because they'd only ever heard me be called Walker and just assumed it was my last name!"

"One of the things I like about rowing compared to walking is that there's a real social element to rowing.

"Walking can be a very solitary sport because you spend most of your time training and racing on your own, but with rowing, you meet lots of new people and I've made lots of friends already."

Earlier this year, Chris – along with fellow University of Adelaide student Trent Collins – was a member of the Australian quad sculls team which finished 11th at the World Championships in Japan. In 2004 he won gold in the men's double sculls at the World University Games in France.

Chris has already completed his Commerce degree and begins his final Computer Science exams this month, and as an elite athlete studying at Adelaide, has had access to the University's new Elite Athletes Support and Information Service.



Main photo: Chris Morgan (second from left) and fellow Adelaide student Trent Collins (far right) competing in the World Cup event in Eton, England earlier this year  
Photo courtesy of Bearing Point Creative Services

Inset: Chris Morgan  
Photo by Ben Osborne

He has long-term plans to become an IT manager, but for the short-term his focus will be rowing.

"I want to reach my full potential as a rower so that's what I'll be concentrating on after uni – but I've got the degrees there because I know I won't be able to row for ever, and that they'll help me with my career," he said.

Story by Ben Osborne