Forensic warning over child deaths

In 2005, a total of 135 children died in South Australia – most of them less than a month old. It’s a sobering statistic, but what makes it harder to accept is that a number of these deaths were preventable.

How do you tell a grieving parent that their child could be alive today if they had bought the right cot, shunned big, soft U-shaped pillows and steered clear of unsuitable foods?

“It’s no use doing an autopsy report, establishing a cause of death and then doing nothing about it. That’s just a recipe for another tragedy,” Professor Byard said.

Over the past 20 years, Professor Byard has investigated the causes of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and other childhood deaths – both accidental and from natural causes.

Paediatricians and researchers have learned far more about SIDS in that time and significant inroads have also been made into accidental deaths.

“Poisoning deaths are not as common because toxic products are now fitted with child-proof lids and people are better educated. But we still have a long way to go in other areas,” he said.

In the 1990s Professor Byard and his colleagues launched a safe sleeping campaign and lobbied for mandatory standards for cots sold in Australia. Their efforts also resulted in parental guidelines for preparing foods for toddlers.
I recently did an interview with The Australian in which the reporter remarked about the amount of money being spent on educational facilities in an overseas country. She seemed genuinely surprised by how much money was being spent on these facilities. My comment to her was that it wasn’t so much about the money, it was about that country’s commitment to education.

Sometimes you’ve got to wonder if Australia actually has a commitment to education. Do we, as a country, actually have a commitment to educating the next generation, or are we just trying to do the minimum? From where I stand, it seems to have become a question of ‘how little can we get away with?’ instead of ‘what do we need to do?’

You see it in the disrepair that a lot of public schools have fallen into. You see it in the problems that arise with Aboriginal education. You see it in the arguments we have at the Federal level about how much students should pay for their own education. The attitude is that education – especially tertiary education – is a private good. No, it’s an Australian good, it’s a public good.

Shouldn’t we be thinking about the benefits that will flow to Australia over the next 50 years from properly educating people? Shouldn’t we be thinking about our future as a nation and what level of commitment it will take to get us there?

I’m not blaming anyone in particular, and I don’t believe that blame is at all helpful. The issue is one of responsibility and that responsibility lies with all of us. Believe that blame is at all helpful. The issue is one of responsibility and that responsibility lies with all of us.

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Art & Heritage Collections

The Horace Lamb Rose Bowl will be on display in the Barr Smith Library Foyer during April. A wonderfully crafted object in George II style, made of parcel gilt and silver manufactured in the United Kingdom, this was given as a gift to Horace Lamb, the first Elder Professor of Mathematics at the University of Adelaide, in 1898 by the University Council after his departure to take up a post at Manchester University. The bowl was purchased and given to Lamb by his successor, William Bragg. Lady Nicholson, Lamb’s daughter, donated the bowl to the University via the late Professor Ren Potts in 1965 as a reminder of Lamb’s time in Adelaide.

Mirra Heruc, Manager, Art & Heritage Collections

Professor Frank Sear translated the Latin inscription in 1895 and it reads:

The University Council [give this bowl] to Horace Lamb, MA Fellow of the Royal Society of London, sometime Elder Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in the University of Adelaide, Doctor of Divinity, in remembrance of his continuing service to the University, AD 1898.
Tuesday’s the day to hear more about research

South Australian business and community leaders – and the general public – will hear from the University of Adelaide’s leading researchers at a new Research Tuesdays seminar series starting on 10 April.

To be held on every second Tuesday of the month, Research Tuesdays will address significant issues for business and the wider community.

The first in the free public series on Tuesday 10 April will be University of Adelaide Federation Fellow and one of Australia’s foremost demographers, Professor Graeme Hugo. He will provide insights into the impact on business of a changing Australian population.

“In developing business strategy, population size, composition and distribution are regarded as a static background. Yet the Australian population is changing in a myriad of ways, all of which have implications for the evolving demand for goods and services,” Professor Hugo said.

Research Tuesdays will provide an opportunity for the University’s leading researchers to engage with business and community leaders on issues that impact on them.”

Forthcoming Research Tuesdays seminars are:

8 May
Professor Mark Tester, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow
“Tougher crops for a warming world”

12 June
Professor Richard Pomfret, Professor of Economics
“What use is research in international trade policy and economic development?”

10 July
Professor Zbigniew Michalewicz, Professor of Computer Science
“The science of making profitable decisions”

14 August
Professor Rob Norman, Director, Research Centre for Reproductive Health
“The reproductive revolution – have we gone too far?”

Research Tuesdays seminars will be held at 5.30pm in the Napier Building Lower Ground. Admission is free. Please book by emailing research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 3692.

Story by Robyn Mills
Two University of Adelaide graduates have been awarded the prestigious Fulbright Scholarships to undertake further study at the best universities in the United States. The scholarships, worth up to $40,000 each, are awarded for excellence in academic achievement and aim to promote mutual understanding between the US and Australia through educational exchange. The scholarships allow recipients to study and research in the US for up to 12 months.

Amy Ellks is a graduate of Adelaide’s Elder Conservatorium of Music and will use her scholarship to study musical performance, majoring in classical flute, at one of the high-calibre music institutions in New York.

Rowena White graduated with degrees in Commerce and Laws (Honours) at the University of Adelaide and will use her Fulbright Scholarship to study for a Master of Laws at either Columbia University or Harvard University.

“Both Amy and Rowena represent the strong calibre of University of Adelaide graduates – students who achieve distinction in their time here at the University and who go on to achieve great things,” said the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University, Professor James McWha.

“On behalf of the University, I congratulate Amy and Rowena on their Fulbright Scholarships and wish them all the best in their future study and their careers.”

Amy is the recipient of the 2007 Fulbright Postgraduate Scholarship in Visual and Performing Arts sponsored by Anthony Joseph Pratt. Established in 1996 by the Pratt Foundation, the scholarship is one of few international Fulbright Scholarships for visual and performing artists.

“I want to study in the US because it provides the ideal atmosphere for a person of my musical ambition to grow and develop the deeply ingrained knowledge that a professional musician requires,” Amy said.

“New York City is a culturally vibrant and stimulating city and I believe studying music there would be an ideal situation for any artistic development. The exchange of musical ideas and philosophies that is sure to take place during my time away would provide both Australia and America with an enriched sense of musical possibility,” she said.

Rowena has a keen interest in corporate law issues and “aspects of public law concerned with the State’s ability to control the freedom of the individual”.

“A community is dependent on a well-functioning legal system that is able to protect the rights of its citizens,” Rowena said.

“The Australian legal system is faced with similar issues to the US courts – for example, the balance between anti-terrorism laws and individual liberties, the boundaries of scientific research, and the prevention of corporate collapses, to name just a few.

“The members of the legal profession must be able to draw on cross-jurisdictional experiences and knowledge to assist in the resolution of such issues.”

Currently working as an Associate to the Hon. Justice Mansfield at the Federal Court of Australia, Rowena has been exposed to a wide variety of legal disputes throughout each of the States and Territories, and hopes to broaden those experiences in the course of her LLM degree.

“The opportunity to mix with people of various legal and social backgrounds will provide a deeper insight into the social issues facing Australian and American society and how I can contribute to their improvement,” she said.
South Australia’s relationship with China has entered a new phase with the launch of a Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Alexander Downer.

The non-profit public institute, which will promote the study and understanding of the Chinese language, culture and economy, is expected to strengthen the State’s ties with the world’s fastest-growing economy.

The Institute is a joint partnership between the University of Adelaide, the Office of Chinese Language Council International (also known as Hanban) and Shandong University.

The Confucius Institute will promote the study and understanding of Chinese language, culture and its economy, as well as other issues relating to China’s position in today’s world. One of its key aims will be to encourage the teaching of Mandarin in South Australia at all levels – from primary school to university.

The University of Adelaide is one of only three universities in Australia – the others are Western Australia and Melbourne – to be granted the right to establish a Confucius Institute to date.

More than 120 Confucius Institutes around the world have been approved by Hanban.

The establishment of the Confucius Institute in Adelaide is to be partially funded by the Chinese Government, and will be located within the University’s Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

University of Adelaide Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor John Taplin said the Confucius Institute would become a focal point for South Australia in its increasingly important relationship with China.

“There is growing recognition within Australia of the urgent need to study Asian languages and cultures,” Professor Taplin said.

“Federal Opposition Leader Kevin Rudd, a Mandarin speaker, is on record as saying this will help to increase trade between Australia and the fastest-growing economies in the world. And the former President of the World Bank, James Wolfensohn, has voiced his concerns that Australia is not doing enough to learn more about China and Asia.”

The specific objectives of different Confucius Institutes vary, but their core function is to teach the Chinese language, train potential language teachers and host academic and cultural activities promoting a better understanding of China.

“The Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide will also provide information and advice about China to the South Australian business community,” Professor Taplin said. “It will help increase our understanding of this globally important culture and economy.”

The Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China estimates that, by the year 2010, approximately 100 million people worldwide will be learning Chinese as a foreign language.

Shandong University is located in South Australia’s sister city province in China’s east, where Confucius himself lived some 2500 years ago. Shandong, which has a population of about 90 million people, celebrated the 20th anniversary of its sister city relationship with South Australia in 2006.

Mr Downer was joined at the official launch last month by the University of Adelaide’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, Shandong University President Professor Zhan Tao, senior representatives from Hanban in Beijing, and the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Zhang Junsai.

Above (from left): Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs the Hon. Alexander Downer, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha, Shandong University President Professor Zhan Tao, and the Chinese Ambassador to Australia, Mr Zhang Junsai

Photo by John Hemmings
“When I grow up, I want to be a doctor so I can help people.” Every year, many hundreds of Australians – among them young doctors and medical students – travel to the third world to “help people”. But how can you help a situation you don’t understand?

Asha Patel, a fifth-year medical student at the University of Adelaide, is among a number of Adelaide students who has spent time working in hospitals in the third world. She is also the Convener of the upcoming third annual Australian Medical Students Association (AMSA) Developing World Conference, organised by medical students for medical students, which will be held at the University of Adelaide later this year.

The Developing World Conference was established in 2005 to bring medical students together to discuss the broader issues relevant to global health. It is an event that helps medical students to learn about third world health.

“Problems in the third world are as complex as they are deep. There is an enormous matrix of social, political and economic factors that cause, contribute and perpetuate problems in the third world,” Asha said.

As many young doctors and medical students begin to realise this, they begin to lose hope.

“They start to think they’ll never understand these issues because they don’t even know where to begin learning about them."

That’s where the conference comes in. For more than a year, a committee of about 30 Adelaide and Flinders medical students has been working hard to organise the conference in Adelaide, to be held from 28 June to 1 July.

With 310 medical students from across Australia and New Zealand expected to attend, this year’s conference promises to be the biggest one yet.

The conference will feature local, interstate and international speakers working in the fields of public health, economics, history, politics, engineering, human rights, bioethics, law and, of course, medicine.

“The aim is to look at international health from a holistic point of view – to get the bigger picture through case studies, lectures, workshops, and debates. This year’s debates will explore ethical issues in third world health,” Asha said.

The first debate, “Is something better than nothing?”, will examine the ethics of sending second-class equipment to the third world, while the second debate will examine the ethics of pharmaceutical companies in the third world. Delegates will be presented with two opposing views, given the time to ask questions, and then left to make up their own minds.

Dr Rowan Gillies, International President of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors Without Borders) will deliver a keynote address at the conference. Apart from heading the leading medical and humanitarian organisation, Dr Gillies has also been an MSF field volunteer in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Liberia, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Ivory Coast. He will present some valuable insights into humanitarian work and the inner workings of the world’s leading independent humanitarian organisation for medical aid.

Delegates will also be able to discuss their own overseas trips.

“Every year, hundreds of Australian medical students undertake an overseas elective where they try to help the people they see. However, because they lack experience, these student trips are often not as effective as they could be,” Asha said.

“The conference will explore the variety of ways that medical students can plan their trips, so that they can contribute to their hosts, and give real, sustainable help.”

Registration for the conference opened on 28 March. For more information about the conference, visit: www.amsa.org.au/dwc2007
Fluoride in water and toothpaste provides significant dental benefits into adulthood, the latest national survey of oral health shows, with a marked drop in dental decay levels over the past 17 years.

A 300-page report, prepared by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare’s Dental Statistics and Research Unit at the University of Adelaide, reveals that Australians born after 1970 – the so-called “fluoride generation” – have, on average, half the level of decay of their parents’ generation.

“These results provide the first evidence within the Australian population that drinking fluoridated water during childhood translates into significantly better dental health in adulthood,” said Professor Gary Slade, one of the report’s authors.

“A total of 25% of Australians have cavities, one in five has gum disease and another 15% have experienced toothaches in the last 12 months,” Professor Slade said. Aboriginal people and other disadvantaged groups, including people eligible for public dental care, were also more likely to have dental health problems.

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Fluoride generation has healthier smile

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The survey also reveals that only 44% of Australians visit the same dentist for an annual check-up, with a direct correlation between dental attendance and levels of oral disease.

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“The University of Adelaide’s position in this new venture underlines our role as the leading Australian university in the area of plant breeding,” said PBA board member and the University of Adelaide’s Deputy Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Associate Professor Mike Keller.

“Plant breeders have finger on pulse

Farmers and the Australian grains industry will be the winners from a national pulse breeding collaboration involving University of Adelaide plant breeders.

Pulse Breeding Australia (PBA), launched at the University of Adelaide, will coordinate Australia’s pulse breeding efforts and create a world-class breeding and germplasm enhancement program.

Pulses are the dried edible seeds of legume plants such as lentils, beans and peas. They are an important part of Australian grain production, both as export crops in their own right and as part of crop rotations.

PBA is a collaborative venture between the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Pulse Australia, the University of Adelaide, the SA Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and State departments of primary industries in Victoria, NSW, Queensland and Western Australia. PBA will help to underpin the sustainability of the Australian grains industry.

“The University of Adelaide’s position in this new venture underlines our role as the leading Australian university in the area of plant breeding,” said PBA board member and the University of Adelaide’s Deputy Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Associate Professor Mike Keller.

“Our involvement in programs like Pulse Breeding Australia provides an avenue for us to deliver our plant science research to the farming community. It also adds great strength to our postgraduate training in plant breeding.”

University of Adelaide Plant breeder and Research Fellow Dr Jeff Paull will lead the national faba bean breeding program. Under PBA the existing faba bean breeding programs in NSW and Waite will work together to meet national needs and avoid duplication.
Business leader is new Deputy Chancellor

South Australian business leader and arts patron Mr Ross Adler AO is the new Deputy Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Mr Adler succeeds wine industry leader Mr Brian Croser AO, whose term as a University Council member expired last month. Mr Croser was appointed to Council in 1998 and served as Deputy Chancellor for almost eight years.

“Brian Croser has contributed greatly to the University of Adelaide during his time on Council, and I thank him for his invaluable work over the past nine years,” said the Chancellor, the Hon. John von Doussa QC.

“We are very lucky to have someone of the calibre of Ross Adler to take on the role of Deputy Chancellor, and I welcome him to the position.”

“Ross is no stranger to the University’s Council, having been a member of Council since 1998. He has played a key role in University governance ever since.

“His broad experience at the highest levels of business has already been of enormous benefit to the University, and he remains committed to helping the University succeed in all of its strategic aims. He is an asset to the University community.”

Mr Adler has had an extremely successful career in business and has held various senior positions with a number of major corporations. He was the Managing Director of Santos Limited for 16 years until his retirement in 2000. In 2001 he acquired Amtrade International Pty Ltd and was appointed Chairman and CEO. He is currently Chairman of the Port Adelaide Maritime Corporation.

He was a Director of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia from 1991-2004, was a Director of Telstra Corporation Ltd from 1995-2000, and was Chairman of Austrade (the Australian Trade Commission) from 2001-2006. He was also a Member of the Business Council of Australia for nearly 20 years.

Mr Adler has played a vital role in South Australia’s arts community, with roles including Chairman of the Board of the Art Gallery of South Australia, a member of the Board of Governors of the Adelaide Festival of Arts, and now Chairman of the Board of Governors, Chair of the Arts and Cultural Development Taskforce SA, a member of the Board of Governors of the State Theatre Company, and Deputy Chairman of the Adelaide Entertainment Centre.

He has served the University of Adelaide as Chair of the Graduate School of Management’s Advisory Committee, and was Vice-Patron of the Alumni Association. He is the current Chair of the University’s Finance Committee.

Mr Adler is a graduate of the universities of Melbourne (Bachelor of Commerce), Columbia (Master of Business Administration) and Adelaide (Master of Business Administration).

In 1999 he was awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to business and commerce, to the promotion of the arts in South Australia, and to the community.
The National Wine Centre has relaunched its main function venue as Hickinbotham Hall in recognition of the impact of South Australia’s Hickinbotham family on the national and State wine industries and wine-making education.

The University of Adelaide’s Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha launched Hickinbotham Hall at a special celebration with the Hickinbotham family and invited guests last month.

“The name Hickinbotham is probably best known in the State for its construction and development interests, but over three generations the family has had a tremendous impact on the nation’s wine industry, both in terms of research into wine-making and in the education of Australian wine-makers,” Professor McWha said.

Alan Robb Hickinbotham, father of present Chairman of Hickinbotham Group Alan David Hickinbotham, is regarded as the father of Australian oenology (wine-making) education. In 1936 he developed Australia’s first Diploma of Oenology at Roseworthy Agricultural College, now the University of Adelaide’s Roseworthy Campus. This became the University’s world-renowned Bachelor of Oenology degree, which is now run at the Waite Campus.

“Alan Robb Hickinbotham’s research and writing on wine-making under Australian conditions laid the foundation for a technically advanced Australian wine industry,” Professor McWha said.

Alan David Hickinbotham continued his father’s passion for wine through the Hickinbotham Group with ongoing interests in viticulture and wine production. Hickinbotham Wines owns three vineyards in South Australia, which produce internationally awarded premium wines.

The Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory was established at the University’s Waite Campus in 1998 with the family’s support.

“The Hickinbothams have provided generous support for the University of Adelaide over many years and we are very pleased to be able to recognise their contribution to the wine industry, the State and the University in this most appropriate venue,” said Professor McWha.

The National Wine Centre of Australia, located on Hackney Road, Adelaide, is an education hub for tourists, the general public and students, and is run by the University of Adelaide. For more information visit: www.wineaustralia.com.au
Environment focus
for new professors

Two new professors appointed at the University of Adelaide will address major issues impacting on the environment: climate change and natural resources. Through research and education, their work aims to make a difference to how we address these issues, helping the environment as well as local and global communities.

Irrigation expert to influence use of natural resources

Leading researcher in irrigation science Professor Wayne Meyer has been appointed as the University of Adelaide’s new Chair of Natural Resources Science.

Professor Meyer will lead a natural resource science team whose work will inform and influence the management of Australia’s natural resources.

“While others are currently focussing on natural resource issues surrounding water, there will be increasing recognition that the quantity and quality of water is dependent on the condition of soils and vegetation and, hence, land use,” Professor Meyer said. He brings together biology, ecology, soils and water management and agriculture.

“I aim to make the University of Adelaide the main provider of quality graduates in natural resources science in Australia,” Professor Meyer said. “This will be built on a research base that uses some of the developing remote sensing, computer modelling and visualisation IT to provide improved information for regional natural resources management.”

Faculty of Sciences Executive Dean Professor Bob Hill said: “Professor Meyer has a wealth of research and project management experience in the management of soils and water in irrigated areas. ”

His appointment builds on the University’s existing strengths in agriculture, ecology, genomics, resource economics and the technologies of modelling, remote sensing, visualisation and computing to form the basis of what will be a globally significant research team.”

Professor Meyer comes to the University after a long career in CSIRO where he was the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Irrigation Futures and, for the last three years, has been the CRC’s Chief Research Scientist.

Professor Meyer said current development of state and regional National Resource Management plans provided the ideal opportunity for research in this field to influence plans for restoration, maintenance and conservation of Australia’s natural resources.
Climate change research has new champion

The University of Adelaide is to play a leading role in climate change research, with the appointment of a new Professor of Climate Change and the establishment of the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability.

Established with funding from the State Government and the University of Adelaide, the Institute will be headed by Professor Barry Brook, who has taken up the position of the Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change.

As part of his role, Professor Brook will help to advise government, industry and the community on how to tackle climate change.

He said the Institute would draw together expertise in climate change from across the University.

“A cross-disciplinary approach to climate change is extremely important, because climate change has the potential to affect many different aspects of our lives,” Professor Brook said.

“Through the Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability, researchers will be able to form better synergies and focus research efforts in a strategic way to meet the needs of the State and the nation.

“The Institute will also serve as an important vehicle for public communication. Through the Institute, we will be able to inform the public about the science that’s being undertaken into climate change and how it can benefit them.”

In announcing Professor Brook’s appointment, which is funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, Premier Mike Rann said: “The impact of climate change on South Australia cannot be underestimated. We are already seeing the effect drought is having on our water resources, and as these conditions continue we will have to deal with the impact on our wildlife and native vegetation.”

The Chair of Climate Change is named after Sir Hubert Wilkins, a South Australian who spent his life researching the weather and how it impacts on people.

Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha praised the State Government for its vision in making this appointment.

“This initiative is further proof of the impact the University of Adelaide can make on the community,” he said.

“The University has many researchers working in areas that are key to the climate change issue – soil, plant and water scientists, engineers, architects, demographers, and many others. The new Institute will provide an excellent opportunity to bring this expertise together.”

Previously a Professorial Research Fellow at Charles Darwin University, Professor Brook’s contributions to the fields of conservation biology, population modelling and extinction theory are recognised internationally.

In 2006 he was the youngest ever recipient of the prestigious Fenner Medal by the Australian Academy of Science for distinguished research in plant and animal science.

He has won nine ARC grants since 2001. Professor Brook’s work was “particularly relevant at the present time of climate change and its implications for the changing ecology of the world”, the citation for his Edgeworth David Medal said.

“Professor Brook has another valuable attribute for these times. He is a skilled public communicator and has made many contributions to the print and electronic media. We need such scientists, who have the ability and the energy and the patience to persistently argue the case for rational thought and scientific methods over economic dogma and rich lobby groups,” the citation said.
If you like dark chocolate and tomatoes, and have a blood pressure at the high end of the normal range, the University of Adelaide needs you for a seven-month study.

Up to 60 volunteers are required to investigate whether eating chocolate or tomato extract on a daily basis can lower blood pressure.

Dr Karin Ried and colleagues from the University’s Discipline of General Practice say there is some evidence that both foods can lower blood pressure in people suffering from hypertension.

Studies have shown that individuals with blood pressure at the high end of the normal range (also called pre-hypertension) are likely to develop hypertension (high blood pressure) in the future.

“Blood pressure is recorded as one number over another, for example 120/80. People with blood pressure in the pre-hypertensive range (120-139 / 80-89 mm Hg) could benefit from taking these foods and prevent developing hypertension and the need for medication,” Dr Ried said. “The higher the blood pressure, the higher the risk of developing diseases such as stroke and heart attack.”

Participants need to meet the following requirements:
• be 20 years or over;
• have systolic blood pressure between 120-139 and diastolic between 80-89 mm Hg;
• not be on any medication for blood pressure;
• not have diabetes or glucose intolerance (pre-diabetes);
• not suffer any allergies to chocolate or tomatoes;
• be willing to eat 50 grams of dark chocolate (70% cocoa), or take a tomato extract, or a placebo capsule, every day for two months;
• meet with a research nurse monthly for up to seven months.

The volunteers will be divided into three groups of 20 people each. One group will consume 50 grams of dark chocolate each day, another will take a tomato extract, or a placebo capsule, every day for two months; meet with a research nurse monthly for up to seven months.

The blood pressure study will start in April/May and involves Dr Oliver Frank and Professor Nigel Stocks in the School of Population Health and Clinical Practice.

For more information on the study, or to volunteer, contact Nicky Bennett or Dr Ried on 8303 3460 or email: nicky.bennett@adelaide.edu.au

Story by Candy Gibson
Two University of Adelaide projects – a world-class wind tunnel and a laboratory for the production and analysis of visual digital media – together won almost two-thirds of this year’s Premier’s Science and Research Fund (PSRF) grant.

The School of Mechanical Engineering has been awarded $800,000 under the Fund. This will secure the matching resources needed to build a large-scale wind tunnel that will support South Australia’s defence, aerospace, wind turbine (power-generating) and wind engineering sectors.

The wind tunnel – to be used for technology development and commercial testing and located at the Adelaide University Research Park (Thebarton Campus) – will have some unique capabilities within the Southern Hemisphere.

“This facility will provide local industry and researchers with a competitive edge,” said Professor Gus Nathan, who led the School’s PSRF bid.

“It will support local bids for major contracts in defence and naval projects, micro wind turbines and building design.”

Other team members are Head of School Professor Colin Hansen, Associate Professor Richard Kelso, Dr Con Doolan, Dr Bassam Dally and Dr Mazar Arjomandi.

A project led by the University of Adelaide’s Dr Anton van den Hengel, from the School of Computer Science, has been awarded $750,000 for a Visual Technologies Laboratory, which will boost technology and workforce development in digital content-based industries.

“The laboratory will provide the infrastructure, focus and leadership in research needed to establish South Australia as the focal point of Australian visual technologies industries,” said Dr van den Hengel, who is the Director of the Australian Centre for Visual Technologies.

“The work of this laboratory will have valuable application for a variety of industries including defence, film and television, computer games, video surveillance, mobile content and ICT.”

Industry and research partners are the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), Tenix Group and Rising Sun Pictures Pty Ltd.

“Congratulations to these two research teams,” said the University of Adelaide’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha. “Both of these projects will bring significant benefits for local and national industry and for the State economy – further examples of the University of Adelaide working alongside government and industry for the benefit of the wider community.”

In announcing the fund allocations, Minister for Science and Information Economy Paul Caica said: “The government welcomes the opportunity to support projects that stimulate business investment in local R&D and aim to deliver strategic benefits for all South Australians.”

Story by Robyn Mills
More than 100 of South Australia’s outstanding students were awarded scholarships to study at the University of Adelaide, with a special presentation ceremony held in Bonython Hall at the start of the academic year.

The scholarships include the new South Australian Principals’ Scholarships and South Australian Merit Scholarships launched by the University last year as a $1 million initiative aimed at retaining the brightest students in South Australia from every urban and rural school in the State.

Also presented were the prestigious Andy Thomas Scholarship and four Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

Three international scholarships – the Adelaide Vietnam, the Adelaide Outstanding Achievers International, and the Malaysia Australia Colombo Plan Commemoration scholarships – were awarded to a total of eight outstanding international students.

Former Aberfoyle Park High School student Kylie Bedwell has won the annual Andy Thomas Scholarship, named after one of the University’s most distinguished graduates, NASA astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas.

Kylie is undertaking a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace).

The Andy Thomas Scholarship is awarded annually to a new student undertaking Mechanical, Mechatronic or Aerospace Engineering who has demonstrated outstanding academic merit and contributed to their school and wider community.

Fellow South Australians Konrad Pilch (from Klemzig) and Michael Weightman (from Glenelg), who went to St Peter’s College, Jenna Paterson, ex-Pembroke School (from Walkerville), and Alyssa Fitzpatrick, ex-Loreto College (from Auldana), won the prized Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

Winners of this scholarship have achieved a TER of 99.95 (excluding all bonuses) and have made a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

Konrad will undertake a double degree in Mechatronic Engineering and Mathematical and Computer Sciences and Michael, Jenna and Alyssa are undertaking Medicine. Alyssa also won a South Australian Principals’ Scholarship.

Both the Andy Thomas and Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships provide full fee remission for the approved program plus $5000 a year to help with education and living costs, for up to four years.

The Principals’ Scholarships, worth $5000, were awarded to 86 students, nominated by their former school principal for outstanding academic merit and a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

The Merit Scholarships, worth $10,000, were awarded to 26 students who gained a perfect TER of 99.95 (excluding all bonuses).

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha congratulated the scholarship winners.

“These students have already revealed their academic potential and we are very pleased they have chosen to study at the University of Adelaide. The scholarships show our ongoing commitment to educating high achievers, and encouraging students to take up university study and to stay in South Australia,” he said.
An exhibition of novelist Joyce Cary’s work is being held at the University of Adelaide’s Barr Smith Library to honour the 50th anniversary of the writer’s death.

Cary’s son, Tristram – an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in Music – has loaned a collection of his father’s books and personal items, including photographs and artworks, to the University’s Library for the two-month exhibition.

The free exhibition has already begun and is open to the public until 11 May in the Barr Smith Library’s Ira Raymond Exhibition Room.

The Library has a large collection of books by Joyce Cary, including a number of rare items that are kept in Special Collections, as well as critical works on the author’s novels.

The works on display include Cary’s celebrated trilogy of novels devoted to the raffish artist Gulley Jimson: *Herself Surprised* (1941), *To Be A Pilgrim* (1942) and *The Horse’s Mouth* (1944). Another trilogy, dealing with politics, led to the publication of *Prisoner of Grace, Except the Lord and Not Honour More* (1952-55).

The Irish-born writer’s early novels drew on his years in Africa, where he initially served with a Nigerian regiment in the First World War and then as a colonial officer and magistrate. His experiences there provided literary fodder for *Aissa Saved* (1932), *An American Visitor* (1933), *The African Witch* (1936) and *Mister Johnson* (1939).

Ireland inspired *Castle Corner* (1939) and *A House of Children* (1941), an evocation of summers in Inishowen which won the James Tait Black award for best novel.

English-born Tristram Cary is a pioneer of electronic music and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1991 for his services to Australian music.

Now aged 82, Cary retired from the University’s Elder Conservatorium of Music in 1986 but remains an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow.

In launching the exhibition on 29 March – the 50th anniversary of Joyce Cary’s death – Tristram Cary delivered a free public talk about his father’s life as an adventurer, writer and artist.

“My father instilled us with a love of stories and the value of education. As children he would always tell us imaginative bedtime stories, full of suspense and intrigue.

“He valued education highly but could not afford to pay for good schools, instead urging us to work hard and earn scholarships – which, luckily, all four of us did.

“We were also very fortunate to grow up around literary people like Iris Murdoch, Graham Greene and Enid Starkie, who were regulars at our house in Oxford,” he said.

Story by Candy Gibson

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**Forensic warning**

continued from page 1

But despite the written material available on safe sleeping practices, many parents are still risking their babies’ lives without realising it.

“Soft mattresses and big fluffy pillows are no good because babies can suffocate in the bedding. The same applies to soft toys – keep them out of cots,” Professor Byard said.

All cots must now meet national standards but some parents still opt for the cheaper second hand cots that may not meet safety standards, unaware they are putting their child’s life at risk. “I’ve seen too many children die from falling through gaps in unsafe cots, or getting their head caught.”

Likewise, the safe feeding campaign was initiated by a little boy who choked to death on food. “Many parents don’t realise that it can be deadly to give a small child foods that require chewing when they only have one tooth.”

Professor Byard said it was important to take the lessons from the mortuary to the community to prevent tragic accidents.

“That’s the whole basis for ‘preventative pathology’. People are very uncomfortable dealing with death, but forensics underpins the whole of medicine. Pathologists have a real insight into what is dangerous and bad, and if we can get that message back to people it will help save a lot of unnecessary deaths.”

Professor Byard has spent the past year working on both adult and paediatric forensic issues with a number of international institutions, including universities in the UK, Germany, Denmark and the US.

His research has incorporated studies of hypoxic brain damage (lack of oxygen supply to the brain) in infants and young children, histologic dating of bruises (by studying tissue cells), markers for freshwater drowning and diagnostic criteria for SIDS.

Last year Professor Byard was awarded the Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal for his forensic work in Thailand, identifying bodies in the wake of the 2004 tsunami. He was one of two University of Adelaide staff (the other was Dr Helen James) honoured for their work in the Phuket mortuaries.

Story by Candy Gibson

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**From art to Africa: novelist’s work on exhibition**

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Story by Candy Gibson

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**Story by Candy Gibson**
Employer of Choice for Women

The University of Adelaide is one of only 10 employers based in South Australia to be named an Employer of Choice for Women in 2007. This is the second year in a row that the University has won the citation.

The Employer of Choice for Women citation is awarded annually by the Federal Government’s Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency (EOWA).

The citation recognises employers that are supportive of women through policies and practices that have a positive outcome for women and for the organisation as a whole.

“To be named an Employer of Choice for Women two years running shows that the University of Adelaide has made significant advances, with policies to promote the employment of women and to support their professional development. We are striving to provide a quality working environment that understands their needs,” said the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha.

“Being named an Employer of Choice for Women is a great honour, and it shows potential employees as well as current staff that the University is a leader in providing professional opportunities for women in this State,” he said.

“Of course, we can always do more, and we are working to introduce further initiatives to support women in the workplace and to improve the gender balance, particularly at senior academic and professional level.

“To that end, the University’s Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee has been consulting with all areas of the University over the past year to identify areas of need, and will continue to do so in the future.”

Some of the initiatives already in place are:

- The Gender, Equity and Diversity Committee, which reports directly to the Vice-Chancellor
- Excellent networks for women, including:
  - Academic Women’s Forum
  - Women’s Professional Development Network
- Mentoring Program for professional women staff
- Leadership Development Program
- A new Fair Treatment Policy that covers sexual harassment, discrimination and bullying

In addition to those initiatives, the University of Adelaide supports and promotes flexible work practices, including:

- 26 weeks paid maternity leave (an increase from 14 weeks prior to 2004), with the option to take up to two years of leave in total
- A 12-week ‘bonus’ option within the 26 weeks of paid maternity leave
- New guidelines on Reduced Hours for the Care of Children

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For more information about Equity and Diversity at the University of Adelaide, visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/equity/
This is the age of disruptive technology. The World Wide Web has introduced great opportunities for traditional links in the scholarly communications chain – publishers and libraries – to do better what they have always done. It has, however, encouraged entirely new ways of operating and the building of new links, to which the old must necessarily respond.

For libraries such as ours this has meant, for example, migrating the journals collection from print to online. Print copies of online journals can then be moved off-site to free up space in the Library for students, allowing the role of the Library in providing informal, network-linked, more social study environments to be considered.

It has meant experimenting with new ways to reach library users. Recognising that many staff and students will not search the established databases or the Catalogue as their first information-seeking option, libraries are trying to make library material identifiable and retrievable via Google and Google Scholar.

While maintaining print and online incarnations of the traditional library, we also promote Open Access (OA) by paying journal article publication fees to OA publishers, such as BioMed Central. Most importantly we are establishing the University of Adelaide Digital Library, an online repository of digital content produced by the University, which includes author versions of research papers published as journal articles by companies such as Elsevier.

With 10 million users globally, and having just had its billionth article downloaded, Elsevier’s ScienceDirect publishing platform is well known and valued by academic institutions. However, other, newer forms of communication may be challenging the primacy of the article and the role of commercial publishers. Blogs, RSS feeds, OA journals, institutional and pre-print databases in many disciplines enjoy huge popularity. Some public research funding agencies now routinely require that grant-funded papers are made freely available to the taxpayers that have paid for them. The consequent availability of more and more high-quality information freely on the Web only raises frustration with the pay-for-access model on which the traditional publishing model relies.

For Elsevier, as the largest scholarly publisher in the world, these changes will mean experimenting with new business models. It also means getting closer to actual users of their products – academics and students especially – to look at ways in which ScienceDirect can increase user productivity and in which it can add value to the information Elsevier publishes, thus reducing simple reliance on subscription fees.

The University of Adelaide’s Library has been invited to help Elsevier develop the ScienceDirect platform – an invitation based on our geographic location, institutional profile, and the customer feedback we have given Elsevier over a number of years. Right now, we are the only Australian participant in the ScienceDirect Development Partner program. Other participants include major institutions such as Texas A&M, the universities of Illinois, Rochester, and Toronto, the Max Planck Society and GlaxoSmithKline.

Since Elsevier takes the largest single chunk of our institutional library budget and accounts for most article downloads here at Adelaide, participation seems to make good sense. With invitations to participate in end-user testing of new features, Adelaide academics and students will get an opportunity to influence ScienceDirect’s form and function. Institutionally, we will gain insights into Elsevier’s business thinking and, through a program of international meetings, be in a position to directly influence their commercial directions in ways that would otherwise not be possible, and at a critical juncture in the history of scholarly communication.
This year marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of a University of Adelaide icon – the Barr Smith Library.

Opened in 1932 and named in recognition of the generosity of Robert Barr Smith, the Barr Smith Library building has been a centre of student life, a major academic facility, and a resource used by the community for 75 years.

Today, the Library has grown to employ more than 100 equivalent full-time staff, encompass more than two million items, and loan 500,000 items every year.

“The 75th anniversary of the opening of the Library is an important milestone and a fitting time to reflect on the enormous benefit that the Library has afforded generations of staff, students and the wider community,” said University Librarian Ray Choate.

The 2006 Appeal added 500 titles to the Library that would not otherwise have been acquired. Mr Choate said the funds from this year’s Appeal would help to ensure that the Library’s collections remained up to date.

““As the Barr Smith Library celebrates 75 years, it is also a time to think about the future. It is with this in mind that the Barr Smith Library Appeal will again be held in 2007. It is our duty and privilege to ensure that the Barr Smith Library continues its tradition of service for future generations,” Mr Choate said.

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““The 2007 Appeal, starting in April, will contribute to the breadth of collections in areas in which current reading is expected to maintain general knowledge and to the purchase of expensive specialised titles, enhancing the Library’s research resource capability. I ask that you donate to the 2007 Appeal.”

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, please contact Helen Paul, Development and Alumni, on (08) 8303 4275.

Above: The card catalogue, containing two million cards, was closed in favour of an electronic catalogue in the 1980s. The Library had taken delivery of its first computer, an IBM system/7, in the 1970s at a cost of $71,000.

Story by Lana Guiney
University of Adelaide music students Lydia Sharrad and Nicolas Storrie helped demonstrate the technical capabilities of the new high-volume broadband network, SABRENet, with an Australian-first remote duet at its recent launch.

SABRENet, which will provide virtually unlimited high-speed broadband capacity for South Australia’s research and education community, was launched last month by Federal Education, Science and Training Minister the Hon. Julie Bishop.

SABRENet is an optical fibre broadband network initially linking 27 sites in the Adelaide region, including university campuses, teaching hospitals, technology parks and government research institutions, forming part of the national Australian Research and Education Network.

At the launch, Lydia and Nicolas performed Handel’s Sonatina and Lacome’s Passepied with Lydia on flute at Unisa’s Mawson Lakes Campus, while Nicolas playing his clarinet at Flinders University.

“Performing a remote duet is hard to do but this worked beautifully,” said SABRENet Chief Executive Officer James Tizard.

“It’s rarely been done successfully. It used dual data streams each running at 1.4 gigabits per second – that’s about 200 times the typical speeds achieved by the ‘high-speed’ business broadband, and here we were talking broadcast quality video and audio.”

South Australian Premier the Hon. Mike Rann also spoke at the launch, highlighting the importance of SABRENet in the South Australian Government’s plan to make Adelaide a leading research and education destination for students and researchers from around the world.

SABRENet Chair Paul Sherlock said: “The South Australian research and education community will benefit enormously from this investment by the universities and the State and Federal governments in the State’s future.

“Not only will this network allow us to transport huge amounts of data at lightning speeds, it will enable supercomputer real-time simulations, multi-screen high-definition videoconferencing, and it will allow South Australian researchers to participate in global bandwidth-enabled experiments.

“IBM researchers have estimated that if every telephone subscriber in the US made a call simultaneously, the entire load could be carried on only six optical fibres. We have at least 72 fibres to every site, and 324 on some sections.

“Until now our researchers have relied on portable hard disks, physically carried from place to place. That will now be a thing of the past.”

SABRENet will allow connection to the global research and education community via two 10-gigabit-per-second services operated by the national research and education telecommunications carrier AARNet.

SABRENet Ltd is a non-profit public company formed by the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, the University of South Australia and the State Government. The Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) is a participating partner, while telecommunications carrier Amcom (ASX:AMM) built and now maintains the network.

www.sabrenet.edu.au

Innovation

High-power broadband is sweet music for business, research
Young jazz talent on show

Music

Six outstanding jazz musicians – all students at the University of Adelaide – will show the public why they’ve been chosen for the 2007 jazz awards at the University’s Elder Conservatorium of Music.

The students will perform and be presented with their awards at an evening of jazz being held in the Scott Theatre, off Kintore Avenue, on Wednesday 9 May at 7.30pm. The concert will also feature special guests the Adelaide Connection jazz choir, conducted by Luke Thompson.

“These awards have become an integral part of the jazz program at the Elder Conservatorium over the past 11 years,” said Bruce Hancock, Head of Jazz Studies at the Conservatorium.

“When they were first introduced in 1997, with the support of the Helpmann Academy, they helped to redress the imbalance between the large number of classical awards and the few jazz awards then in existence. We are extremely pleased that the sponsors, several of whom have been with us since the inaugural year, continue to support such a worthy event.”

Tickets for the Jazz Awards concert are only $8, payable at the door on the night (no concessions available).

The talented winners for 2007 are:

Joshua Baldwin (drums)
Adelaide City Council Award Most Outstanding Jazz Honours Graduate
Joshua completed the Bachelor of Music Jazz Performance program in 2005 and was the recipient of an undergraduate jazz award for drums. He received 1st Class Honours in Music (Jazz Performance) in 2006 and is completing a Law degree.

James Annesley (saxophone)
Sponsored by Keith Langley Most Outstanding Jazz Undergraduate
James completed his Bachelor of Music degree in 2006 and has moved to live and study in Melbourne, where he is completing Honours Improvisation at the Victorian College of the Arts. He received the most outstanding saxophone undergraduate award in 1999.

Matthew Sheens (piano)
Tommy Norman Jazz Piano Award
Matthew has been studying jazz piano since 2003 when he received the Jack de Vos Scholarship for single studies (Jazz) at the Elder Conservatorium. He started in the Bachelor of Music program in 2005.

Quentin Angus (guitar)
dB Magazine Award
Quentin began jazz in the Elder Conservatorium Certificate IV program in 2004. He then progressed to a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) and is currently completing third year.

Ross McHenry (bass)
Tommy Norman Jazz Bass Award
Ross is currently in the third year of a Bachelor of Music program (Jazz Performance) and hopes to continue postgraduate studies in the United States once he completes his degree.

Barnabas Smith (drums)
Billy Hyde Music Adelaide Award
Barnabas is currently in his third year of the Bachelor of Music program on Drum Kit. He has recently become a member of the contemporary Adelaide jazz band, etypejazz.

For more information, please contact Helen Simpson, Manager of the Evening Concert Series at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, phone (08) 8303 5286 or email: helen.simpson@adelaide.edu.au