

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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235 more chances to study at Adelaide

Education

There are more opportunities to study at the University of Adelaide than ever before, with extra student places and a range of new degrees on offer.

In a major boost to higher education in South Australia, the University of Adelaide has won 235 additional university places for domestic students.

The new places announced recently by the Federal Government represent the biggest increase in Commonwealth-supported places awarded to any Australian university.

The places have been allocated in national and State high-priority areas of health and engineering, as well as for South Australia's first veterinary science school (see story on page 3).

Federal Education Minister the Hon. Julie Bishop has announced a total of 2340 new university places in Australia with 235 of those – or almost 10% – going to the University of Adelaide.

They include:

- 70 places for three new engineering degrees – Architectural Engineering, Avionics and Electronic Systems Engineering, and Sustainable Energy Engineering;

- 20 extra places for the highly successful Bachelor of Engineering in Mining Engineering, which started this year;

- A total of 55 extra places in health, for Nursing (35), Master of Psychology (10) and Health Sciences (10);

- 40 new places for the pre-veterinary Animal Science undergraduate degree starting in 2008 and 50 places for the postgraduate veterinary science degree, starting in 2011.

continued on page 5



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From the Vice-Chancellor

I was in Beijing when I heard the news.

When you visit other countries and other institutions around the world, working towards building long-lasting links for the University of Adelaide in education and research, it's always invigorating. There's a real sense of purpose to what you're doing when you're on one of those visits.

Regular readers of this column will know that I'm always looking for ways to build our opportunities locally, nationally and internationally. In the case of China, our links are growing rapidly. This is in part due to the establishment of our Confucius Institute, but is also thanks to our relationship with the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and with universities such as Shandong, Northwest Agriculture & Forestry, Fudan, and Tsinghua. China is an extremely important part of what we're trying to achieve for the future, and the number of joint ventures we're looking to establish is very exciting.

Even so, the news that came to me from Adelaide, thousands of kilometres away, managed to lift my spirits no end.

It wasn't just one piece of good news, it was really two: first, that the University of Adelaide had been awarded 235 extra Commonwealth-supported places for students – more than any other university in Australia – and second, that the Federal Government was committing \$15 million towards the establishment of our new vet school at the Roseworthy Campus.

Of course, as you sometimes do while you're away overseas, I had a cold at the time – and it was instantly forgotten!

The University has had many successes over the past five years, but these two pieces of news stand out

for me as shining examples of what our University is trying to achieve. Growing the participation in higher education in South Australia has always been one of my aims, and we can't do that unless the University expands its offerings and makes a genuine case for the need for extra places. This is exactly what we've done.

New engineering places will help to address the skills shortage nation-wide; new places in health will help to train the next generation of healthcare professionals for the welfare and wellbeing of our community; and the new vet school is aimed at retaining some of our State's brightest students, while at the same time filling the skills gaps being felt in animal health and agriculture.

The University, in being responsive to the needs of the community, business and government, and delivering innovative programs that satisfy South Australia's strategic aims, is working with State and Federal governments and helping to provide our community with a better future.

News like this is why I love doing what I do. I'm looking forward to many more of these kinds of announcements over the coming years.

JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

Art & Heritage Collections

It is customary that gifts are exchanged whenever delegates from the University of Adelaide, such as the Vice-Chancellor, visit interstate and overseas universities and organisations. Gifts are also exchanged when people from overseas or interstate visit the University.

Since 2005, the University's Art & Heritage Collections has been cataloguing the gifts received by the University so that they will provide a record for future generations.

■ Anna Rivett, Collections Officer, Art & Heritage Collections

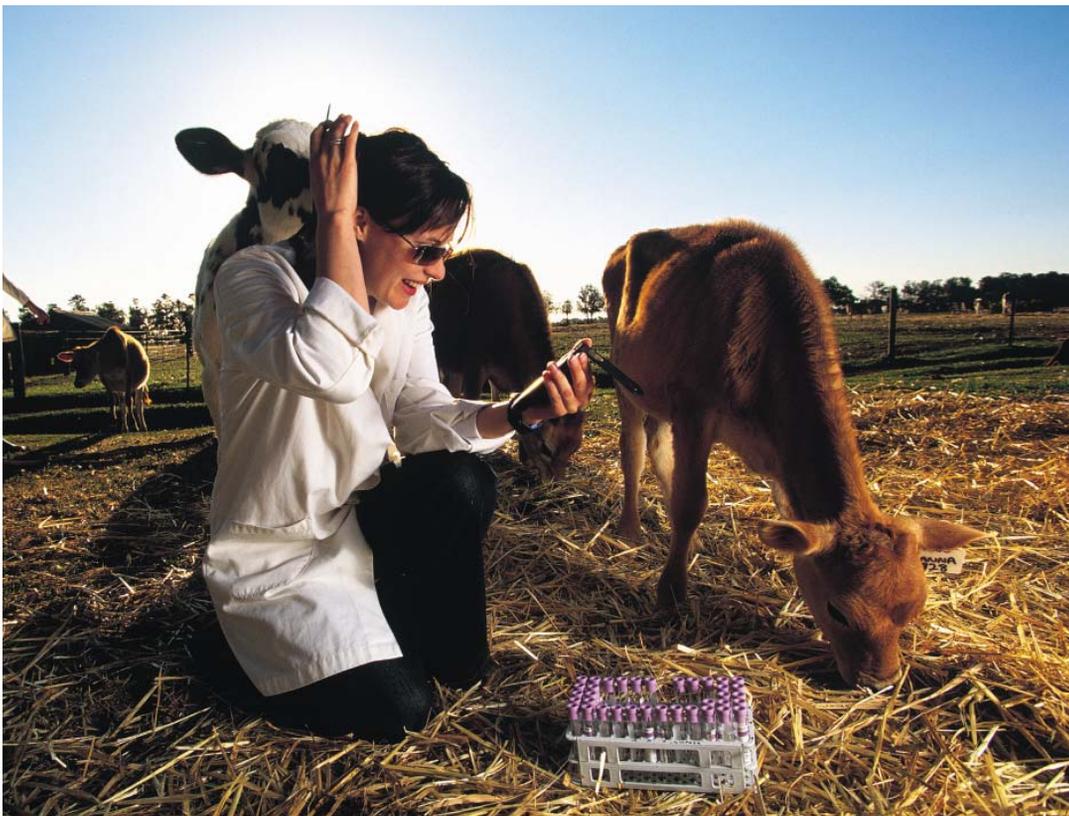
So far, more than 300 objects have been lodged with Art & Heritage Collections, largely from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and President, and the office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor (International).

The gifts range from decorative items, such as vases and wall hangings, to personal effects, like brooches and tiepins, to office equipment, such as business card holders, paperweights and letter openers.



This white jade ornamental vase with gold decoration was a gift from China. A display of gifts to the University can be found in the International Student Lounge, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus.

Photo by Anna Rivett



Roseworthy vet school receives \$15m funding

■ Veterinary Science

The University of Adelaide has taken a major step forward in its bid to establish South Australia's first veterinary science school, which will train up to 50 vets per year and help to prevent a 'brain drain' from the State.

The Federal Government has committed \$15 million in funding and new Commonwealth-supported university places towards the establishment of a vet school, to be based at the University's Roseworthy Campus.

"The \$15 million in funding and new university places allocated by the Federal Government are a major boost to our plans to establish South Australia's first veterinary school," said the University's Acting Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor Fred McDougall.

"We know there is unmet demand nationally for students wanting to study veterinary science. A new school will help to slow the brain drain of students from South Australia who are currently leaving to study at vet schools interstate or overseas.

"As well as providing opportunities for young South Australians, the school will also become a leader in

science, research and innovation for South Australia's animal health and agricultural industries," he said.

Among the 235 new student places announced for the University of Adelaide last month, 40 places each year from 2008 have been allocated to the University's vet school.

These places will be taken up by students studying for the three-year Bachelor of Science (Animal Science - Pre-Veterinary) degree. To complete their training, graduates of this degree program will then study for a three-year postgraduate veterinary science degree.

The number of places will rise to 50 per year for the postgraduate degree, which will begin at the University of Adelaide in 2011.

Professor Phil Hynd, Director of the Roseworthy Campus, said the vet school would focus on "emerging areas of national importance, such as aquaculture, biosecurity, production animals and equine health, and will specifically support South Australia's veterinary industry requirements".

■ Story by David Ellis

"As well as providing opportunities for young South Australians, the school will also become a leader in science, research and innovation"

Young Investigators share their work

The finalists in the Young Investigator Awards for 2007 will present their research into women's and children's health to the public and a panel of media judges from 6.00pm-9.00pm Wednesday 31 October at the Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Entry is free but bookings are essential. Call (08) 8161 6173 or visit the website for more information: <http://yia.cywhs.sa.gov.au>

Research awards have impact

Adelaide Research & Innovation Pty Ltd is offering \$35,000 prize money in four separate awards to researchers who can demonstrate successful commercial partnerships with industry on projects that are making an impact on the community, the State and around the world.

The awards ceremony for the Impact Awards will be a black tie (or red tie!) event which includes a three-course dinner and drinks, to be held at the home of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, 91 Hindley Street, Adelaide at 7.00pm Thursday 11 October. Cost: \$50 per ticket or \$380 for a table of eight. RSVP by Friday 5 October to secure your seat.

www.adelaide.edu.au/aripl/impactawards/

Feel the Force of Star Wars – the concert

Star Wars, the latest concert featuring the award-winning Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra, will be held at 6.30pm on Saturday 13 October in Elder Hall; with works by Percy Grainger, Matthew Taylor and Christopher Marshall, and the *Star Wars* theme composed by John Williams.

Concert tickets are \$25 adult/\$20 concession/\$14 student, available from BASS or dial'n'charge 131 246 or at the door. Special price for students under 12 years of age: \$10.

www.music.adelaide.edu.au/events/

Physics lecture weighs in on gravity

Professor Fred Watson, Astronomer-in-Charge of the Anglo-Australian Observatory, will give a free public lecture at the University of Adelaide, "What's happening to gravity?", as part of the Australian Institute of Physics lecture series.

All are welcome to the lecture, to be held in the Kerr Grant Lecture Theatre, Physics Building, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide at 7.30pm Monday 15 October. Note: punctuality is expected. Entry into the building may not be possible after 7.30pm.

www.physics.adelaide.edu.au/aip-sa/



Three of the Mining Engineering scholarship winners (from left), Katy Lovell, Ashley Johnson and Emma Kameniar in the University's Tate Museum

Photo by Greg Higgs, courtesy of *The Advertiser*

Mining sector digs deep to support students

Scholarships

Scholarships have been provided by:

Adelaide Resources
Australasia Gold
Bemax Resources
BHP Billiton
CBH Resources
Flinders Diamonds
Heathgate Resources
Maximus
Minotaur
Mithril Resources
Oxiana Prominent Hill
PepinNini Minerals
Quasar Resources
SMGC
Southern Gold
Toro Energy
Trafford Resources
Robert Reynolds
PIRSA
and
The University of Adelaide

The next generation of South Australian mining engineers won't graduate from the University of Adelaide for at least another three years, but that hasn't stopped the mining sector from already taking a strong interest in the students' futures.

The University recently held a celebration to thank mining companies and the State Government for their support in providing a large number of scholarships to the first intake of Mining Engineering students.

The scholarships, totalling \$1,275,000, have been received by 56 students who began their studies in the brand new Mining Engineering degree this year – the most scholarships for any degree program in the University's 133-year history.

More than 40 of these scholarships have been funded thanks to generous contributions by 17 mining sector companies, as well as one private individual and the State Government through Primary Industries & Resources SA (PIRSA). A further 15 scholarships have been funded by the University itself.

"This is an unprecedented level of support from industry, government and the University for one degree

program," said Professor Peter Dowd, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences.

"It demonstrates the importance of the mining industry to South Australia, and underlines our commitment to the future of the resources industries through quality education and research," he said.

"Scholarships are known to make a big difference to the quality of students' educational experience, because they help to take the financial pressure off students, enabling them to concentrate more on their studies.

"However, the industry support for this degree program doesn't end with scholarships.

"Many of the students will be offered paid holiday employment by the companies that have provided the scholarships, creating an even closer link with industry. This will be invaluable experience for our students, and will provide them with all-important industry contacts for future career opportunities."

The University's new Mining Engineering degree program has been a huge success in its first year, recruiting 56 students – almost twice as many as expected.

"The level of support from industry and other sources, and the overwhelming interest from students, is a clear indication that our Mining Engineering degree program will achieve great benefits for industry and the community," Professor Dowd said.

Professor Dowd said the new degree was the first step in a strategy to establish a world-leading Centre for Minerals and Energy Resources at the University of Adelaide.

"The Centre will consolidate the University's expertise in exploration, geology, mining engineering, petroleum and gas engineering, geothermal energy, mineral economics, resource estimation, and the social and economic aspects of mining operations.

"In collaboration with local, national and international institutions, the centre will provide a unique, inter-disciplinary systems approach to deliver the full range of education and research support that will underpin the minerals and energy resources sectors of the State and the nation," he said.

■ Story by David Ellis



Getting fresh pays off for young neuroscientist

■ Physiology

Above:
Young Scientist of the Year Martin Sale

Photo by Michael Potter,
courtesy of *The Australian*

A University of Adelaide student whose research is helping us to better understand how the brain works has become the 2007 Young Scientist of the Year.

Martin Sale, a physiology postgraduate student in the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, has won the honour thanks to his involvement in the national Fresh Science competition.

Fresh Science helps to identify new and interesting research being done by early-career scientists around the country, and gives them the opportunity to communicate their science to the media and the public.

Mr Sale's research has found that the time of day influences your brain's ability to learn – and the human brain learns more effectively at night.

His research involved using a magnetic coil over the head to stimulate nerve activity in the brain, and linked this to an electrical stimulus of the hand.

Mr Sale discovered that the brain's capacity to control hand movements is influenced by the time of day.

This has major implications for the rehabilitation of stroke patients.

If the brains of stroke patients can be artificially stimulated to improve learning, they may be able to recover better and faster. By identifying at what point in the day the brain is best able to operate, rehabilitation therapy can be targeted to that time, when recovery is maximised.

Mr Sale was chosen for the Young Scientist of the Year award from a national pool of 16 young researchers involved in the Fresh Science event.

As Young Scientist of the Year, he will get to experience the real world of science communication first hand, working as a journalist for two weeks in *The Australian* newspaper's Sydney bureau.

He said he was excited about the opportunity.

"This will allow me to learn more about what's involved in science communication and how the media operates," Mr Sale said.

Of the 16 Fresh Scientists selected for 2007 from more than 80 nominations, four were from the University of Adelaide. The others were Quinn Fitzgibbon, Cadence Minge and Edwina Sutton.

■ Story by David Ellis



235 more chances to study at Adelaide

continued from page 1

Acting Vice-Chancellor and President Professor Fred McDougall said the University of Adelaide had deliberately set out to grow educational opportunities in South Australia.

"This allocation of new places means we will be able to help meet areas of skills shortages and high demand in health and engineering, in line with our strategy of responding to the needs of industry and the community," he said.

"The University of Adelaide has experienced continued growth in demand for places since 2000, so we are delighted the Federal Government has agreed to allow us to offer more places to South Australian students in these priority areas.

"This is good for the economy, good for State and national education priorities, good for industry; and the best news is that the students taking up these new places will have great employment prospects."

For more information about studying at the University of Adelaide, visit:
www.adelaide.edu.au

■ Story by Robyn Mills



A close thing for mankind?

■ Environment

While mapping river deposits in north-central India in 1980, University of Adelaide geomorphologist Professor Martin Williams made a surprise discovery of volcanic ash.

Volcanic ash younger than a few million years was unheard of in India, and Professor Williams eventually traced it to the eruption, about 73,000 years ago, of Toba in northern Sumatra.

Toba ejected at least 1000 cubic kilometres of ash and rock fragments, making Krakatoa, which spewed out a mere 14-18 cubic km, look mild in comparison. The eruption of Krakatoa, however, killed 42,000 people and global temperatures dropped nearly one degree over the next few years.

The discovery in India and consequent findings by researchers around the globe have led to the theory that Toba's eruption came close to killing off the world's human population. There was a sharp decline in human genetic diversity between 100,000 and 50,000 years ago – the result, geneticists believe, of a world population which suddenly plummeted from hundreds of thousands to a few thousand.

Professor Williams said "the jury is still out" on whether Toba caused this level of human catastrophe

but his recent research has added significant weight to the argument.

Analysis of pollen preserved in marine cores in the Bay of Bengal and off Sumatra indicates dramatic regional cooling followed by many centuries of drought. Analysis also of fossil soils above and beneath the Toba ash in a transect across central India points to a dramatic change from forests to grasslands and patchy woodlands after Toba.

"Impacts on ecosystems of this magnitude could well have significantly affected animal and human societies," Professor Williams said.

The Toba story continues but it is just one aspect of the wide-ranging research Professor Williams conducts on reconstructing environment and climatic changes over the past two million years, the Quaternary period.

"Operating at different time scales and working in different areas of northern Africa and the drier parts of India, China, Australia and the Middle East, I've been trying to reconstruct patterns of past environmental changes using as many different lines of evidence as possible," Professor Williams said.

He has worked with international teams from around the world on a variety of different projects with research outcomes now part of everyday conventional wisdom – such as the pioneering work on El Niño effects that dictate major floods and synchronous droughts

in many different locations from the Nile basin to parts of China, South America, Indonesia, India and eastern Australia.

In recognition of his distinguished and sustained contributions to Quaternary research, Professor Williams was recently elected an Honorary Member by the International Union of Quaternary Research, only the second Australian to receive this honour.

Professor Williams came to the University of Adelaide in 1993 as Director of the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies and Foundation Professor of Environmental Studies.

He is author of more than 250 scientific papers and has authored or edited 11 books, including the significant text *Quaternary Environments* that has seen two editions and a Chinese edition.

He is a member of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of the Global Environment Facility and has been frequent adviser to the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank and the UN International Development Programme on the control of desertification and land degradation in Africa, Central Asia and China.

Professor Williams has also been awarded the Royal Society of South Australia's top honour, the Verco Medal. (See story on page 7).

"Impacts on ecosystems of this magnitude could well have significantly affected animal and human societies"

Above:
Professor Martin Williams
at the edge of an impact
crater in the Mauritanian
Desert, Western Sahara

Photo by Dr Helene Jousse

■ Story by Robyn Mills



Pigs don't fly but they do migrate

■ Ancient DNA

Ancient DNA harvested from pigs has allowed scientists, for the first time, to accurately determine the arrival of early farmers into Europe 11,000 years ago during the latter part of the Stone Age.

A study involving 18 international researchers including Professor Alan Cooper from the University of Adelaide, reveals that pigs – first domesticated in the Middle East – were definitely brought into Europe by the earliest farmers.

Professor Cooper, who heads the University's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA, is the senior author of a paper published last month in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA*.

The paper puts to rest a longstanding argument over whether the arrival of farming into Europe involved the actual migration of animals and plants, or whether the migrants just introduced the idea of domestic populations.

"By harvesting ancient DNA from modern and pig specimens of Middle Eastern ancestry, we can demonstrate that domestic pigs from this region were definitely introduced into Europe 11,000 years ago, reaching Paris by at least the early 4th Century BC," Professor Cooper said.

"Domestic pigs formed a key component of the Neolithic Revolution and this detailed genetic record of their origins reveals a complex set of interactions and processes during the spread of early farmers into Europe."

Durham University archaeologist Dr Greger Larson said the study proved that pigs were "fantastic proxies for reconstructing the origins and movement of humans".

Archaeological evidence suggests that early agriculture moved from the Middle East into Europe via the Mediterranean coastline and through the heart of Europe along the Danube.

All the samples used in the study came from the jaw bones or teeth of fossil pig specimens previously excavated from archaeological sites.

Professor Alan Cooper is a Federation Fellow within the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences at the University of Adelaide. He was recruited from the University of Oxford in 2005 to head the University's Australian Centre for Ancient DNA. Many of the European pig sequences were checked for accuracy at the centre.

"We can demonstrate that domestic pigs from this region were definitely introduced into Europe 11,000 years ago"

Royal Society honours for two

Two University of Adelaide researchers have been awarded prestigious medals by the Royal Society of South Australia for their outstanding scientific contributions.

Professor Martin Williams, Foundation Professor of Environmental Studies, from the University's School of Social Sciences has been awarded the Royal Society's highest honour, the Verco Medal, for his outstanding research on landscape evolution and climate change. (See story on page 6.)

And Professor Barry Brook, Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change within the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has been awarded the 2007 Andrewartha Medal in recognition of his outstanding contribution to understanding climate change.

"The Verco Medal is the highest honour that the Royal Society can bestow on one of its Fellows," said Royal Society of South Australia President Professor Allan Pring.

"Only those who have made a significant, outstanding contribution to their field of study can receive the award. Because of the careful deliberation that goes with each award, the list of Verco Medallists represents a most revered, respected and outstanding collection of scientists."

The Andrewartha medal is awarded in recognition of outstanding research by a young Australian scientist under the age of 35.

Professor Brook has an international reputation for excellence in global change biology, extinction risk, tropical ecology, conservation genetics and wildlife management.

Professor Brook's Andrewartha medal was presented last month.

Professor Williams will be presented with the Verco Medal at 6.30pm Thursday 11 October in the Royal Society Rooms, Morgan Thomas Lane, off Kintore Avenue, Adelaide. He will then give the Verco Lecture on "Living on the Edge: Human Response to Climate Change".

■ Story by Robyn Mills

■ Story by Candy Gibson



Above:
Assistant director
Bill Ramsay and music
and sound designer
Maria Fava

Photo by David Ellis

Experiments in science and time

■ Theatre Guild

Above:
This painting, *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump* (1768) by Joseph Wright of Derby, inspired British playwright Shelagh Stephenson. The original painting can be found in the National Gallery, London.

The final production for the 2007 season of the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild promises to be its most fascinating play of the year.

An Experiment with an Air Pump by British playwright Shelagh Stephenson is a highly intelligent, engaging and witty exploration of science, ethics, family and the role of women over the ages.

Set in the same house over two time periods – 1799 and 1999 – *An Experiment with an Air Pump* plays with the audience's expectations as easily as it mixes the shifts between time.

Stephenson's award-winning work was inspired by the 1768 painting by Joseph Wright of Derby, *An Experiment on a Bird in the Air Pump*, which depicted a scientific subject as though it were a scene of historical or religious significance.

In its first known production in Australia, *An Experiment with an Air*

Pump is directed by Geoff Brittain, designed by Ole Wiebkin, and stars Ben Brooker, Cheryl Douglas, Amy Hutchinson, Chris Leech, Aldo Longobardi, Sharon Malujlo and Alison Sharber, who play dual roles across the two time periods.

"There's a link between 1999 and 1799, not just in the science or in the depiction of women's roles, but also in the plot. The different time periods come together very well and are equally fascinating to watch," said assistant director Bill Ramsay.

An important part of the blending of these two time periods is the use of music and sound effects, being created by Music Technology student Maria Fava. Ms Fava, from Italy, recently moved to Adelaide after spending two years studying at Toulouse in France, and is currently based in the University of Adelaide's Electronic Music Unit.

She said Beethoven's famous Sonata played a central role in the music for the production.

"It is played in a classical way for one time period, and for the other time period it is remixed with other elements, including a female voice," Ms Fava said. "This gives a match between the two eras, and also is a match of technology, science and humanity. So in the music itself there is a mirror of the concept of the show."

An Experiment with an Air Pump will play at the Little Theatre (University of Adelaide Cloisters, off Victoria Drive) at 7.30pm on 13 October, 16-20 October and 23-27 October.

Tickets are \$25/\$20 concession and \$15 for current University of Adelaide students and staff for Tuesdays only, available from the Theatre Guild on (08) 8303 5999, online at www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild or from BASS on 131 246.

Interested in medical research but confused by the jargon?
Our young researchers will tell you the latest in everyday language

Young Investigator Award

An initiative of the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service in partnership with the University of Adelaide, Flinders University and the University of South Australia

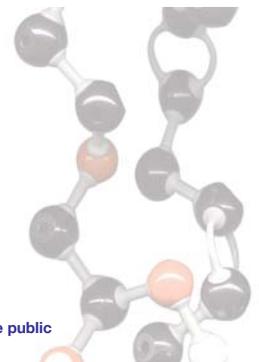
2007

6 – 9pm October 31st
Adelaide Convention Centre, North Terrace

No cost but bookings essential
RSVP by October 24th
Phone 8161 6173 or email chris.baldock@cywhs.sa.gov.au

Excellence in science and communication
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Bringing women's and children's health research to the public





Bonython Hall
Photo by Grant Hancock

UN heritage award goes to Adelaide icon

■ Heritage

Conservation work on Adelaide's historic Bonython Hall has earned the University of Adelaide international recognition, winning an Award of Merit in the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Awards in Bangkok, Thailand.

It was the only Australian project and one of only eight from the Asia-Pacific region to be given an award in 2007.

Bonython Hall, located at the intersection of North Terrace and Pulteney Street in the city, is one of Adelaide's most recognisable historic buildings. Completed in 1936, the hall seats up to 1000 people and is used for University graduation ceremonies, conventions and major public events, such as Open Day.

"Bonython Hall plays a key role in the life of the city of Adelaide, and as the centrepiece of our graduation ceremonies makes an indelible mark on thousands of students who graduate at our University every year," said the University's Vice-

Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"The hall itself represents a history of quality education in Australia. The conservation work was therefore crucial in maintaining and enhancing this iconic building," Professor McWha said.

A UNESCO jury of nine international conservation experts praised the work on Bonython Hall, and noted its "excellence in standard-setting technical achievement".

"The university landmark has been given a new life through the consolidation of its collegiate Gothic features and the unobtrusive upgrade of its building services, thereby ensuring its continued prominence in campus life and its iconic value throughout South Australia," the jury said.

Work on Bonython Hall was started in 2005 and included significant reconstruction and maintenance of the northern turrets, which were deteriorating.

The interior of the building was also extremely uncomfortable on hot summer and cold winter days, resulting in the installation of heating and cooling systems that did not impact on the building's cultural heritage value.

Conservation and heritage consultants McDougall & Vines and Swanbury Penglase Architects worked with the Property Services branch of the University on the conservation and restoration of Bonython Hall.

Professor McWha said the Bonython Hall project was the first in an ongoing program of maintenance, conservation and development of the University of Adelaide's 30 heritage-listed buildings across four campuses.

UNESCO – the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization – promotes international cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.

■ Story by David Ellis

Living Life Impact

OPEN DAY 07

About 12,000 people – a record number – attended the University of Adelaide’s Open Day on Sunday 26 August.

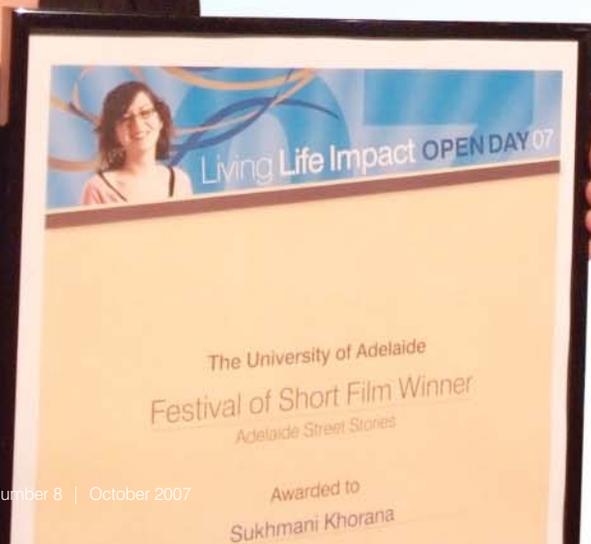
As these photos show, there was much for them to see and do at the University’s North Terrace Campus.

Events such as the Forum, Research Tuesday on Sunday and the Festival of Short Film gave members of the public even more reason to attend than ever, while the student information talks, Bonython Hall Expo and the various faculty displays were packed for most of the day.

Open Day had something for everyone, with music, food and entertainment in abundance, as well as the all-important stimulation for healthy minds.

“I’m pleased that this annual event has become such an important and growing part of our connection with the wider community; people of all ages came to see what the University is all about, and I’m sure they would have walked away with a very strong impression of what we are achieving,” said Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

Photos by Mark Trumble



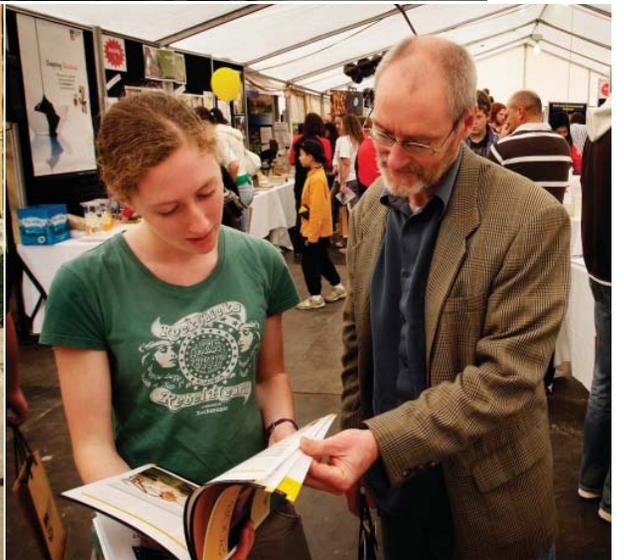
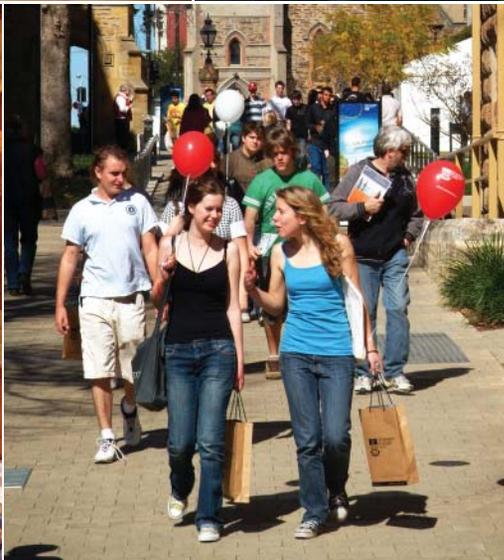
Left: Media student Sukhmani Khorana won first prize at the University of Adelaide’s inaugural Festival of Short Film, held as part of Open Day. Ms Khorana’s film, *Refracting Adelaide*, touched on thoughts and feelings of Adelaide set to images of the city’s streets. As the winner, she receives the use of professional equipment and editing assistance valued at \$4000, sponsored by Kojjo Group, and free membership to the Media Resource Centre for 12 months.

All of the finalists’ short films can be viewed on the video section of www.news.com.au/adelaidenow/ and will be seen on Channel 9 later this year.



Below:
Information Day at the University's
Roseworthy Campus on Friday 24 August
also proved popular, with a large crowd
attending the information sessions to
hear more about studies in Agriculture,
Agricultural Science and Animal Science.

Photo by David Ellis



Kangaroos bounce back



■ Agriculture

“Commercial harvesting of kangaroos, originally used as a form of pest control to reduce the pressure on grazing lands, is now a significant industry”

One of Australia’s icons – the kangaroo – is providing South Australian rural communities with an alternative income source worth millions of dollars each year.

Far from being a pest, the kangaroo is now regarded as a valuable resource by SA graziers, according to University of Adelaide PhD student Dana Thomsen.

Ms Thomsen has spent the past five years researching the economic and social issues relating to the commercial harvesting of kangaroos in South Australia for meat and skin markets.

Her key findings, recently published in a Federal Government report, reveal that commercial kangaroo harvesting provides significant economic, social and ecological benefits to South Australia’s rangeland communities.

“Commercial harvesting of kangaroos, originally used as a form of pest control to reduce the pressure on grazing lands, is now a significant industry that directly employs around 4000 people and contributes up to \$230 million a year to the Australian economy. South Australia shares in those benefits,” Ms Thomsen said.

But the economic gains could be much greater for the State’s rural sector, which is constricted by a rigid quota system.

“In South Australia, the quotas have been allocated at the property level rather than on a regional basis.

This has resulted in a very inflexible system because kangaroo populations on each property fluctuate, especially after rain. Kangaroos need to be harvested where they are in large numbers, otherwise it’s too inefficient.”

Despite South Australia recording the highest acceptance of kangaroo meat in the country, its harvest figures are the lowest of any State. From 1997 to 2004, South Australia harvested just 43% of its average quota and imported 211,000 carcasses from interstate to meet local demand.

“If we are to effectively manage the industry we need to have a far more flexible system in South Australia. While demand for kangaroo products has previously limited the industry, efforts to develop markets have been successful and we can’t supply enough,” Ms Thomsen said.

Kangaroo meat and skins are now exported to 60 countries, and the market is growing. Kangaroo leather and pelts are highly sought after in Europe for clothing, shoes and accessories, while kangaroo meat is lauded for its low-fat, high-protein health benefits.

Ms Thomsen said the commercial kangaroo industry is considered by natural resource scientists as one of the few rural industry practices that provides economic return with minimal environmental impact.

But Aboriginal people need to be

consulted more widely in kangaroo management, she said.

“Kangaroos are culturally significant to Aboriginal people and it’s important we include them in the decision-making process. Part of my research involves promoting a better understanding between non-indigenous industry stakeholders and Aboriginal people so we can market the industry as not only clean and green, but also socially just.”

Ms Thomsen’s research in commercial kangaroo harvesting has won several awards, including a national Young Researcher Prize in 2004 and runner-up for the Best Conference Paper at the 2006 Australasian Farm Business Management Network Conference.

As a result of Ms Thomsen’s findings, the South Australian Government is now developing proposals for a more flexible system for managing kangaroos in order to meet market demand and ensure that harvests are sustainable.

Ms Thomsen is supervised by Dr Jocelyn Davies from CSIRO and Dr Ian Nuberg from the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide’s Roseworthy Campus. Her research has been funded by the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) and Land & Water Australia.

■ Story by Candy Gibson



Law students speak out

Law students at the University of Adelaide are this month running a free legal forum that aims to tackle key issues in administrative law, including freedom of information legislation and government accountability.

The forum, "Policing Policy: Accountability in a changing political landscape", features guest speakers the Hon. Justice Finn of the Federal Court of Australia and the Hon. Justice Gray of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

The forum offers students at the University of Adelaide's Law School the opportunity to present papers on selected administrative law issues to an audience of academics, judges and lawyers.

It encourages students to consider the significance of administrative law and its role in ensuring government accountability.

Administrative law encompasses issues of freedom of information, executive power and judicial review of government decisions.

Topics that will be discussed in the forum include methods of government accountability, the ability of the courts to challenge government decision makers who are accorded ever-widening discretionary powers, and the ability of the courts to challenge decisions of a highly political nature, such as the Tampa case.

Attendance at the forum is free, but registration is necessary for catering needs. Please RVSP to adminlawforum@gmail.com by Friday 19 October.

Administrative Law Students Forum

5.15pm registration for a 6.00pm start
Thursday 25 October
Ligertwood Building
North Terrace Campus
University of Adelaide

Vogel prize a literary dream for creative writing student

■ Achievement

University of Adelaide Creative Writing PhD student Stefan Laszczuk has won Australia's richest and most prestigious prize for an unpublished manuscript – the \$20,000 Vogel Literary Award.

The 34-year-old writer's winning manuscript was for a novel called *I Dream of Magda*, set in a bowling alley and telling the story of a man from a dysfunctional family.

Described by the judges as "totally engaging", Laszczuk's major creative work for his PhD project is due to be published next year.

The prize confirms Laszczuk's talent as a writer, following on the heels of his first novel, *The Goddamn Bus of Happiness* (Wakefield Press, 2005), which won the 2004 SA Festival award for an unpublished manuscript.

That novel was developed as part of Laszczuk's Masters in Creative Writing at the University.

Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide, Professor Nicholas Jose, said Laszczuk's

award continues the University's association with the Vogel.

Eva Sallis won it in 1997 for her novel *Hiam*, written when she was a PhD student in English. She later taught Creative Writing at the University and is now an affiliate lecturer.

Other Creative Writing students have been commended in recent years, including Corrie Hosking, Rachel Hennessy, Amy Matthews and Heather Taylor Johnson.

"The PhD program gives emerging writers the chance to develop their work to a state that is ready to be submitted to publishers and for competitions such as this," Professor Jose said.

"We actively encourage and assist students to get their work into the public domain through readings, events, as well as publications."

Professor Jose described Laszczuk's writing as "contemporary, funny and touching".

"It's also well conceived and well-crafted. Stefan has great comic gifts and uses humour to deal with troubling and difficult subjects."

■ Story by Candy Gibson

"We actively encourage and assist students to get their work into the public domain through readings, events, as well as publications"

Above:
Stefan Laszczuk

Photo courtesy of
The Australian

Oral health lesson for shelter residents



Oral Health

University of Adelaide dental students spent their own time recently giving advice to some of Adelaide's most disadvantaged people about the importance of oral health.

In partnership with Colgate, Bachelor of Dental Surgery and Bachelor of Oral Health students visited St Vincent's Day Night Shelter and Byron Place Community Centre to give oral health advice and hand out free dental care products supplied by Colgate and Wrigley.

St Vincent's offers accommodation, evening meals and breakfast, and access to various support services. Byron Place offers access to health care, various support services and refreshments for homeless and other needy people in Adelaide's city centre.

Dental School lecturer Margaret Steffens, who co-ordinated the shelter visits as part of Colgate's Oral

Health Month, said both students and shelter residents benefited from the visits.

"Disadvantaged people may not see the immediate need for oral care due to their priority of needs and, for various reasons, they may avoid contact with dental services until their need is urgent," said Ms Steffens.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our students to increase their own awareness of the needs that exist within the broader community. At the shelters, our students were able to talk to the residents about any dental problems they were having and give simple advice about looking after their teeth and gums. Thanks to Colgate, we were supplied with a generous amount of free toothpaste, toothbrushes, samples of floss and brochures. Wrigley supplied us with free sugarless gum.

"The benefit was two-fold in that the students were visiting the homeless in their 'home', reducing the perceived gap that is often evident between professionals and the patient and thereby reducing anxiety and encouraging a more open and relaxed relationship. It is hoped that this will be the beginning of similar future ventures."

In another initiative sponsored by Colgate and Wrigley, Bachelor of Oral Health students, completing their second year, visited Foodland stores throughout suburban Adelaide with the theme 'Good oral health for all'.

Students engaged with a broad spectrum of the public, ranging from early childhood through to older age, and were able to informally discuss optimal care for particular age groups.

"This was an excellent opportunity for our students to increase their own awareness of the needs that exist within the broader community"

Above:
Fourth-year Dental Surgery student Ashley Freeman (right) demonstrates good brushing technique to Byron Place client Stephen

Photo by Robyn Mills

Story by Robyn Mills

WATER – there's a hole in the bucket



A Research Tuesday with Professor Mike Young Tuesday 9 October at 5.30pm

"There's a hole in the bucket, Dear Premier, Dear Minister."
"Then how shall we fix it, Dear Scientist, Dear Economist, Then how shall we fix it?"

Why has so much of Australia and, more particularly, South Australia run out of water?
How many holes are there in the bucket?
Has the bucket got smaller?
What can science and policy analysis tell us about the problems we face?

With what shall we fix it?

How innovative can we be?
Could South Australia become internationally renowned for its capacity to manage water?
What would governments, businesses and the community have to do?

Mike Young is Professor of Water Economics and Management in the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. He is one of Australia's leading water policy reformers.

Venue:

Lecture Theatre GO4 ground floor
Napier Building, North Terrace campus.
Admission is free.

Bookings essential:

Email: research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au
Phone: 8303 3692

Further information:

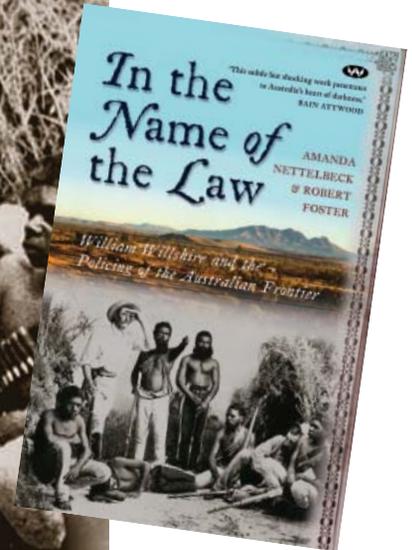
Visit the University of Adelaide's Research website: www.adelaide.edu.au/research



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Life Impact The University of Adelaide



Retelling our violent Colonial history

Books

“His story emerges at a time when the frontier was becoming the subject of pioneer legend and reminiscence”

Main photo: Mounted Constable William Willshire (second from left) photographed with members of the Native Police at Port Augusta, 1888

Photo courtesy of the South Australian Museum

In their latest book, University of Adelaide researchers Associate Professor Amanda Nettelbeck and Dr Robert Foster bring to life a history of frontier conflict and violence in 1880s Central Australia.

In the Name of the Law tells the story of Mounted Constable William Willshire who was Commander of Native Police in Central Australia and was notorious for the unchecked violence of his patrols throughout the 1880s. He was eventually tried in 1891 for the murder of two Aboriginal men.

This book is the authors’ second joint exploration of frontier conflict and how Australian Colonial history sits within today’s social memory. Their first book, *Fatal Collisions: the South Australian Frontier and the Violence of Memory*, written with Rick Hosking from Flinders University, was published by Wakefield Press in 2001.

Willshire proved to be fertile ground for an interdisciplinary study (Associate Professor Nettelbeck is in the Discipline of English and Dr Foster, the Discipline of History).

“The book is focused on the one hand around the history of these extraordinary events – his violent policing of the frontier, his control

of the Native Police,” Dr Foster said. “The other side is that Willshire himself wrote about what he did in a series of small pamphlets. Some of his writing has more the quality of 19th century imperial romance adventure novels.”

“His story emerges at a time when the frontier was becoming the subject of pioneer legend and reminiscence,” said Associate Professor Nettelbeck. “He was able to live out a myth in the making.”

Dr Foster said Willshire, in his writings, quoted and saw himself as a Rider Haggard, *King Solomon’s Mines* adventure hero.

“This Australian frontier is already being romanticised in many ways, but he’s actually living it out. It’s a very interesting interplay of art imitating life and life imitating art which is made all the more dramatic by the fact that what he’s doing is serious – people are dying, he’s shooting them,” Dr Foster said.

The Nettelbeck/Foster collaboration on the nature of frontier conflict and its place in social memory has continued with an Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grant with the South Australian Museum, now in its last year.

A third book they are starting to write will move away from the case study approach towards an empirical analysis of the South and Central Australian frontiers: the levels of violence, how many people died, the circumstances involved. It will then look at how the memory of conflict has survived and the extent to which it has been mythologised.

Associate Professor Nettelbeck and Dr Foster will talk about their book at an author event on Thursday 25 October at 6.30pm in the Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library. Please book by emailing robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or call (08) 8303 4064 by 23 October. A gold coin donation is invited.

In the Name of the Law is published by Wakefield Press and is available via the publisher’s website www.wakefieldpress.com.au or local bookshops.

The *Adelaidean* has two free copies of *In the Name of the Law* to give away to lucky readers.

To win, be the first to call (08) 8303 5414. Entries close 5pm Monday 15 October.

■ Story by Robyn Mills



■ Development & Alumni Events

Florey Medical Chapter

Event: The Florey Chapter Medical Vignerons Dinner 2007

The Medical Vignerons Dinner is the Florey Chapter's premier event. It is an excellent opportunity to meet other chapter members and catch up with old University friends, as well as enjoy some finely crafted wines from some of SA's finest vigneronns. All welcome.

Date: Friday 9 November

Time: TBA

Cost: \$80 (student discount available)

Venue: National Wine Centre, corner of Botanic Road and Hackney Road, Adelaide

RSVP: Gaynor Tyerman on (08) 8303 6356 or gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

Cornell Chapter for Arts and Performing Arts

Event: Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner, featuring speaker Anthony Steel AM: "The 2008 Adelaide Festival of Arts: a preview", and music by Skyline String Quartet

Venue: St Mark's College, Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide

Date: Saturday 10 November

Time: 6.15pm AGM, 7pm Dinner

Cost: \$60 (Dinner Drinks BYO)

RSVP: Development and Alumni office at +61 8 8303 6356 or fax: +61 8 8303 5808

United Kingdom Chapter

Event: Annual General Meeting

Venue: Australia Centre

Date: Wednesday 14 November

Time: Details to be advised

RSVP: events@adelaidealumniuk.eu

Event: Christmas Event – please put this date in your diaries and tell other Alumni and Friends

Venue: The Exhibition Hall at Australia House

Date: Thursday 29 November

Time: 6.30pm

RSVP: events@adelaidealumniuk.eu

For more Development and Alumni events, turn to page 18.

Details of events can also be found on the website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/

Scholarship helps first-year students

■ Agriculture



A fourth-generation farmer from Lochiel in the State's mid-north has been announced as the inaugural recipient of a prestigious scholarship named in memory of a great South Australian.

Eighteen-year-old University of Adelaide student Brendan Wallis has been awarded the Trevor Dillon Agronomic Roseworthy Study Scholarship.

The Dillon Scholarship will provide Mr Wallis with full residential support at the University's Roseworthy Campus, where he is undertaking his first year of study in the Bachelor of Agriculture degree.

The Dillon Scholarship has particular significance because it focuses on providing assistance to agricultural students during their crucial initial period of tertiary study at Roseworthy, said the Co-patron

Chairman of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund, the Hon. Dr Bruce Eastick AM.

"This first year away from home, thrust into a different study environment, is a make-or-break time that can set the foundations for an entire lifetime career in agriculture," Dr Eastick said.

"Our aim is to enable a young person to take the first step in the long personal journey to become a professional contributor to the future of our agricultural sector."

The scholarship – supported by South Australia's rural sector – is named in memory of Trevor Dillon, one of the State's most respected and high-profile advocates for excellence in farming practice over a period of five decades.

■ Story by Dale Manson

Above (from left): The Hon. Dr Bruce Eastick, Co-Patron Chairman of the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund, with University of Adelaide student and scholarship recipient Brendan Wallis, and Locky McLaren, President of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association

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Following one of the recommendations of Adelaide Thinker in Residence Professor Ilona Kickbusch, the Healthy Ageing Research Cluster (HARC) has been involved in the establishment of a new initiative called the Health Literacy Alliance. Susan Gravier, Co-ordinator of HARC at the University of Adelaide, explains what health literacy is, and how the Health Literacy Alliance aims to help our society.

What is health literacy?

■ Commentary

Health Literacy is not just knowing how to read but knowing how to navigate through life, keeping health in mind and in practice. It's knowing about the body's functions and signs of dysfunction; knowing how to find, interpret and understand information, and how and where to seek further information when required; knowing what constitutes good quality advice, and how to translate this help into action.

Health literacy also influences the nature and functioning of environments so that they encourage health and wellbeing. It's about thinking and acting in a healthy way for ourselves or as a community, even when the focus may seem far from health, for example in fashion, transport, or advertising.

The Healthy Ageing Research Cluster (HARC) has been an active representative of the University of Adelaide in the Adelaide-Thinker-in-Residence Program of Professor Ilona Kickbusch. Professor Kickbusch is well known throughout the world in the Public Health sphere, has had a distinguished career with the World Health Organization and initiated the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion.

The Health Literacy Alliance sprung from a recommendation at the end of Professor Kickbusch's first residency in February-March this year. This alliance is a diverse group of 36 members from the three South Australian universities, the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, the Department of Health, various health services, Department of Education and Children's Services, State Library of South Australia, CSIRO, Divisions

of General Practice, Aboriginal Health Council SA, SA Refugee Network, TRACsa (Trauma and Injury Recovery) and WorkCover.

The purpose of the alliance is to provide leadership and support for developing and applying the concept of health literacy as a means of equitably improving health and wellbeing.

Health literacy describes the ability of an individual to make decisions and act in favour of their health in daily life – at home, in the community, at school, in the workplace, in the healthcare system, in the marketplace or in the political arena. Being health literate empowers people to increase control over their health, their ability to seek out health information, to navigate complex systems, to take responsibility and participate effectively in all aspects of life.

Our social environment is forever changing around us. Information relating directly or indirectly to health and wellbeing comes to us and at us from a variety of mediums: media, marketing, and virtual, and in a variety of settings. Health systems are more complex than ever before, with more treatment options, specialised services and a growing delegation of risk management to the individual, the family and the community. Underlying how people function in these environments are competencies – cognitive, motivational, and social – geared towards a health-related outcome. Being health literate equates to being health competent.

Poor health literacy comes at a cost to the individual and to the community through higher healthcare costs. In America in 2001, low functional literacy

resulted in an estimated \$32 to \$48 billion in additional healthcare costs. In 2004, the US Institute of Medicine noted that "health literacy remains a final neglected pathway to high-quality health care".

We don't know yet how much health literacy affects South Australians' health and wellbeing, or the cost of poor health literacy in SA. The Health Literacy Alliance seeks to survey and monitor the level of health literacy in South Australia to therefore found the basis for appropriate changes. It also endeavours to advocate strongly so that health literacy is no longer the "neglected pathway to high-quality health care" but the basis for sound practice.

So how does health literacy come into the realm of fashion? By advocating for the portrayal of the image of healthy weight, and that healthy weight is a state of being rather than a set of measurements. Fashionable trends such as body piercing, an invasive procedure, can cause injury or infections which can be avoided if potential candidates are health literate.

So how does health literacy come into the realm of transport? Choices of how we move about our community and how our community is set up involve health – ease of walking about neighbourhoods, fitness, effects of pollution, personal safety, stress...

Health literacy is not a magic wand. It is, however, a powerful tool. It's not about being an expert on health but it's being competent to search for and find (with appropriate help) good, relevant and timely information from a variety of sources within an environment which promotes health and wellbeing.

"Our social environment is forever changing around us. Information relating directly or indirectly to health and wellbeing comes to us and at us from a variety of mediums"



VC's scholarships double

Scholarships

The annual Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships program, which awards two scholarships to students each year, is set to double to offer a total of four scholarships in 2008.

Entirely funded by the public, the scholarships program is expanding after receiving record support through the 2006 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Fund annual appeal.

"I'm greatly pleased that we are able to extend the scholarships program to give four more deserving students a helping hand as they begin university in 2008. It is through the outstanding generosity of alumni and friends of the University that this has become possible," said University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

Now in its fifth year, the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships are awarded annually to undergraduate students at the University of Adelaide, providing \$5000 support each year for the course of their degree.

Selection is based on academic merit and financial need, with at least one scholarship being awarded to a student from a rural area.

The Vice-Chancellor recently met the 2007 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships winners: Michael Noble from Cleve on the Eyre Peninsula, who is studying Agriculture, and Tiffany Hams from Kangaroo Island, who is in her first year of a double degree in Science and Law.

"The Scholarship has taken the financial pressure off my parents, and has made the move from the country to the city to study a lot easier," said Michael, who relocated five hours' drive away from his family's farm to live and study at the University's Roseworthy Campus.

Tiffany said the scholarship was a great support. "To begin university, I had to relocate from Kangaroo Island. The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship has really helped me move away from home and begin my university education, and allows me to focus on my studies. I'm very grateful to donors to the Fund."

For more information about the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Fund appeal, please contact the Manager, Fundraising and Development, on (08) 8303 4275 or email helen.paul@adelaide.edu.au

www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving/

■ Story by Lana Guineay

Above:
Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha (centre) with scholarship recipients Michael Noble and Tiffany Hams

Photo by John Hemmings

Development & Alumni Events

Adelaide University Alumni Sydney University

Event: SANFL Grand Final: footy and barbecue

Date: Sunday 7 October

Venue: Gladstone Hotel, 115 Regent Street, Chippendale, NSW

Time: 2.30pm to 6.00pm

Cost: \$5 charge for sausage sizzle/ barbie. Drinks and food available for purchase

RSVP: by Friday 5 October to sydneychapter@hotmail.com

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association

Event: ROCA Annual General Meeting and Annual Reunion Dinner

The 2007 Award of Merit will be presented, plus special profiles from 10, 25, 40 and 50-year reunion groups

Date: Friday 12 October

Time: 7.00pm

Cost: \$40 members, \$45 non-members

Venue: Glenelg Golf Club, James Melrose Drive, Novar Gardens

RSVP: Dr David Cooper, dacooper@merlin.net.au, phone (08) 8363 4371 (work), (08) 8332 5982 (home)

Friends of the University Library and the Don Dunstan Foundation

Event: "Weighing up Australian Values: Turning risks into Opportunities" by Brian Howe

Date: Wednesday 17 October

Time: 6.00pm to 7.30pm

Venue: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide

Cost: Free and open to the public

RSVP: by Monday 15 October to samuel.franzway@adelaide.edu.au, (08) 8303 3364, or robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au, (08) 8303 4064

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: "In the name of the Law: William Willshire and the policing of the Australian frontier" by Amanda Nettelbeck and Robert Foster

Date: Thursday 25 October

Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm

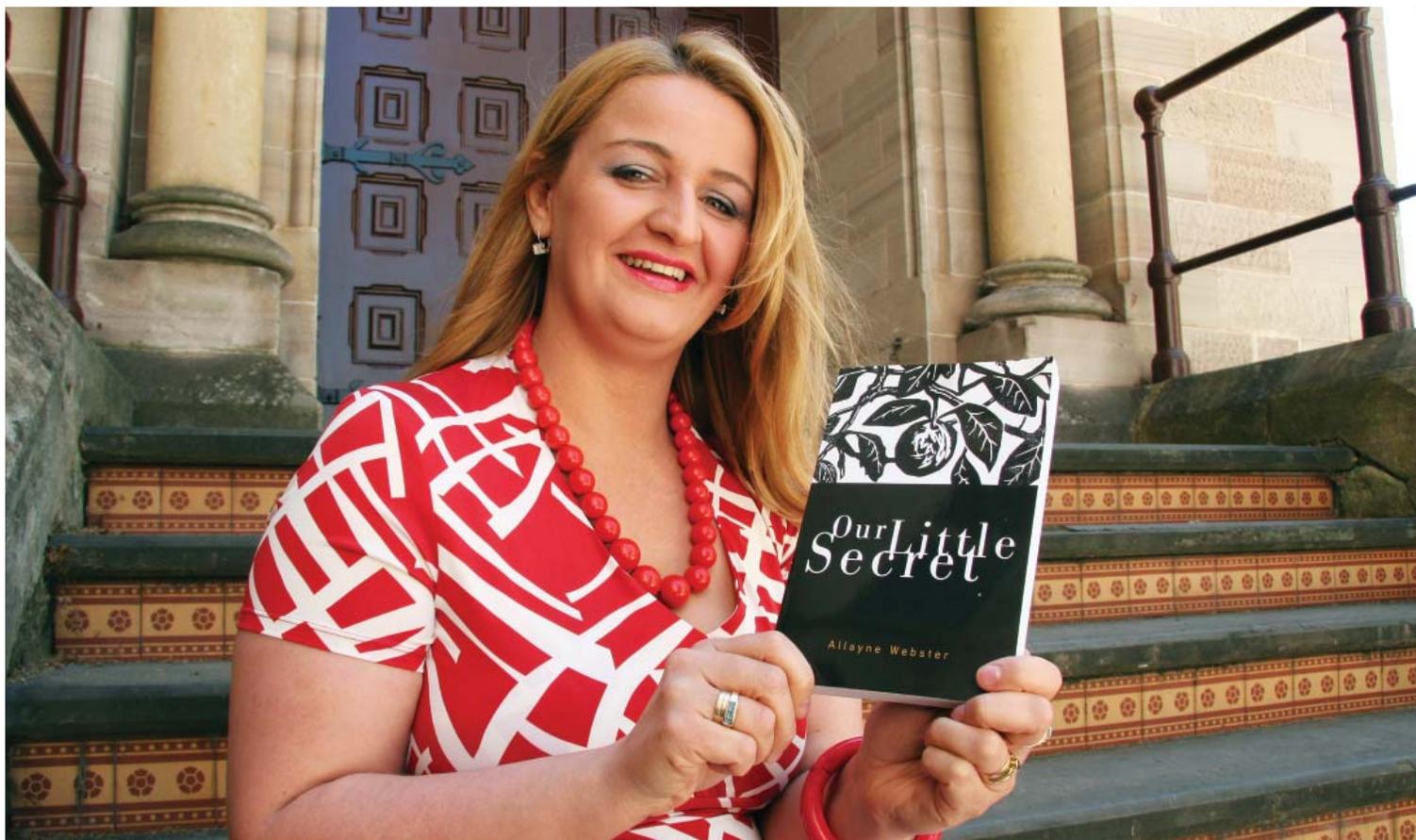
Venue: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide

Cost: Free and open to the public

RSVP: by Tuesday 23 October to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au, (08) 8303 4064

For more Development and Alumni events, turn to page 16.

Details of events can also be found on the website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/



Allayne's writing talent no longer a secret

■ Achievement

“A novel can be about simple entertainment or it can be about taking you on a journey. A good novel can have the power to change you”

Above:
Allayne Webster with her first novel

Photo by David Ellis

University of Adelaide staff harbour all kinds of secret desires and talents.

For Law School staff member Allayne Webster, her secret has been her love of writing. But it's not a secret any more – Mrs Webster has now released her first novel to critical acclaim.

The novel, *Our Little Secret*, is a story about sexual abuse. Rape, small-town gossip, scandal, guilt and repression are all explored in a novel that is described as “a book every young girl needs to read”. It is aimed at addressing real issues for mature teenage readers.

“*Our Little Secret* was, in many ways, a response to the media,” Mrs Webster said.

“I felt like every day that I opened the newspaper, all I read were brief stories on young children or teenagers who had been sexually assaulted or abused. The reports were always so clinical – and to convey such a terrible act in only a few lines seemed not to do the topic justice.

“What happened to these young people? How did it affect them? What values did society place on

them? What misconceptions did they face? How did they move on with their lives?”

“A novel can be about simple entertainment or it can be about taking you on a journey. A good novel can have the power to change you. I want *Our Little Secret* to change people. I want it to help people of all ages understand the devastating effects of sexual abuse,” she said.

The novel has already gained much attention in legal and political circles, and was launched earlier this year by independent No Pokies MLC Nick Xenophon. It has received positive reviews in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Age* and *The Advertiser*, and Mrs Webster has also been interviewed by Amanda Blair on radio FIVEaa.

Mrs Webster, who is the Personal Assistant to the University's Dean of Law, said the experience of writing her first novel and having it published was a dream come true.

“I've always been creative – playing guitar, writing music, painting, etc. Writing for me, is ‘a need’, more than ‘a want’,” she said.

“I plan to keep writing, but not for

the sake of writing. I think my own writing is best when I'm fired up about an issue, as I was with *Our Little Secret*.”

Mrs Webster said she credits some of her writing success to her involvement with the Adelaide University Women's Professional Development Network (WPDN) and her mentor, Wendy Zweck, School Manager with the School of Education.

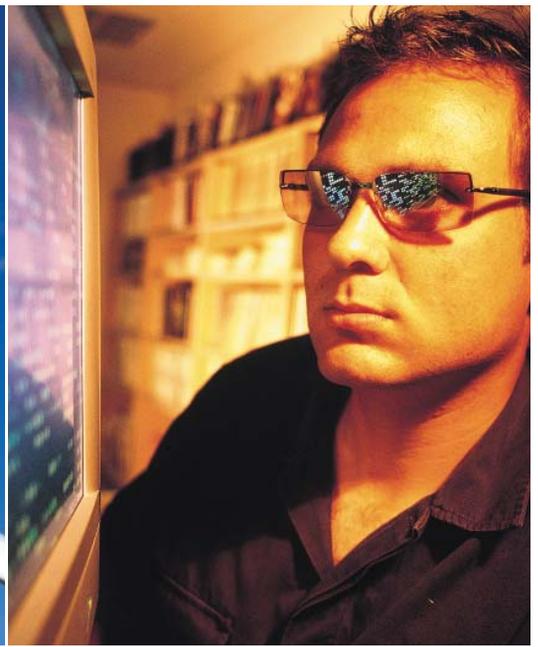
“Wendy has been extremely supportive and encouraging of both my personal and professional goals,” she said.

“I also thank the Law School for their great flexibility and support.”

Our Little Secret is published by Omnibus, Scholastic, and is available at all good bookstores at a recommended retail price of \$17.99.

The *Adelaidean* has one copy of *Our Little Secret* to give away to a lucky reader. To win, be the first caller on (08) 8303 5414. Entries close 5pm Monday 15 October.

■ Story by David Ellis



It's a world of engineering

Engineering

Above:
The Unmanned Aerial Vehicle developed by University of Adelaide engineering students will be one of the many projects on display

Photo by James Field

Above right:
Developments in computer science will also be on show to the public

Photo by Randy Larcombe

Dozens of amazing projects put together by some of the University of Adelaide's brightest young minds will go on display to the public in exhibitions staged by three schools within the Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences on Friday 26 October.

The exhibitions will give students in Mechanical Engineering, Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Computer Science the opportunity to showcase their hard work, technical expertise and innovation to a wide audience, including members of the public, industry and government.

Many of the student projects on display have industry and government sponsors, and the exhibitions put students in direct contact with key industry figures, giving them an advantage when entering the graduate employment market.

The student projects cover fields as diverse as aerospace, robotics, computer vision, electronic systems, combustion, noise and vibration control, signal processing, networks, evolutionary computing, T-rays and automotive engineering, among many others.

School of Mechanical Engineering

Final-Year Project Exhibition

10.00am to 4.00pm Friday 26 October
Level 4, Union Building
North Terrace Campus
University of Adelaide

School of Computer Science and School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering

Final-Year Project Exhibitions

9.00am to 4.00pm Friday 26 October
Room EM205, Engineering and Mathematics Building
North Terrace Campus
University of Adelaide

www.ecms.adelaide.edu.au



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for every SA electorate

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radio.adelaide.edu.au/pollywaffle

Wednesdays 6pm