New degree to boost nurse numbers

The University of Adelaide will help meet the challenge of bolstering nurse levels by offering a three-year Bachelor of Nursing program from next year.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the University’s Department of Clinical Nursing, in collaboration with key industry partners, would deliver the program.

“The new program will produce nursing graduates who are well prepared – both academically and clinically – at a critical time in terms of the current and projected shortage of nurses,” he said.

“Another of the significant strong points of our program is the substantial amount of time dedicated to practical learning. It is higher than most traditional Australian undergraduate nursing programs.

“It also allows us to strengthen our relationship with the Royal Adelaide Hospital.”

The Department of Clinical Nursing was established in 1995 on the initiative of the Royal Adelaide Hospital. The interaction between the Department and the Hospital, facilitated by geographical proximity, produces a synergistic relationship between an academic department of nursing and a provider of nursing services.

Students will work in the clinical area as full members of the health care team, and additional clinical support and clinical lecturers will provide supervision.

continued on page 2
We are destined, it seems, to have a Research Quality Framework (RQF). This is one of the most significant components of the Federal Government’s raft of proposed changes to higher education in this country, and it will have a substantial impact on research at our university.

The RQF is similar to the model used in Britain which is known as the Research Assessment Exercise, and it is intended to replace much of the present system of funding universities for research.

The current system is performance-based; that is, institutional research support is based on achieving success in various competitive research categories. This includes winning grants from the peer-reviewed Australian Research Council and the National Health and Medical Research Council, as well as other outputs such as Research Publications. This system has its flaws – but it does work.

Under the RQF, this idea of performance-based funding will be broadened and expert assessment panels utilised. There is little wrong with this in principle, but I fear the reality may well be much different.

The new system will be expensive and time consuming, especially if you have to sit on one of the many assessment panels which will be needed. Let’s hope someone has evaluated whether the advantages of moving to the RQF will outweigh the cost – to date, it seems to be more an article of faith.

My hope is that any new system of research funding is based strongly around “research quality”. Adelaide is a research university and the research we carry out is of high quality. Good research is also competitive, in the same way that any race is competitive, and there will certainly be winners as well as losers.

It would be easy for the RQF to be hijacked to meet a multitude of other objectives, and important as some of those might be, this exercise is about “quality research”. It is not, for example, about equity, institutional ambition (which is sometimes confused with mission) or community interaction. If these elements of our work are to be funded then it should be through separate, and additional, funding allocations such as Britain’s “Third Stream” funding for activities that enhance the social and economic impact of our universities.

We welcome performance-based funding for quality research, because this is of national and international importance. Also, it is what we here at the University of Adelaide have done, and continue to do, with great success. We need to prepare for this change, and ensure that every area of the University is aware of the opportunity – and the consequences.

This will likely be our single biggest challenge over the next two years.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor

Clinical placement will be undertaken at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (North Terrace and Glenside Campuses and Hampstead); Lyell McEwin Hospital; Queen Elizabeth Hospital; Women’s and Children’s Hospital; Port Pirie Regional Health Service; Royal District Nursing Service and a group of residential care facilities.

The key features of the Bachelor of Nursing program, which will be introduced within the established and respected Faculty of Health Sciences, are:

- emphasis on health care as a dynamic and ever-changing system;
- focus on practice;
- reliance on experiential learning;
- integration of theory and practice;
- philosophy of person-centred nursing;
- increasing emphasis on health, health promotion and primary care-led health services;
- preparation for evidence-based practice;
- emphasis on developing teamwork skills;
- industry involvement;
- interdisciplinary learning; and
- information technology literacy.

For the past 10 years, the University’s Department of Clinical Nursing has been offering successful postgraduate specialist programs. The success of these programs has assisted in the development of the Bachelor of Nursing program.

Story by Howard Salkow
Labelled a “home away from home”, and adopting a “Live to Succeed” theme, the University of Adelaide Village opens its doors this month to Australian and international students.

Managed by the University of Adelaide, The Village will provide accommodation for over 400 students in modern, fully furnished townhouses.

Located at 210 Grote Street, The Village is the first of its kind in Adelaide, providing modern facilities in a supportive community environment conducive to academic success.

The townhouses are situated only a short walk from Chinatown and the Central Market, and are fully furnished with a kitchen, lounge and dining area plus all utilities. They also include:

- 24-hour onsite management;
- direct Internet connection from rooms to the University’s data network via high speed broadband;
- telephones in each room;
- tutorial room, student lounge and study centre;

“The Village is a unique student accommodation option for Adelaide that combines independent living with significant support for residents, by way of academic tutoring, mentoring programs and organised social activities,” says Mr Geoffrey Denison, the University’s Accommodation Manager.

“There are many accommodation options available to students in the private market, but The Village will provide true student service and assist students to adapt to life away from home,” he says.

And Sukhmani Khorana, a final-year Bachelor of Media studies student, said the sheer value of The Village is not only reflected in the idea, but is clearly illustrated by its structure, landscaping, management and security arrangements.

“The Village will be ideal for international students who arrive in Adelaide without any contacts. The mixed community atmosphere will offer the interaction required and will ease the pain for many students,” said the Indian-born Sukhmani.

The personal security of The Village residents is one of the University’s highest priorities and access is only possible with residents’ cards. In addition, closed-circuit TV cameras and an after-hours security guard assist in maintaining a high standard of security.

Students also have access to an after-hours shuttle service from the University to The Village.

Accommodation in the first stage will consist of 154 places in four and five bedroom townhouses. The final stage will be completed in January 2006, with more townhouses and a six-storey apartment building.

Story by Howard Salkow

Applications for The Village can be made online at www.adelaide.edu.au/accommodation and enquiries made through the University’s Accommodation Service on (08) 8303 5220 or student.housing@adelaide.edu.au
South Australia has among the highest rates of teenage pregnancy, birth and abortion in the developed world – but positive sex education may help address this, according to new research at the University of Adelaide.

For her PhD in the Discipline of Anthropology, Fiona Sutherland studied the meanings of pleasure and risk among young Adelaide women in the context of their sexual health. She surveyed single mothers, strippers, sex workers and young women in a correctional institution aged from 16 to 23, as well as health workers in the field.

"According to sexual health statistics, the rates of teenage pregnancy, birth and abortion in South Australia are among the highest in the developed world," Ms Sutherland said.

"Research has also shown that countries which focus on more sexually positive education throughout a person’s lifespan have less assaults, Sexually Transmitted Infections and unwanted pregnancies.

"What I found from my research was there was an ignorance around sexual matters as very few had any sexual education that was useful to them, and many hadn't even been taught about menstruation.

"Teachers are not able to discuss anal sex, group sex or pornography in schools, although young people are experimenting with these things.

"What I’m finding more and more is that education needs to come from a harm minimisation approach of accepting that people are doing certain things and working to help them be safer about it, because denial is leaving a whole lot of kids without resources to deal with what can happen.

"In the US, where abstinence is promoted, the number of assaults and teenage pregnancies has skyrocketed because the prohibition approach does not address what young people are doing and what those behaviours mean to them.

“They’re going to be doing something anyway, listen and help them find a way of doing it that enhances their health and reduces the risk rather than imposing ideas on people.”

Ms Sutherland said the meanings we have attached to sexual health most often relate to disease or dysfunction, and don’t cover or discuss the notion of sexual pleasure.

"Sex education seems to say, ‘You do this and all these dreadful things can happen’; why can’t we educate people to think that sex can be pleasurable and life enhancing?” she said.

"It has been found that young women with mothers who encouraged them to talk openly about sexuality and pleasure as they grew up are able to make judgements about positive ways of displaying sexuality and don’t take the same kinds of risks as those whose mothers did not speak about it.”

"There was a silence around sexual pleasure and during her research she had heard many stories of women being too embarrassed to speak about pleasure with health workers, Ms Sutherland said.

This was often an issue of not being able to find the words, due to the young women’s narrow definition of sex as only being about penetration and not inclusive of other forms of intimacy.

"In some South Australian schools, sex education is taught with a focus on intimacy as well, which can start from simply being with friends to the intimacy in closer relationships, and it’s trying to help people to think where they are comfortable on that spectrum,” she said.

Story by Lisa Toole

Photo by Lisa Toole
The pioneering spirit of two great Australian aviators lives on in a new research endeavour that is taking to the skies.

The universities of Adelaide and Flinders have joined forces to create the Centre for Aeronautical Research and Education (CARE).

Based at Parafield Airport north of Adelaide, and involving a working high-altitude research aircraft, the new centre brings together the combined strengths of the two universities in aerospace engineering and atmospheric science.

As a major vote of confidence in the collaborative centre, CARE has been established with funding from the Sir Keith & Sir Ross Smith Fund. Named after the two pioneering South Australian aviators, who in 1919 flew a Vickers Vimy biplane from London to Darwin in less than 28 days, the fund aims to advance the science and education of aeronautics in South Australia.

"When Lady Anita Smith bequeathed her estate to the establishment of the Sir Ross & Sir Keith Smith Fund, her vision encompassed all aspects of human transportation through the air and in space," said Dr Gerald Schneider, who jointly heads the new centre with Associate Professor Jörg Hacker.

"That vision will be well reflected in the work of our new centre, which involves students and staff in a wide range of research and educational activities spanning aeronautical and aerospace engineering, physics and atmospheric sciences."

Dr Hacker is Chief Scientist and Managing Director of the highly regarded Airborne Research Australia (ARA) at Flinders University, while Dr Schneider is Sir Keith and Sir Ross Smith senior lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Adelaide and head of the university’s Aerospace Engineering degree.

Both men are highly experienced in their respective fields and also share a love of aircraft, aviation and flying. Prof Hacker and Dr. Schneider are both seasoned pilots.

Dr Hacker described the collaboration as an important step forward for education and research in South Australia.

"For many years ARA has had a strong reputation in atmospheric sciences, and it has provided many students with unique educational opportunities," Dr Hacker said.

"This new centre creates an interface between aerospace engineering and the atmospheric sciences, which means both fields of study will benefit from the collaboration."

Potential activities of the new centre include:

- microgravity flight experiments – using the aircraft in free-fall to create a near zero-gravity environment for a few seconds, simulating conditions in space;
- a “flying wind tunnel” – instead of using laboratory-based wind tunnels, attaching instrumentation and models to the aircraft and flying them through real-life turbulence conditions;
- alternative-powered aircraft – investigating ways of flying aircraft with as little fuel as possible, or no fuel at all.

"We will have a strong student base, which means we will be able to get a lot of student involvement in research projects," Dr Schneider said.

Dr Schneider said students in the University of Adelaide’s Aerospace Engineering degree would directly benefit from the experience of working with CARE.

"In addition to the benefits for undergraduate students, the funding we have received will also support a postgraduate scholarship," he said.

CARE is receiving $450,000 over three years from the Sir Keith & Sir Ross Smith Fund, and also hopes to attract further research and consultancy funding from non-government sources.

"Our funding is 100% external to both universities, which is a tall order. But this new centre is reaching for great heights," Dr Hacker said.
A free advice service offered by University of Adelaide law students is helping homeless residents access their legal rights.

The university’s Law School has established a Homeless Persons Legal Advice Service at the WestCare Day Centre in Wright Street in the CBD. The service operates one day each week and four students enrolled in the Clinical Legal Education program provide free preliminary legal advice and facilitate referrals under the supervision of staff members Margaret Castles, Alex Wawryk and Kathleen McEvoy.

“The rationale behind the service was to find a better way of providing legal advice to homeless people and it’s a way for the university to reach out to the community,” Dr Castles said.

“We are motivated by social justice, social inclusion and the law’s relationship to that, and we aim to empower people who are suffering the effects of homelessness and ensure their legal rights can be met.” She said aside from their economic and social struggle, homeless people face significant difficulties in accessing legal services.

“There was a strong tradition of homeless legal advice by law firms in the eastern states but there was no similar structure in Adelaide,” she said.

“If the law is to foster and maintain a sense of social justice and community spirit, the legal profession must work to fill the gap that exists in the justice system.

“Providing advice to a particularly focused and disadvantaged group has been extremely valuable for our students – they’ve loved it and managed extraordinarily well.

“It has been very sobering for the students to see the difficulties some people face when just getting a meal, finding somewhere to sleep or having a shower are big challenges.

“The whole issue of homelessness and going into a homeless person’s drop-in centre was confronting at first, but to find that they’re actually incredibly resourceful, decent and hopeful people is a very positive lesson in humanity and the social environment in which the law works.”

The clinic started at the beginning of this year with students having about 20 cases on the books.

“The students take responsibility for the cases and run the clinic themselves while we stay in the background providing supervision and support – this has been very empowering for them,” Dr Castles said.

“Some of the matters the students have been dealing with include trying to serve divorce proceedings, bankruptcy, family law, freedom of information and trying to change bail conditions – which can be an issue when a person has no fixed address, as can keeping track of clients.”

When clients require complex legal advice or representation, students not only make referrals but also ensure clients are able to attend the corresponding services.

“One man missed an appointment through something as simple as not having a pencil to write it down because his bag was stolen in the parklands.”

The pilot program will continue next semester and it is hoped it can be extended further and clinics started in other parts of the city.

The homeless persons legal advice service is supported by the Law Society, Law Foundation and the University of Adelaide.

Story by Lisa Toole

Law students taking part in the program include (from left) Kristylee McQuillife, Diana Dichiera, Nick Simmons, and Lauren de Vries van Leeuwin.

Photo by Lisa Toole
The Spencer Gulf Rural Health School (SGRHS) should top the priority list of medical students approaching their fifth year.

This much is the message relayed by current students in the program who believe they have been afforded opportunities not readily available in the city.

Despite coming from the city, student Thuy Pham said the experience working in a rural community has been invaluable.

“I have gained immeasurably being away from the city. There are only 17 students in our program and we have had to think on our feet, sometimes see patients on our own, identify what is wrong, take notes and then share them with the doctor. It’s been a fabulous learning curve,” she says.

Established in 2001, the SGRHS is a joint venture between the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia. It is a multidisciplinary entity funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing which brings together a University Department of Rural Health (UDRH) and a Rural Clinical School (RCS) as a single operational unit.

Based in Whyalla, it operates from two campuses: one at the University of South Australia and the other at the Whyalla Hospital.

The School also supports a number of Learning Centres throughout the region including Port Augusta, Booleroo Centre, Port Pirie, Miniton, Matland, Port Lincoln, Clare and Kadina. These Learning Centres are equipped with dedicated student facilities including student accommodation, study areas, libraries and up-to-date information technology.

The SGRHS comprises a multidisciplinary team of highly trained and experienced health professionals and key support staff.

Staff have a range of backgrounds including health disciplines (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, mental health, podiatry), administration, business and finance, public service, education, clerical and information technology.

The purpose of the SGRHS is to “conduct education and research to improve the health of rural and remote communities”.

It does this by providing quality placements for undergraduate and postgraduate students; by assisting in the planning and establishment of effective models of health service delivery; by conducting research and evaluation to improve the health of rural South Australians; and by providing education, training and support to existing health professionals in the region.

From her new base in Whyalla, Thuy said her friends could not understand why she would want to leave Adelaide.

“I am now at a point of even considering practising in a rural area when I graduate. As for the shops and malls, the Internet takes care of that,” she said.

In echoing Thuy’s comments, fellow student Michael Findlay said he was able to build up his clinical skills.

“One of my goals is to work in Africa, perhaps Uganda or Sudan, which would allow me to use my skills obtained in a rural setting,” he said.

Melbourne-trained Dr Jonathan Newbury, an Associate Professor with the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, says the rural health school provides for excellent training.

“The students are seeing up close an experienced practitioner, or a surgeon. They are with the surgeon in the operating theatre and this kind of experience is invaluable. In the city, there are too many students for this to happen,” he said.

He adds the students obtain grassroots clinical medicine skills and knowledge in the country.

“We also have a great bunch of students. They are aware of the challenges ahead, I have complete confidence in them and believe they’ll do well in the medical profession,” he said.

Now in his sixth year, Nick Frost was based in Whyalla last year and found the placement rewarding both professionally and personally.

“Due to the nature of smaller communities, we came to consider those we worked with as friends, not simply tutors. And as such, we gained an enormous amount both in and outside of work,” Nick said.

“Clinically, we had one-on-one exposure to both patients and tutors – something that happens a lot less in the city due to the constraint of numbers.”

Story by Howard Salkow
‘Weird’ fossil find excites researchers

Environmental Biology

Scientists from the South Australian Museum and the University of Adelaide have uncovered an unexpectedly rich fossil deposit in the arid grasslands near Boulia in western Queensland.

Researchers were furthering work on ancient turtle fossils when they revealed the deposit. Palaeontologist Dr Ben Kear from the Museum and the University’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences said the extent of prehistoric fossil material found was far greater than could possibly have been hoped for.

“As well as twelve fossil turtles we have found the remains of numerous ichthyosaurs, sharks, fragments of an armoured dinosaur and, most excitingly, a possible new species of long-necked plesiosaur,” Dr Kear said.

“The plesiosaur is especially exciting because it has an unusual arrangement of teeth – in fact it is weird enough for us to question its origins.

“Long-necked plesiosaurs typically have teeth that stretch the whole length of the jaw, but the new specimen we have uncovered has all its teeth bunched at the front of the mouth.

“The fossil will take some 12 months of careful preparation with acid to determine if it is a known species or definitely something entirely new.”

Dr Kear said the significant finds in Queensland would assist with ongoing research into fossils from the ancient inland sea that once covered much of Australia during the Early Cretaceous period – the last stage of what is commonly called the “age of dinosaurs.”

New fossil turtle specimens also recovered on the trip will add new information to Dr Kear’s research into what appears to be one of the most primitive ancestors of modern-day sea turtles.

“One of the 110 million-year-old turtle skull fossils found on the Boulia dig (left) Dr Ben Kear

Photos courtesy of the South Australian Museum

“The new material includes several articulated skeletons, some of which have gut contents that will allow us to determine the diet of these ancient creatures.”

Although most of the finds represent the remains of marine creatures, the team was lucky enough to recover the fragmentary remains of a terrestrial dinosaur.

“The animal is an ankylosaur, a small, four-legged, plant eating dinosaur that was covered in an armour of small bony plates. These ankylosaurs were only about two to three metres long and around one metre tall. While not thought to be uncommon in its day, this is still only one of a handful of specimens to be found in Australia,” Dr Kear said.

“The ankylosaur probably died on land and was washed out to sea, coincidentally ending up with the remains of marine creatures.”

Graduations

One of the annual highlights on the University of Adelaide calendar are its graduation ceremonies. Up to 700 students are expected to attend four ceremonies held across two days early next month in beautiful Bonython Hall.

For more information, visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/student/graduations

Tuesday, August 2: 10am

Humanities and Social Sciences, Music, Wilto Yerlo, Economics
Speaker: Ms Danielle Grant-Cross, Executive Officer of the Cardiovascular Research Program, Royal Adelaide Hospital and University of Adelaide.

Tuesday, August 2: 2:30pm

Engineering, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Medicine, Dentistry
Speaker: Me Kimberley Clayfield, University of Adelaide PhD Engineering graduand.

Wednesday, August 3: 10am

Commerce, Agricultural Sciences, Sciences
Speaker: Dr Jurgen Michaelis, Chief Executive, Bio Innovation SA.

Wednesday, August 3: 2.30pm

Adelaide Graduate School of Business, Architecture, Education, Law
Speaker: Mr Andrew Stoler, Executive Director, Institute for International Business, Economics and Law, The University of Adelaide.
It’s strange to imagine ancestors of the crocodiles we know today as smaller, faster, land-based creatures that could run on two legs, but a University of Adelaide researcher has got to the heart of the matter.

Professor Roger Seymour from the Discipline of Environmental Biology says the modern crocodile heart is evidence that they were originally warm-blooded creatures that evolved into cold-blooded ones – an assertion which turns conventional evolutionary theory on its head.

“There’s an assumption that warm-bloodedness always evolves from cold-bloodedness, because being warm-blooded is seen as better – this is a reversal of that thinking,” he said.

“The strongest clue comes from the four chambered heart that living crocodiles share with birds and mammals. Such a heart perfectly separates blood going to the lungs from that going to the body, but much later develop the curious features of the adult crocodile. Adult hearts are extremely complicated, as unlike birds and mammals which have one aorta, the crocodile has two, and they are twisted so that the left aorta attaches to the right ventricle and the right aorta attaches to the left ventricle. They also have a unique “cog-tooth” valve and a hole between the aortas.

“It turns out that all of these advanced cardiovascular features are valuable for today’s crocodiles, enabling them to bypass the lungs and hold their breath for longer periods,” Professor Seymour said. “Crocodiles typically remain hidden under water until their prey comes near, then they lunge and often drown their victims. Warm-bloodedness is not suited for this type of sit-and-wait hunting, because of a high metabolic rate and a need to breathe often.

“When I looked at the palaeontology of crocodiles, a consistent picture appeared—the earliest ancestors of crocodiles were definitely not sit-and-wait predators. Instead, many had long legs and some ran around on only two legs. These were obviously highly active, terrestrial predators which would have been well served by warm-bloodedness and a four chambered heart.

“Between 200 and 65 million years ago, the crocodilian lineage diversified into more than 150 genera in all kinds of habitats from land-based to fresh water and the ocean,” he said. “Only one relatively small group that were aquatic and sat and waited for food to come to them managed to survive until today. All the rest became extinct about 65 million years ago with the big extinction when most of the dinosaurs died out,” he said. “The cold-bloodedness that this group evolved may have been a factor that saved it.”

Professor Seymour said the earliest crocodiles were among a group of animals known as archosaurs which evolved on one lineage into dinosaurs which in turn gave rise to birds, and on a separate lineage into the present crocodiles.

“There is a long-standing question about whether dinosaurs were warm or cold-blooded and where a change may have occurred, but our work has shown that even their ancestors were highly active, warm-blooded animals.”
Scholarships give taste of Asian learning

A new scholarship scheme will enable talented University of Adelaide students like Anton Tsorvas to travel to Asia to broaden their academic and cultural horizons.

The Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarship Program is jointly funded by the Federal Government and the Cheung Kong Group, the massive Hong-Kong based conglomerate which has business interests in Australia and 41 other countries and employs more than 180,000 people worldwide.

Cheung Kong has further links with Adelaide through one of its most senior executives, Mr HL Kam. Mr Kam, who played a significant role in establishing the scholarships program, was the guest speaker at the University of Adelaide’s offshore graduation ceremony earlier this year.

The scholarships give undergraduate and postgraduate students from Australia and Asia the opportunity to study in each other’s home environments.

Anton, a third-year Bachelor of Economics and Finance student, will leave for Thailand later this month to study International Economics at Thammasat University in Bangkok for two semesters.

“I am very excited because this university is one of the best in the field of economics in the South-East Asian region,” Anton said. “Because the program is taught in English, language will not be a problem and I will be able to network with other students and staff,” he said.

“From an economic perspective, it will be interesting to study in Thailand because it is an up and coming economy. Also, living there, I will be forced out of my comfort zone,” he said.

“Asia is our backyard, and our main trading partner, so it makes more sense to study there than in Europe or America,” he said.

Story by Sukhmani Khorana

Anton Tsorvas
Photo by Sukhmani Khorana

Applications for postgraduate Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarships are now open, and close on Friday, August 12. For more information, visit www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships
The future looks bright for the Adelaide University Boat Club as it comes off one its most successful seasons in 2004/05.

Strong showings by individuals and teams at state and national level established the AUBC as the best performing club in the state – a promising sign, especially as the club celebrates its 125th anniversary next year.

Outgoing Captain Adelaide Boylan said the club had made significant strides both on and off course during the past 12 months.

“We have some very talented rowers at our club and it has been great to see them improve and start to have some excellent results,” she said.

“Many of our rowers are also students at the University of Adelaide, so they have a good mix of study, rowing and socialising.

“We are also doing much better off the water: we are debt-free and able to start renovating our clubrooms and improving our facilities.

“Our goal is to become a strong presence in Australian rowing and we are well on the way to achieving this.”

Notable achievements by AUBC members in the 2004/05 season include:

- three representatives in national teams: Marguarite Houston (lightweight double sculls), Chris Morgan (men’s quad sculls), Matt Bolt (junior men’s double scull),
- winning six events and 14 medals at the national championships;
- men’s and women’s state premiers;
- winning the men’s and women’s eights “double” at the State Championships;
- Amber Halliday representing Australia at the Athens Olympics and finishing fourth in the lightweight double sculls.

Story by Ben Osborne

(top) Victorious! AUBC Rowers celebrate their success at the State Championships.

(above) The AUBC men’s eights on their way to winning the State Championship earlier this year (from left) Edwin Michell, Luke Willshire, Adrian Oest, Ross Wakeham, Michael Shannon, Edward Kinnear, Angus Kurtze, Nick Andrew and Tom Game.

Photos courtesy of Hebphotos
What is the state of our State?

Social Research

South Australians can look forward to a bipartisan overview of the State thanks to a group of respected academic researchers and commentators, including many from the University of Adelaide. The recently published *State of South Australia* is the first and most comprehensive independent State-based overview of key trends and analysis of policy directions at a State level.

Edited by Associate Professor John Spoehr, Executive Director, Australian Institute for Social Research (AISR) at the University of Adelaide, and published by Wakefield Press, *State of South Australia* has been written for a wide audience including students, teachers, researchers, policymakers and decision-makers.

It brings together a group of respected academic researchers and expert commentators to identify key trends, analyse existing policy settings and outline policy initiatives.

Among the 21 contributors, 10 are from the University of Adelaide. They are (with their respective subject title in brackets):

- **Associate Professor John Spoehr** (State of Employment);
- **Dr Ray Broomhill** (State of Gender Issues) is Adjunct Professor of Labour Studies within the AISR;
- **Ms Keri Chivers** (State of Community Services) is a PhD student in the School of Social Sciences;
- **Ms Jenny Czernezky** (State of Education) is completing her PhD within the discipline of Gender and Labour Studies;
- **Dr Diana Hetzel** (State of Health) is the Senior Researcher at the Public Health Information Development Unit;
- **Professor Graeme Hugo** (State of the Population) is a Federation Fellow, Professor of the Department of Geographical and Environmental Studies, and Director of the National Centre for Social Applications of Geographical Information Systems;
- **Dr Clem Macintyre** (State of Politics) is a Senior Lecturer in Politics;
- **Dr John Williams** (State of Law), currently on leave from the University;
- **Dr Lou Wilson** (State of Community Services) is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Centre for Labour Research;
- and **Mr Pat Wright** (State of Education), is an Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in Labour Studies and Director of the Centre for Labour Research, AISR.

“It will also be a useful tool for policymakers seeking to better assess the impact of policies,” Associate Professor Spoehr said.

“It aims to provide inspiration for the development of new policies and strategies designed to improve the lives of South Australians and the environment we live in.”

The publication of *State of South Australia* has been made possible through the support of the University’s Australian Institute of Social Research and the Don Dunstan Foundation, and took around 12 months to complete.

A fully revised edition of *State of South Australia* will be published every two years. Updates of selected chapters will be available on the Internet through the AISR website: www.aisr.adelaide.edu.au

Story by Howard Salkow

---

NAIDOC Week hits the airwaves!

Radio Adelaide will be at the forefront of this year’s NAIDOC Week, the week of celebration and commemoration for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

From Monday, July 4 to Friday, July 8, Radio Adelaide’s *Nunga Wangga* team, with the support of all at 101.5FM, will celebrate NAIDOC Week by creating Adelaide’s first indigenous radio station.

For this special five-day event, Indigenous broadcasters from around SA and Australia will join the core team comprising Jupurrru Stagg, Wonga Dare, Sonya Rankine and Christine Brown. The guests from interstate include the legendary indigenous radio star and comedian, Mary G.

As well as humour and discussions, the week will be packed with plenty of music, including performances by staff and students from the University’s Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music.

The programs will be broadcast nationally via the National Indigenous Radio Service.

One of the highlights of the week will be the NAIDOC Forums, hosted by Jupurruru Stagg. These discussions will touch on important Aboriginal issues ranging from social justice and native title to reconciliation.

“Radio Adelaide’s programming during NAIDOC Week will help put Adelaide’s Aboriginal community on the national map,” Jupurruru said.

“We are at a confusing time in history when the agenda is changing for Aboriginal people. The aim of our programming is to signal the way forward.”

The NAIDOC Week celebrations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people’s achievements, culture and survival once again re-affirm Radio Adelaide’s strong commitment to community concerns.

“At Radio Adelaide, we are always keen to provide space for groups of people who are not heard in the mainstream media,” station manager Deb Welch said.

www.radio.adelaide.edu.au

Story by Sukhmani Khorana
Lifting the mask on postnatal depression

Clinical Nursing

Media portrayals of modern mothers regularly show them as “super-mums”: women who shortly after giving birth can juggle a return to their career, managing a household and bringing up a perfect child while looking gorgeous, rested and happy.

But research by an University of Adelaide PhD student has found the reality of motherhood is much different for many women, with up to as many as one in five suffering from postnatal depression.

For her PhD with the Department of Clinical Nursing, Victoria Williamson looked at women’s experiences of postnatal depression and the effectiveness of health professional diagnosis and intervention.

She found that sufferers frequently hid the truth behind a serene and ever-smiling “mask” and the pretence that motherhood was as perfect as a television commercial.

“The mask is worn because of cultural ideologies, media-created dogma concerning the need to appear perfect in the role of mother, and the cultural stigma attached to postnatal depression or any kind of mental illness in our society,” she said.

“While normal motherhood does have its wonderful moments, women are given the impression that they always have to be this serene and smiling goddess no matter how tired and stressed they are, but that’s just not reality.

“It’s a culture and media-created image of perfection in motherhood and women are brainwashed into believing it’s the correct way to behave.

“The mask has been around since the 1950s, but back then raising children and looking after home and hearth properly was the norm, respected and enough for one person to do. You weren’t expected to also be successful in the workforce, plus slender, fashionably dressed and well made up at all times.

“Wearing the mask is also a symptom of postnatal depression because the women concerned are anxious, have low self-esteem and want to make a good impression on others – they are more likely to buy into notions that they must be perfect or appear to be or they’re not doing it right.

“This is a problem for both the postnatal depression sufferer and the health professional because diagnosis gets delayed and so does treatment and people can consequently suffer for years.

“The baby blues are hormonal and last for three to five days after the birth of the baby, but four to six weeks after the birth, if a woman still suffers a persistent low mood and sadness, that’s postnatal depression.”

Ms Williamson said women could suffer mild postnatal depression after their first child and the illness could get progressively worse as each baby came along.

“When I was involved in counselling, I met women 10-15 years later who had never received any treatment. In extreme cases they can become extremely depressed and it was enough to put some of them off having another child altogether,” she said.

“The mask usually comes off with diagnosis and health professionals can often pick up on the discrepancies between a woman’s body language or red eyes from crying and what she is telling them.

“Sensitive and aware health professionals whose intuition tells them that something is not quite right with a new mother who otherwise ‘presents well’, need to ask careful questions to see if they are being confronted with a mask.

“Health professionals need not be afraid to screen women for postnatal depression and to remind clients that it is not a shameful condition and help is available for it.”

However, Ms Williamson said, the sheer lack of resources and crisis support workers meant women were very lucky to get treatment at all.

“Helen Mayo House, the postnatal depression unit at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital is excellent, but there needs to be more of it,” she said.

“There also needs to be more support for women in the community raising children. I’m dismayed at the lack of help for single mothers and plans to push them out into the workforce, and that we live in a society that is focused on work and devalues motherhood and child-rearing.

“Why is it that a woman when she’s pregnant is made a huge fuss of, but with a baby on her hip she’s just expected to cope with getting in and out of shops and on and off buses – it needs to be okay for women to ask for and receive help.”

Education and raising awareness of the illness are critical if the illness is to be prevented and the mask dissolved, she said.

“Make sure it is spoken about in ante-natal classes and school students should also be taught that it’s okay for mum to be worn out.

“You see mothers struggling with young children every day – what’s wrong with asking a woman with a baby how she’s going and offering her a hand? She may not accept it, but she will be glad you asked.”

Story by Lisa Toole
The second and third concerts in the Elder Evening Concert Series for 2005 could hardly be more diverse.

The second concert, “Mendelssohn and More” on Saturday, July 23, features a high-quality classical program and emerging Adelaide talent Ingrid Homburg on violin – while the third concert, “Elder Big Band Meets Morrison” on Thursday, August 4 will be highlighted by top jazz artists such as Bob Mintzer, Thelonius Monk, Count Basie and John Coltrane.

This promises to be an outstanding concert of great beauty which shouldn’t be missed – and note the new earlier timeslot of 6.30pm.

This year’s jazz concert will present the Elder Conservatorium’s premier Big Band, conducted by Hal Hall, with the Honours Jazz Ensemble, and will feature Australian jazz virtuoso James Morrison on trumpet.

The program will include tunes by Bob Mintzer, Thelonius Monk, Count Basie and John Coltrane, to name a few. Tickets are selling fast and are expected to sell out.

Morrison, whose visit to Adelaide is supported by the Helpmann Academy, will also present a workshop for Elder School students on the morning of Thursday, August 4 and a Public Masterclass in Elder Hall at 1pm that day.

Tickets for “Mendelssohn and More” are $20/$15/$10; tickets for “Elder Big Band Meets Morrison” are $30/$25/$20. Tickets for both concerts are available from BASS on 131 246. Tickets for the Morrison’s Public Masterclass are $10, payable at the door.
The University of Adelaide holds generations of memories for the Sim family from Sarawak, Malaysia.

Four members of the family have medical degrees from the University, with two remaining to live and work in Adelaide. The family father, Dr Leon Sim, recently visited Adelaide with his wife Irene to attend celebrations for the 40th reunion of medical graduates from the class of 1965.

The family’s association with the University began in 1960, when Leon Sim arrived in the city to begin his studies.

“I didn’t know very much about Adelaide at all – I applied for quite a few medical schools, and when Adelaide offered me a place, the principal at my school in Malaysia said it was one of the best ones in Australia so I should accept,” Dr Sim said.

“I remember my flight from Sydney to Adelaide being delayed, and by the time I arrived the people from the Overseas Students Association who used to come and meet you at the airport had gone,”

“So there I was at the airport, all by myself in a new country, wondering what I had got myself into! Eventually I stayed at the Grosvenor Hotel on that first night and after that everything was fine.”

Dr Sim graduated in 1965, and returned to Malaysia to marry, work and have a family. With wife Irene, they have had three children who all went to Adelaide and obtained medical degrees.

Shannon is still working in Adelaide as an orthopaedics registrar; Sheryl is based in the UK as a researcher at a cancer centre; and Stanley is practising as a GP in Woodcroft in Adelaide’s south.

Dr Stanley Sim – who is also an avid poet and has had work published in international anthologies – said his family is grateful for the opportunities it has had.

“I know my father is very proud that all of his children were able to graduate with medical degrees from Adelaide, and I feel lucky and honoured to have had the chance to follow in his footsteps,” he said.

Leon Sim (right) made a quick visit to the University of Adelaide with (from left) his son Stanley and wife Irene during his recent trip to Adelaide

Story and photo by Ben Osborne
Acclaimed author Nicholas Jose has been appointed to the prominent position of Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide.

The London-born Professor Jose, who obtained his D.Phil. as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, succeeds the inaugural Professor, Tom Shapcott, who has retired.

Professor Jose said he believes the University’s program provides a rare space for writers of tomorrow to grow and he is looking forward to having a role in that.

“Part of the success of the University’s Creative Writing program is that it builds on the strong traditions of literary culture in South Australia,” Professor Jose said.

“That culture is celebrated every two years by Writers’ Week, when the world’s writers and publishers come to town. But it is sustained the rest of the time by a community of readers, writers and literary folk.”

Professor Jose said the University of Adelaide has pioneered one of the best Creative Writing programs in the country and hopes to see those achievements continue.

“The process that allows writers to explore what they’re doing in new ways and to develop what they’re saying for new audiences, is extremely valuable,” he said.

“The program has attracted distinguished writers as participants and encouraged important new work from its students.”

Professor Jose cited Anne Bartlett as one of the many success stories. Her debut novel Knitting – written as the major work for her PhD – has just been published to international acclaim.

Professor Jose says this appointment has come at the right time in his career.

“There is nothing so exciting as seeing new work come into being, whether your own or someone else’s. That’s why I enjoy mentoring. It is a privilege to be part of the journey as the writing develops, I find that the creative energy flows both ways,” he said.

“At this stage of my career, with considerable experience in the writing trade from many different angles, I am interested in the wider dynamics of literary creation. That includes new kinds of writing, new kinds of publishing and reading.

“A particular place, a particular community or network, have great potential in that regard, as people start to reclaim their voices, their stories, their own passions and interests. I believe my own writing will be inspired by the writing of those around me in my new position, and I hope it will be mutual.”

Professor Jose spent his childhood in Broken Hill, Traralgon, Perth and Adelaide. He studied at the Australian National University before being awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University in 1974.

He has lived and worked in various parts of Australia, mainly Canberra, and in England, Italy and China. He lectured in English at the Australian National University and was a Cultural Counsellor for the Australian Embassy in Beijing in 1987-90.

Returning to Adelaide is something he is looking forward to.

“South Australia has always been a powerful presence in my writing. My feelings for the place run pretty deep, even though I have not lived in Adelaide since I left school,” he said.

“Two of my novels, Paper Nautilus and The Custodians, began with people and stories from when I was growing up. But although there are no doubt some immutable features, South Australia has changed so much over the years that I will be approaching it as much as a new arrival as a familiar, and that will be interesting. I would not be surprised if the inspiration of Adelaide kicks in once again.”

Professor Jose was president of International PEN Sydney Centre, 2002-05. He has been a member of the Australia-China Council, and twice a recipient of a Senior Writers’ Fellowship from the Australia Council.

Story by Howard Salkow