

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Don't shoot the messenger

Story on page 5

A change of seasons

At this time of year, as the North Terrace Campus changes colour, the autumn season seems to accentuate the University's sandstone history and nearly 135 years of tradition.

As students and staff make their way to and from classes, on the crisp but sunny mornings, it is easy to take for granted the rich heritage that has shaped our great institution.

This sense of tradition has been all the more pertinent as students, adorned in academic dress, gathered at one of the many graduation ceremonies held in Bonython Hall in April.

The sense of grand occasion and achievement was almost palpable.

The same sentiment was just as evident as nearly 200 students graduated from the University's Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre in Singapore last month.

Graduation ceremonies remind us, as the students leave our surrounds, of the reasons that brought them to the University in the beginning. Those reasons will ultimately help to make our community all the better from the impact of their education.

In Australia, we have 39 universities with each one playing a specific and valuable role in guiding the individual student towards their aspirations and realisation of their full potential.

Lately there has been public interest in how the three universities in South Australia work together, in both teaching and research.

The relocation of the Royal Adelaide Hospital to the West End, and the subsequent need for us to move our Medical School to the same precinct, sparked broader discussion of mergers and collaborations.

And, as with any change at the helm, there is invariably speculation on future directions.

This is an old chestnut that seems to resurface every once in a while.

Of course, universities and research entities will always benefit from networks and joint ventures. Indeed, some of our most outstanding achievements, across all areas of research, have been driven through partnerships with different local, national and international organisations.

In this regard, the University of Adelaide will continue to work collaboratively with the University of South Australia, Flinders University and many others, across a range of areas – exactly as we have done for many years.

However, the different universities each enjoy distinct features, and unique positions within our community. This is very important in ensuring a broad educational offering is readily available to both local and international students.

Sometimes the real strength of a higher education community is found quite simply in a shared contribution to a greater goal of community enrichment.



JAMES A. McWha AO
Vice-Chancellor and President

Adelaidean

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University appoints its 20th Vice-Chancellor

Professor Warren Bebbington has been appointed the University of Adelaide's 20th Vice-Chancellor, commencing from July 2012.

He will succeed Professor James McWha AO, who retires in June after a decade as Vice-Chancellor and President.

Chancellor, the Hon. Robert Hill, said Professor Bebbington, who is currently Deputy Vice-Chancellor (University Affairs) at the University of Melbourne, was selected after an international search.

"He has an outstanding record of excellence in teaching and academic leadership," said Mr Hill.

Professor Bebbington said he was pleased to be joining the University of Adelaide.

"I am delighted to be leading a university for which I feel such affinity. Adelaide's pride in its history and its efforts to change to face new challenges both feel familiar to me. My whole career has been spent in Australia's Group-of-Eight universities, and I am thus committed to valuing what is best about the old, while also facing up to what is needed for the new," he said.

A Fulbright Scholar, Professor Bebbington studied at the University of Melbourne and in New York at Queens College, Columbia University, and the CUNY Graduate School, completing masters degrees in Arts, Music, and Philosophy, and a PhD.

Prior to his present role as a Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bebbington was Pro Vice-Chancellor (Global Relations) at the University of Melbourne. He also served as a Dean at the University of Melbourne

and at the University of Queensland, and before that taught at the Australian National University's School of Music.

"Change in universities over the past decade has been profound: we now recruit in a global student marketplace, and we operate in a global research culture, in which networks increasingly replace the single researcher, and the ever-changing ICT possibilities challenge our teaching modes with new student expectations.

"In such an environment, it is all the more important for a university like Adelaide to maintain its individual identity. We are a national institution, a custodian of a culture, and when we seek to form international alliances we must do so from a position of confidence, seeking out those we see as our equivalents," he said.

In addition to winning the University of Melbourne Award for Excellence in Teaching (Humanities) in 2005 and an Australian Learning and Teaching Council Citation for "30 years of outstanding teaching" in 2008, Professor Bebbington's national community roles have included seven years as Chair of Music Committees for the Australia Council, Federal Chair of AMEB, and Deputy Chair of Youth Music Australia.

Story by Kate Husband

Above: Professor Warren Bebbington
Photo by Stuart McEvoy, *The Australian*

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New engineering head to expand research portfolio

One of Australia's most influential engineers has been appointed the Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

Professor John Beynon will take over the position from Professor Peter Dowd, who has led the Faculty since July 2004 and retires this July.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said that the appointment of Professor Beynon came as the Faculty sought to expand its diverse research portfolio and build on its recent growth.

"The Faculty has enjoyed strong growth in recent years under the leadership of current Executive Dean, Professor Dowd. With the mining expansion in South Australia and demand for engineers across Australia far outstripping supply, we can expect to see great interest from both

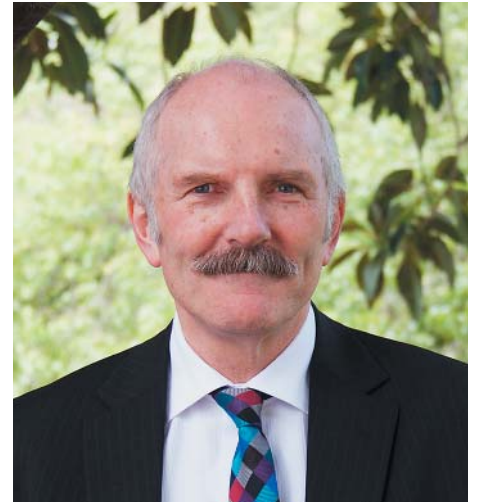
students and industry," Professor McWha said.

"Professor Beynon is very well-regarded for his capacity to build partnerships in both academic and industry settings. His vision and sense of collaboration aligns perfectly with the University of Adelaide's commitment to delivering an outstanding student experience in a research-rich environment.

"He has wide-ranging international experience and has made a significant contribution to the enhancement of relevant learning outcomes in engineering within Australia and responding to the changing needs of today's students."

Professor Beynon is currently President, Australian Council of Engineering Deans and Principal Investigator, Australian Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre with Boeing (AusAMRC). He has been Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Industrial Sciences at Swinburne University of Technology in Melbourne since 2005.

In 2011, he was listed by Engineers Australia as one of Australia's 100 most influential engineers.



Professor Beynon said he was looking forward to helping further develop an exciting Faculty that has much to offer both students and industry.

"I'm keen to see the Faculty expand its work with the South Australian community as well as nationally and internationally," Professor Beynon said. "For each of these areas of engagement, the Faculty should – and can – offer world-class capability."

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: Professor John Beynon
Photo by Robyn Mills

\$1 million fellowship supports new physics chair

The University of Adelaide's international reputation for research in optical physics will be given a further boost thanks to a \$1 million fellowship from the State Government.

Professor Andre Luiten will relocate from Western Australia to take up the Chair of Experimental Physics at the University of Adelaide in February 2013, with support from a \$1 million South Australian Research Fellowship.

Professor Luiten will bring with him a high-calibre team of researchers to establish a suite of world-leading facilities for precision measurement.

Based in the University's School of Chemistry & Physics, Professor Luiten will conduct research within the Institute for Photonics & Advanced Sensing (IPAS).

Professor Luiten's appointment "will strengthen Adelaide's reputation as a world

leader in optics and photonics research", said Science and Information Economy Minister the Hon. Tom Kenyon, who announced the appointment last month.

"His work aims to develop new types of state-of-the-art laser instruments capable of determining measurements that were not previously possible, making them critical to scientific discovery across a wide range of fields," Mr Kenyon said.

Professor Luiten was the joint inaugural winner of the WA Premier's Prize for Early Career Achievement in Science and was awarded the Bragg Gold Medal for Physics in 1996. He has also conducted research for NASA.

"Andre's arrival will establish a firm foundation for exciting new research directions that are complementary to and build on our existing strengths," said the University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Mike Brooks.

Director of IPAS Professor Tanya Monro said she was thrilled about the appointment. "Andre's focus on driving forward the limits of measurement aligns strongly with IPAS's vision to create sensing technologies that will transform our



capacity to answer pressing problems both in research and industry," Professor Monro said.

"It is particularly pleasing to have such a strong successor to Professor Jesper Munch, the outgoing Chair of Experimental Physics, who has played a critical leadership role in establishing optics at the University of Adelaide over the past 22 years."

Professor Luiten's appointment also includes teaching at the University.

Story by David Ellis

Above: Professor Andre Luiten

Getting down to business

This month we recognise the contribution made by the Faculty of the Professions, which encompasses Law, Business, Economics, Education and Architecture. The 7-page feature which follows gives an insight into the Faculty's outstanding research, teaching and community engagement activities.



A focus on justice

A photographic competition to portray the law from an artistic perspective will be launched at the University of Adelaide this month as part of Law Week (May 14-20).

Images of Justice is being organised by the University's Law School in conjunction with Art and Heritage Collections to explore ways of thinking about the law and justice through the Arts – in this case, photography. The competition is sponsored by Lipman Karas.

The competition is the first of its kind to be staged by the Adelaide Law School and will be held annually until 2014 before being reviewed.

Members of the legal fraternity, students and the public will be encouraged to submit photographs for a non-acquisitive competition and exhibition.

The Dean of Law at the University of Adelaide, Professor John Williams, said he hoped the concept would strengthen links between the Adelaide Law School and the legal profession, as well as build relationships with the city's cultural organisations and broader community.

"The competition is a great opportunity for amateur and professional photographers and the University's Law School to consider the law in a different light," Professor Williams said.

The theme – images of justice – gives photographers a licence to explore law through imagery, portraiture or photo essays.

"Some entrants may take a whimsical approach to the theme while others may take the opportunity to critique the justice system," Professor Williams said.

A shortlist of the best works from those submitted will be featured in an exhibition in the glass box gallery in Nexus 10 (Pulteney Street).

The Crown Prosecutor of NSW, Mark Tedeschi QC, who is an accomplished photographer, will be the featured artist for this year's exhibition.

Mr Tedeschi has established a profile as a professional photographer and produced several law-related photographic series. Details of these are available on his web page: www.marktedeschi.com/index.html

People wishing to submit work for *Images of Justice* are invited to follow the guidelines at www.law.adelaide.edu.au/images-of-justice

Story by Candy Gibson



WikiLeaks fallout

The worldwide furore caused by WikiLeaks will be the subject of a public seminar by University of Adelaide law Associate Professor and online media expert Dr Melissa de Zwart on Monday 21 May.

Dr de Zwart's lecture, *WikiLeaks, Google and Facebook: How Terms of Use Control Information*, will address the fallout from WikiLeaks and the implications for freedom of speech and the internet as a global networked public sphere.

"How is it that what is essentially a one-person organisation can have attracted such a level of hatred from the US Government in particular?" Dr de Zwart asks.

"What does the concerted effort to shut WikiLeaks down and to silence Julian Assange tell us about the effectiveness of the internet as a communications medium?"

Dr de Zwart will examine why public law has failed to silence WikiLeaks when the law of contract and the exercise of private regulation has been so successful.

"WikiLeaks is a new model of online news dissemination. Its structure, operations and motivations are little understood, despite the worldwide furore caused by the publication of a series of documents in the last two years.

"The fallout from the publication of WikiLeaks material has resulted in the withdrawal of service by numerous providers, including Amazon, Mastercard, VISA and Paypal. This has effectively limited WikiLeaks' operations when more direct attacks have not," Dr de Zwart said.

Her lecture will cover the legal and cultural context of the internet and why the small print should never be ignored.

The lecture will be held on Monday 21 May in the Moot Court, Adelaide Law School, Ligertwood Building. To register go to www.law.adelaide.edu.au/events/lawweek/

Story by Candy Gibson

Business course wins praise

A family business course being offered by the University of Adelaide is winning praise for focusing on an area which dominates the private sector in Australia.

An MBA elective taught within the Business School is geared towards family businesses, which make up 80% of the private sector in the country.

Dr Jill Thomas, a senior lecturer in the Business School, said the University's expertise in family businesses was now recognised nationally, attracting increasing numbers of students enrolling in the MBA elective and a recent Summer School program.

The professional development elective for the family business sector and its advisors is targeted at current and potential owners and managers of family businesses.

The course is open to both MBA students and outsiders and explores some critical issues facing the family business sector, including governance, succession, and family and shareholder relationships.

Alison James enrolled in the Summer School family business course last year, hoping to gain some insights to put into practice as a director of Alfred James Funeral Homes.

"I learned a great deal about family governance and the values and cultural differences that set this group apart," Ms James said.

"The discussions with other people working in family businesses were invaluable and I now have much clearer lines of duties and responsibilities as a director of a family business.

"Having a course specific to family businesses is long overdue. It does not matter if you are a director or a steward of a family business – there are many challenges peculiar to this sector, particularly with succession planning, and dealing with different personalities and skill levels that are quite complicated," Ms James said.

Current MBA student Andrew Cooper who hopes one day to be involved in the family business – Coopers Brewery – said the elective recognised both the strengths and strategic competitive advantages of family businesses.

"In the past there has been too strong a focus on the downsides and negative consequences that can arise from family involvement in a business. I was thrilled to see a course that offered something positive," Mr Cooper said.

"The family business elective provides a stimulating environment to share thoughts and learn from the experience of others with similar interests but varying backgrounds," he said.

In 2011 Dr Thomas and Dr Chris Graves launched a Family Business Education and Research Group (FBERG) to encourage the University's links with the family business community. For more details visit www.business.adelaide.edu.au/fberg/



Law School experts to examine unpaid work

The Fair Work Ombudsman has commissioned two University of Adelaide legal experts to help clarify the regulation of unpaid internships, work experience and trial work.

Labour law experts Professor Andrew Stewart and Professor Rosemary Owens from the University of Adelaide's Law School will investigate these unpaid work arrangements to see whether they are lawful.

"Anecdotal evidence suggests that a growing number of workers are offering, or being asked, to do unpaid internships or work experience," said Professor Stewart.

"They often do this in order to get a foothold in the labour market. In most cases, there's no problem when it's a short placement – especially if it's done as part of a recognised education or training program.

"However, there are instances where young workers have spent months – or even years – doing unpaid work that would ordinarily be undertaken by a regular employee."

Professor Stewart said there was a pressing need to identify what is lawful and establish a better understanding of how these arrangements should be regulated.

"At what point does 'experience' become 'exploitation', and is it clear enough to businesses what they should be doing?"

The University's two legal academics will prepare a report for the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman, the agency responsible for enforcing the Fair Work laws.

A major part of their work will be to consult with industry groups, unions, government and non-government bodies, universities and schools about their experiences and perspectives on the issue.

According to Professor Owens, the issue of legal uncertainty regarding unpaid work is not unique to Australia, and so this project will also look at international best practice for dealing with these arrangements.

"Workers may be entitled not just to be paid for their work, but to receive other employment-related benefits such as superannuation and holiday pay," Professor Owens said. "It's important for everyone to be clear on when that is the case – and indeed when it should be the case."

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Workplace arrangements for young workers will be clarified thanks to new research being carried out by experts from the University's Law School.

Photo by iStock.

Slick companies ignore green lawsuits

New research at the University of Adelaide is investigating how companies respond at a senior level when they are sued.

The study by PhD student Chelsea Liu (Business School) was sparked by the 2010 BP oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico.

Chelsea is a graduate of the University of Adelaide with Bachelor degrees in Law and Commerce (Accounting), both with First Class Honours. She is also a qualified lawyer.

Her PhD research project reflects her own personal interests as well as her study interests in corporate governance and law.

"The BP oil spill is an extreme illustration of what happens when companies get into trouble," Chelsea said.

"Those events received worldwide media coverage and created a significant public backlash against the company. It also resulted in litigation against BP. The CEO of BP, Tony Hayward, was replaced by the company following these events.

"This made me wonder what internal changes companies initiate to cope with litigation – what prompts them to make such changes, and under what circumstances," she said.

Chelsea said that over the last two decades there had been legal debate about whether corporations that breached the law were sufficiently penalised to create disincentives for such wrongdoings.

Now into the third year of her research, Chelsea has studied cases from the US Federal Courts in which companies are sued. She has looked at five types of corporate litigation: environmental violations, securities fraud, anti-trust disputes, intellectual property infringements; and breaches of contract.

"My research examines the consequences for public companies of allegedly breaching the law; in particular, whether managers responsible suffer pecuniary or reputational penalties, and whether the accused companies undergo internal restructuring to ensure better monitoring of their management in the future.

"By observing the responses of public corporations when confronted with these lawsuits, my project seeks to shed light on corporate attitudes towards allegations of different natures," Chelsea said.

Her research has so far yielded some interesting results, with the BP oil spill case standing out as a rare instance in which a company responded dramatically to an environmental issue.

"Companies are often more willing to replace their managers when securities fraud is alleged, because the victims in these cases are often the owners – that is, the shareholders – of the company," Chelsea said.

"From what I have seen, companies are far less willing to respond in the same way to environmental allegations, where the main victims are third parties, such as the local communities affected by environmental problems.

"Empirical results suggest that shareholders and company management rarely respond to environmental lawsuits in this way," she said.

Chelsea has presented the results of her research at two conferences and a workshop in the last 12 months. Her first was the conference of the Law and Society Association held in San Francisco.

She is also a previous finalist in the Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition at the University of Adelaide and believes in the importance of being able to communicate academic work to the general public and policy makers.

"Ultimately, I hope to provide timely evidence to inform policy makers as to the general attitudes of corporations towards different allegations," she said.

"Because the majority of research in this field has focused on securities fraud, my work may be of some use in helping to inform policy on a wider range of corporate legal issues, and provide insights into the operation of the monitoring mechanisms that would deter managers from breaching the law."

Chelsea's research is supervised by Associate Professor Alfred Yawson and Professor Yossi Aharony.

Story by David Ellis

Business PhD student Chelsea Liu

Photo by David Ellis





Research centre focused on gambling issues

The South Australian Centre for Economic Studies – based within the University – has established an Independent Gambling Research Consortium. Michael O’Neil explains.

The consortium is a cross-disciplinary network of researchers skilled in undertaking independent, evidence-based research into the nature and impact of gambling. Key research areas of expertise include psychological, health, economic, financial, social and community and legal dimensions of gambling, along with significant expertise in conducting applied research to help guide public policy decision making.

This is an important area of research – locally, nationally and internationally – because of the increasing reliance of governments on revenue from gambling and the development of technology that provides new platforms for new ways of gambling.

However, the broader economic, financial and social impacts warrant independent assessment because the impacts of gambling too often are “working in opposition” to other government policies and programs. Independent assessment means independent of government, of industry and research bodies working on behalf of industry.

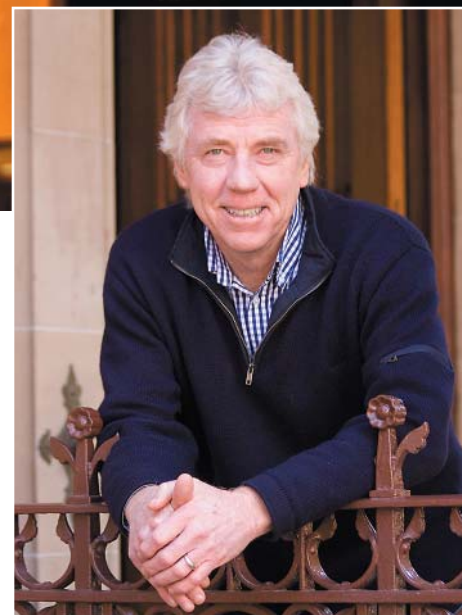
The gambling consortium comprises researchers from:

- South Australian Centre for Economic Studies, University of Adelaide and Flinders University;
- School of Psychology, University of Adelaide;
- Centre for Regulation and Market Analysis, University of South Australia;
- Public Health Information Development Unit, University of Adelaide;
- Adelaide Law School, University of Adelaide; and
- School of Health, University of New England.

SACES was recently rated by an independent Canadian Research Team from a meta-analysis of 492 studies into the Economic and Social Impacts of Gambling. Two of its studies were among only seven out of 492 rated worldwide as of “excellent quality”.

The only other one in Australia was the Productivity Commission’s 1999 report and of the other four, two were Canadian and two were from the USA.

SACES researchers have a proven track record of collaboration, having undertaken national and state-based studies of gambling for Commonwealth, State and regional organisations.



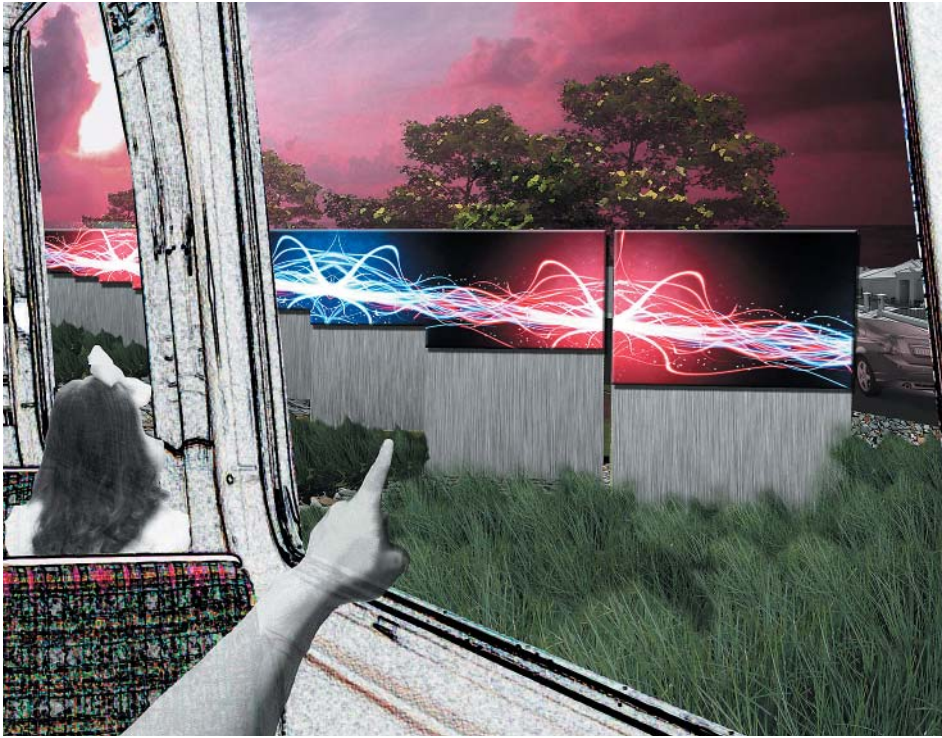
These studies include a project to establish a national definition of problem gambling and review of instruments used to assess problem gambling prevalence; social and economic impact assessments of gambling in Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania; an evaluation of self-exclusion programs and other harm minimisation measures; a study of the impact of regional caps on electronic gaming machines; and extensive research into international pre-commitment systems, policies and technologies.

For more information on the gambling portal and its research projects go to: www.adelaide.edu.au/saces/gambling/

Michael O’Neil is the Executive Director of the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies based at the University of Adelaide. He has contributed to more than 150 research and consultancy studies on business and economic issues.

Above: Michael O’Neil

Photo by David Ellis



Picture this: rail art for train commuters

A student proposal to incorporate public art and landscape design along the Grange train line in Adelaide's western suburbs has won a major landscape architecture award.

Master of Landscape Architecture student Susie Quinton has taken out the 2011 Rodney Beames Memorial Award for her project *Moving Galleries* which gives train users on the Grange rail line "a changing canvas" on their journeys to and from work.

The award was presented to Susie at a ceremony in late March.

Susie's proposal integrates digital media art, sculptural land art, performance, literature, community and street art.

Her entry was one of many which explored the selected theme: landscape opportunities within the City of Charles Sturt.

The award recognises the commitment of landscape architect, the late Rodney Beames, who promoted the incorporation of art in the landscape. Rodney Beames was a Clare-born landscape architect whose major projects in South Australia include the River Torrens Linear Park, the Bicentennial Conservatory and the O-Bahn Busway.

The jury was impressed with the professionalism and innovative nature of this year's entries, which reflected the "breadth and diversity of the landscape architecture profession".

Acting Head of the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, and President of the South Australian Chapter of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA), Professor Tanya Court, praised the students for their "novel and creative solutions".

"The use of art and design in the landscape to enhance the public experience is very refreshing," Professor Court said.

The other finalists were Josie Alvaro and James Thomson, both from the University of Adelaide.

The Rodney Beames Memorial Award is jointly sponsored by the AILA South Australia and Hassell Architects and is supported by Arts SA and the School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design at the University of Adelaide.

Above: Susie's montage depicts how digital media can be used to create a moving gallery of images for rail commuters.



University marks historic event

Forty years after the drowning of homosexual law lecturer George Duncan in the River Torrens, the University of Adelaide has marked the anniversary with a celebration of gay rights and a public forum.

University staff, students and members of the public gathered on the river bank near the University footbridge to remember the events of 10 May 1972, when Duncan's drowning triggered public outrage and led to South Australia becoming the first State to decriminalise homosexuality.

The formal service, organised by the Adelaide University Union and the Student Representative Council, attracted some high-profile guests, including State Labor MP Ian Hunter, as well as Greens MLC Tammy Frank, and Sandra Kank. Senator Penny Wong provided a written statement of support.

A timeline depicting the milestones and changes in gay rights since 1972 was also displayed in The Cloisters.

The SA Gay and Lesbian Archives in association with the School of History and Politics and the Adelaide Law School presented a public forum on the same day, discussing the historical and political repercussions of George Duncan's drowning.

Duncan, a frail man with one lung, was allegedly thrown into the River Torrens near Kintore Avenue by a group of men believed to be senior police officers.

His drowning led to a coronial inquiry, intervention by detectives from Scotland Yard, and three Vice Squad officers being charged with manslaughter although they were eventually acquitted.

While a conviction was never recorded, Duncan's death resulted in him being held up as a martyr by the Gay Rights movement, with the subsequent decriminalisation of homosexuality. A memorial was erected near the site of Duncan's drowning on 10 May 2002, the 30th anniversary of his death.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: George Duncan
Image courtesy of *The Advertiser*

Business and leadership skills laid bare

Business, Economics and Entrepreneurship students have been helping CPA Australia uncover the success secrets of Australian business leaders to help students get a head start in their careers.



Six students were flown to Melbourne for an exclusive day of mentoring led by CPA Australia CEO Alex Malley, and a preview of their new campaign, The Naked CEO.

Back on campus as student ambassadors they've been promoting the campaign to their peers across the University.

The Naked CEO is an online reality series offering a behind-the-scenes look at what it really takes to be a business leader, giving the next generation of business leaders a rare chance to learn from the current generation.

Interviews with business leaders, including Woolworths Chairman James Strong and the Zanerobe fashion label founders, give a rare glimpse into the boardrooms of innovative and successful companies.

Students hear how they handle the day-to-day challenges of running a business and, most importantly, experience first-hand the qualities it takes to be a successful leader.

Student ambassador Vanessa Kolaczkos, a final-year Commerce student, said The Naked CEO provided a "true perspective of what is possible for students, what you can obtain from life and the endless opportunities available".

"I have been able to gain a greater understanding of what I can achieve and how I can go about this," said Vanessa. "I was fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to meet Alex Malley and have a valuable conversation with him where he offered me advice that I've taken on in relation to applying for graduate programs.

"I would strongly recommend any students to get involved. It's not limited to just Commerce/Business students; it's a future planning campaign that can assist any student with direction and career pathways."

Vanessa is Vice-President of the Adelaide Business Students' Society (ABSS), which

is assisting the promotion of the campaign through their ongoing activities.

Vishal Jodhani, in his second year of a Masters in Innovation and Entrepreneurship, said: "As an Entrepreneurship student, I especially enjoy their meetings with start-up businesses and the advice they offer to others considering the same path. Overall, for me, these are bite-size doses of valuable lessons and inspiration, presented in a light and engaging format."

Further information from www.thenakedceo.com

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: Vanessa Kolaczkos
Photo by Robyn Mills



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Opinion piece: Dr Anthony Potts, School of Education

What students want from their universities

Sixteen years ago, the editor of the *Times Higher Education Supplement* warned against “channelling first generation university students into educational ghettos instead of providing high quality and diversified options”. He also noted that there was an “almost total lack of international data on students’ lives”.

Since those statements were made, I have undertaken research with students in Australia, America and South Africa about their expectations and experiences of university life.

The findings show that a student’s background plays a very influential part in how they fare at university. Their motivations, attitudes to study and learning are formed in childhood and at school, and remain at university. Universities need to understand this and work with what students bring with them.

Enrolment at university can be linked to a desire to escape from childhood circumstances and surroundings. This entails a desire for self-improvement and to escape from less than congenial family situations.

Consequently, universities need to ensure that they maximise students’ chances of success if they accept them, or have well developed mechanisms to assist students to withdraw and explore other options. Dropping out may not only be an admission of academic failure, but can also mean a return to situations and circumstances that individuals long to escape from. Dropping out without proper support can be traumatic.

Selecting a university involves a combination of factors. These include reputation of the degree course; size of the university; the size of the city the university is located in; the physical climate of the city; an anticipated easier transition to university life; political and social factors; and sheer chance.

Flexible open entry policies and helpful, friendly academic and administrative staff are all important to students enrolling and their subsequent chances of successful study.

Students are not especially hard to please with respect to their demands.



My research reveals that university study is perceived as rewarding and fulfilling. The students appreciate attractive physical campuses. University teaching and learning environments are generally seen as supportive. However, changes in staffing and resources usually lead to deterioration in student satisfaction. Staff are busier, harder to find and consult. Lecture and tutorial class sizes are also becoming larger.

That aside, it seems possible from these students’ comments to achieve relatively high levels of satisfaction with university education without massive levels of student support.

It is all a relative matter and bound up with individual perspectives and prior expectations.

If nothing else, students find change difficult to cope with. Hence, universities need to explain fully and the reasons for any changes.

My research suggests that it is possible for universities to create powerful learning environments without necessarily lavish capital and physical outlays.

The institutions involved in my past research were relatively new and in a fairly good state of physical repair. That said, they were not generously equipped and funded.

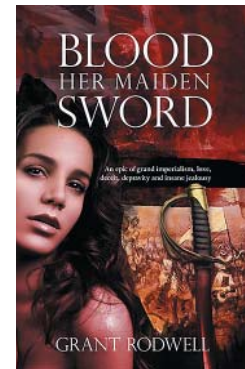
However, the question remains as to the minimum level of physical and capital resources that must be provided for an effective learning environment to occur. What is the level below which resources must not be allowed to fall and what is the relationship between resources and educational achievement?

Anthony Potts works in the School of Education at the University of Adelaide. He has previously been at Wolfson College, Cambridge University, Newman University College (Birmingham) and Liverpool Hope University. His research interests include university student cultures, politicians’ perspectives on universities, life in new universities, and academic careers.

Above: Dr Anthony Potts

Academics in print

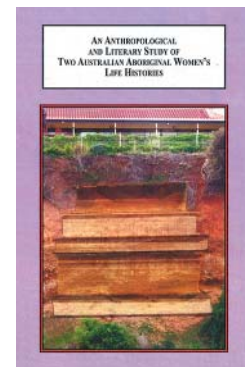
School of Education lecturers Dr Grant Rodwell and Dr Linda Westphalen have both recently released books into the public sphere.



Dr Rodwell’s fifth novel, *Blood Her Maiden Sword*, the third in his Barsden series, is published by Sid Harta Publishers.

It is the passionate story of aspiration, love and betrayal set largely against the wild surroundings of Sydney and the Australian outback. Critic Wendy O’Hanlon describes the novel as “Australian literature at its best” and another reviewer says the book is “a must read for Aussies who cherish this country”.

Dr Rodwell is a senior lecturer in the School of Education, specialising in history, curriculum and pedagogy.



Dr Westphalen’s book, *An Anthropological and Literary Study of Two Aboriginal Women’s Life Histories*, is an insightful view of Indigenous culture through the autobiographic eyes of two Aboriginal women.

The book is described by Professor Lyndall Ryan as “groundbreaking work of extraordinary scholarship, and a tribute to the women who wrote about their lives and to [Dr Westphalen’s] commitment to make their stories more explicable to a wider audience”.

Dr Westphalen’s current teaching and research focuses on cultural studies issues to do with education, information and communication technologies, and gender.

Story by Tom Beilby

News in Brief



Kristian Winther

Elder Hall concerts

Music lovers are in for a treat in coming weeks with Dutch classical pianist Bart van Oort, an Adelaide children's choir, and acclaimed violinist Kristian Winther all booked to perform at Elder Hall.

Bart van Oort, a visiting artist from the Royal Conservatory in The Hague, Netherlands, will play pieces by Mozart, Kozeluch and Haydn in a lunchtime concert on Friday 18 May.

The following Friday 25 May, Young Adelaide Voices will feature *Adiemus* by Karl Jenkins as well as works by Dan Walker, Holst, Stephen Leek and others.

Kristian Winther, the newly-appointed leader of the University's resident Australian String Quartet, will perform a violin concerto of Brahms in an evening concert at Elder Hall on Saturday 26 May.

For more information on these concerts go to: www.music.adelaide.edu.au/elderhall/

Cultural and economic focus on China

Two events at the University of Adelaide in May will focus on the relationships between Australia and China from different perspectives.

Professor Nicholas Jose from the University's English and Creative Writing Discipline will draw on 30 years' personal experience of Australia-China relations when he delivers a public lecture on Wednesday 16 May titled "Deconstructing the Dumpling: Australia, China, Lived Connections".

Professor Jose worked in Shanghai and Beijing between 1986 and 1990 as Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy and taught contemporary Asia-Pacific literature at Harvard University from 2009-2010.

His lecture will be held in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room in the Barr Smith Library at 6pm on Wednesday 16 May.

China-Australia relations will also be examined in a Confucius Institute briefing the previous evening (Tuesday 15 May) on China's social reform and its relevance to Australia.

The policy choices facing China will be discussed by Emeritus Professor Andrew Watson from the University of Adelaide's School of Social Sciences and political science expert Professor Keping Yu.

The briefing will be held at 5.30pm, Tuesday 15 May at Level 12 Ernst & Young Building, 121 King William Street, Adelaide.

For more details on both events visit the University's events website www.adelaide.edu.au/news/events/

\$40,000 scholarships

Two University of Adelaide students have each been awarded \$40,000 Order of Australia Association Foundation Scholarships to help them complete their studies.

Economics and Finance student Alexandra Grigg, 20, and Viticulture and Oenology student James Broinowski, 27, have been awarded Scholarships from the Order of Australia Association Foundation.

The students will be mentored with eminent Australians whose background reflects the students' fields of study.

Alexandra is in her third year of a double degree in Economics and Finance and is keen to pursue a career examining the role that human psychology plays in driving the economy.

"Down the track I am interested in working at the Reserve Bank of Australia in their Economics and Finance graduate programs, gaining an insight into their core policies. Hopefully, I will also get the chance to work overseas," Alexandra said.

In 2007 Alexandra was nominated for the Zonta International Community Service Award for her voluntary work, including helping to raise money for an orphanage in Nepal.

The Riddiford Trust has provided funding for Alexandra's scholarship.

Tasmanian-born James Broinowski enrolled in his Viticulture and Oenology studies at the University of Adelaide as a mature-aged student in 2010.

Prior to taking up his tertiary studies he worked part-time in the hospitality sector

and travelled extensively, working in restaurants in Australia and overseas.

James holds certificates in hospitality management, wine knowledge and evaluation, and has already embarked on a wine-making project in the Barossa region. He has also been invited into the Waite Scholars program which connects outstanding students with industry leaders.

His charitable work includes fund raising for Save the Children's Fund, the Heart Research Institute, Guide Dogs Australia, working with youth in Wales as well as helping to build a school in Africa.

Funding for his scholarship was provided by Mr Baillieu Myer AC, past president of the Myer Foundation.

The Secretary of the Order of Australia Association Foundation, Adjunct Professor Brian O'Keefe AO, said the scholarships were based on a combination of academic excellence, leadership potential and community involvement and were aimed at supporting the next generation of leaders among young Australians.

Story by Candy Gibson

Below: Her Excellency, Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, NSW Governor and Administrator of the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia, presented Alexandra and James with their scholarship certificates at a ceremony in Darwin in April.

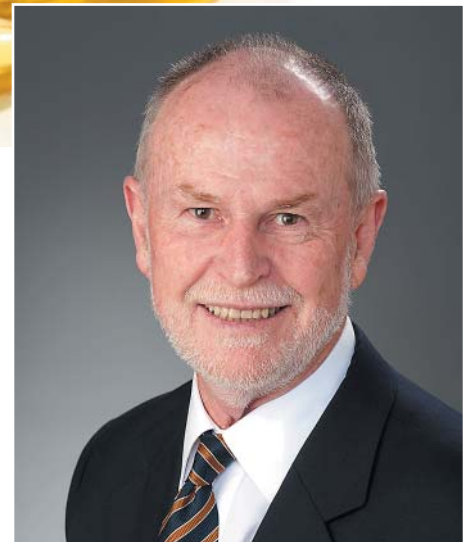
Photo courtesy of DigiFilm Australia





Omega-3 continues to astound award winner

University of Adelaide nutrition researcher Professor Bob Gibson has been honoured for his life's work in uncovering the health benefits of omega-3 fatty acids.



The Professor of Functional Food Science and Director of the FOODplus Research Centre at the University of Adelaide is the first Australian to receive the Alexander Leaf Distinguished Scientist Award, an international honour for outstanding lifetime achievement in the study of fatty acids and lipids.

He will be presented with the award later this month at the 10th Congress of the International Society for the Study of Fatty Acids and Lipids (ISSFAL) being held in Vancouver.

In the early 1980s Professor Gibson wrote a groundbreaking paper on the fatty acid composition of human breast milk, which sparked new research right across the globe into the role of both breast milk and formula in babies' health.

Professor Gibson and his colleagues were the first to demonstrate that babies receiving breast milk – which naturally contains omega-3 fatty acids – showed improved brain development relative to babies fed on formula, which at the time did not contain the essential fatty acids DHA and EPA.

This led to further work showing the problem could be corrected by adding fish oil to infant formula, and another study that provided compelling evidence for the use of dietary DHA in ensuring the optimal healthy development in babies.

These findings led to changes in infant formula regulations, and as a result essential fatty acids are now included in all commercial infant formulas.

While this research sparked dozens of new studies world wide, Professor Gibson and his team have continued with research into the importance of essential fatty acids – in particular DHA – in babies' health and development and the health of their mothers. This includes the impact of DHA supplements taken by pregnant and breastfeeding mothers on allergy and asthma, body fat mass, and insulin sensitivity in children.

This year, Professor Gibson and his team published the results of the world's biggest study into the effect of omega-3 long chain fatty acids on allergies in babies' first year of life. The study showed that just one

gram per day of long chain fatty acids is enough to prevent some allergies, such as sensitivity to eggs.

"Our work is aimed at improving children's health on a massive scale," Professor Gibson said. "We're demonstrating that omega-3 long chain fatty acids can have clinical benefits equal to some pharmaceuticals, offering new hope for many clinical conditions.

"Although I've been working in this field for more than 30 years, I'm constantly astounded by the discoveries we're making. Just when you think you've found everything there is to find, we realise there is more and more that science can uncover. We're discovering things now about omega-3 that we suspected but never had evidence for – and it's every bit as exciting to be working in this field today as it was 30 years ago," he said.

Story by David Ellis

Above: Professor Bob Gibson



Scholar teachers

Two Singapore secondary school teachers who won scholarships to study at the University of Adelaide have been awarded the top prize for outstanding academic achievement at the University's recent Singapore graduation ceremony.

Theresa Lai and Alvin Tan (pictured above) have both graduated with a Masters of Educational Studies from Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre, earning nine High Distinctions and five Distinctions between them and jointly taking out the Executive Dean's Award for their efforts.

The teachers, who are employed by one of the most innovative schools in Singapore – Ngee Ann Secondary School – have spent the past 12 months studying at Ngee Ann-Adelaide, which has offered programs on behalf of the University of Adelaide for the past 14 years.

Alvin said the Masters program had given him a good insight into what was needed in a quality educational curriculum.

"I have learned the elements of designing a good and innovative curriculum and trying out many new ideas as a teacher," Alvin said.

"The Masters program was very practical and it complemented my work tremendously as an educational researcher."

Theresa said her studies had enabled her to be a more reflective teacher.

"I am now more conscious of the changing profile of my students and adapting to their needs," Theresa said.

"Thanks to the Masters program I am also a more critical and innovative thinker and always looking for new ways of teaching in the classroom to better engage students."

The macebearer for the Singapore graduation ceremony, Bernard How, topped the MBA program at Ngee Ann-Adelaide in 2011, earning three High Distinctions and six Distinctions.

Bernard said he chose to study his MBA at the University of Adelaide because it was one of the most prestigious universities in Australia and numbered among its alumni some of Singapore's most senior government officials and business leaders, including a past President and two deputy Prime Ministers.

"The support I received from the University and Ngee Ann-Adelaide was outstanding," he said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Singapore businessman Lim Siong Guan honoured

The University of Adelaide has honoured prominent Singapore government official Lim Siong Guan with a Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2012 Singapore graduation ceremony held on Saturday 28 April.

Siong Guan, the Group President of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation, is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, earning a degree in Mechanical Engineering (First Class Honours) in 1969.

The former Head of the Singapore Civil Service also gave the official address to 183 University of Adelaide graduates at the National University of Singapore Cultural Centre.

Siong Guan has served Singapore with distinction for more than 40 years and is a recipient of the Public Administration Medal (Gold) in 1982, the Meritorious Service Medal in 1991 and the Order of Nila Utama (First Class) in 2006.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is in recognition of Mr Lim Siong Guan's visionary leadership and extensive contributions to Singapore and its Civil Service.

The 2012 graduation ceremony included three PhD students and 27 prize winners from the University of Adelaide's programs offered in Singapore at the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre.

Among the award winners were Ngee Ann Secondary School teachers Theresa Lai and Tan Choon Hou Alvin, who received the Executive Dean's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement. Both graduated with a Masters of Educational Studies.

This year's macebearer was Bernard How, Director of Premier Support, Asia Time Zone for Microsoft Operations, who graduated with an MBA from the University of Adelaide. Bernard achieved nine Distinctions or High Distinctions in the program offered at Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre, Singapore.

The ceremony was the last in Singapore for the University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha AO, who retires in June after 10 years at the helm.

Story by Candy Gibson

Below: Lim Siong Guan (centre) flanked by the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, and Lindsay McWha.

Photo by Joyous Asia





THE UNIVERSITY
of ADELAIDE

The University of Adelaide Graduation Ceremony

28 April 2012



Above: MBA graduates celebrate after the Singapore graduation ceremony.

Right: Deputy Chancellor Pamela Martin with macebearer and Most Outstanding MBA graduate Bernard How.

Photos by Joyous Asia



Rowing duo headed for London

The University of Adelaide has two members of its rowing squad headed for the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Chris Morgan and James McRae have both qualified as part of the men's Quadruple Scull rowing team for the upcoming Olympic Games.

Both 29-year-old Morgan and 24-year-old McRae have studied at the University whilst maintaining their push as professional sportspeople and are now reaping the rewards.

Morgan, a Commerce and Computer Science graduate of the University, is a back-to-back World Champion in the men's Quadruple Scull.

Despite these professional feats, he lists his ability to "maintain a High Distinction average whilst studying a one-and-a-half full-time load at University and rowing for Australia [at the same time]" as one of his finest personal achievements.

As reported by the *Adelaidean* in 2005, Morgan's entry into the sport of rowing was "a stroke of luck".

During O Week in 2003, the University held a rowing machine competition, with a prize of alcohol for the fastest time recorded by a student.

Morgan had never rowed before and was motivated simply by winning a carton of beer on offer.

He entered the event, won, and from there launched a highly successful career as an international rower.

McRae's early career in the sport followed a much more conventional path after he joined the Murray Bridge Rowing Club as a 12-year-old.

He has now developed into a world-class rower and due to his success has been honoured with a life membership at the local rowing club.

McRae is in his final year of a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical/Sports) at the University of Adelaide.

Early in his studies McRae said he found it difficult to manage the workload when coupled with his elite rowing program. However, as he continues to juggle study with his professional sporting career there have been big improvements, due to a number of "understanding lecturers, as well as finding the right people to negotiate alternative arrangements".

Both athletes are heavily involved with the recently re-developed Adelaide University Boat Club.

McRae said the increased support of the University and, in particular, departing Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James

McWha, have ensured both the equipment and facilities have drastically improved.

At the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, Morgan and McRae made up half of the men's Quadruple Sculls that finished marginally off the podium in fourth position.

As McRae recounts: "We made it through the semi-final reasonably comfortably, however in the final we did not have the exceptional race we needed and ended up missing the bronze medal by a fraction of a second."

"However, with three members from this crew racing the quad again in London, we hope to use the experience we have gained from the past four years and make sure we get it right on the day," he said.

They are the reigning World Champions in their event after upsetting a strong group at the most recent Rowing World Championship held in November 2011 and are confident they can reach a podium finish at the London Olympics.

All of the rowing events featured in the 2012 Olympic Games are scheduled to be held from 28 July until 4 August at the Eton Dorney Rowing Centre in London.

Story by Tom Beilby

Below: 2011 Men's Single Scull NSW State Championship winner Chris Morgan (centre) pictured with second placegetter James McRae (left) and David Crawshay (right), who came third.

