

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE AUSTRALIA

## Adelaide home for computer evolution



### Computer Science

University of Adelaide students stand to be big winners with a world-class IT expert taking up a Professorship with the School of Computer Science.

Professor Zbigniew Michalewicz is regarded as one of the leading authorities in the field of evolutionary computation, and started in his role at Adelaide earlier this year.

The Head of Computer Science, Professor Mike Brooks, describes Professor Michalewicz's appointment as a major coup for the IT industry in South Australia.

"It would be an understatement to say we are very excited that he has

joined us," Professor Brooks said. "It would have to be one of the most significant IT appointments at an Australian university in the last 20 years."

Professor Michalewicz was born in Poland and worked in New Zealand before coming to international prominence while based in the United States for his work in the relatively new field of evolutionary computation.

Very broadly, it can be described as problem-solving using science – in the form of computers – to copy the processes of nature.

Professor Zbigniew Michalewicz  
Photo by James Knowler, courtesy of the *Independent Weekly*

More specifically, for massive and complex problems, computers host artificial "problem-solvers" which each develop an individual solution to the problem.

The best solutions are retained, the weaker ones discarded, and the information that "evolves" from that generation of problem-solvers is given to a newer generation, and again, the best solutions are retained while the weaker ones are discarded. This process is continually repeated over generations until the ideal solution is found.

continued on page 10

# Adelaidean

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

It seems barely a week goes by without the University of Adelaide featuring in some sort of university ranking, be it a national or international ranking. Whether we like it or not, rankings are becoming increasingly popular as devices for trying to measure a university's value and contribution to our society – and they are here to stay.

More often than not, the University of Adelaide does quite well in these rankings and consistently punches above its weight. Occasionally we rank lower than we had anticipated, such as in the recent Graduate Careers Australia survey of Australian universities' learning and teaching performance – but for every ranking of this kind, we can point to two or three other rankings which portray the University of Adelaide in a far more positive manner. For example, in November last year *The Times Higher Education Supplement* ranked us as the 56th best university in the world, ahead of such renowned universities as Brown in the US, King's College in London and St Andrews in Scotland.

Rankings will never be the definitive method of establishing a university's impact on society. They do, however, provide a snapshot of how a university is performing in particular areas over a given period of time and it is for this reason we welcome them, as they highlight and reinforce where we are performing well and where we need to improve.

At the same time, irrespective of any given ranking, good or bad, our fundamental commitments are to improving the overall student experience at the University of Adelaide and ensuring the best outcomes for our graduates. Had we topped the recent teaching rankings, these commitments would not change. They underpin all that we do and while I like to think that we do it very well, we can always improve.

Our teaching ranking was based on perceptions of students who were studying at the University between 1999 and 2002. It is no secret that this period was a particularly difficult time for the University, and I am pleased to say that we have moved forward quite considerably since then.

It is important to consider some other relevant data, which this ranking either gave little weighting to, or ignored altogether. The University of Adelaide remains the university of choice in South Australia for people wishing to undertake tertiary studies, particularly when measured by first-preference applications. Our graduates are more sought after, and earn higher starting salaries than their counterparts from other South Australian universities. If they were not receiving a quality education, which equipped them with the skills and knowledge needed for a successful career, then this would not be the case. Our student-staff ratio continues to rank among the lowest in the nation, and since 2002, we have increased our investment in improving facilities, infrastructure and resources for our students and staff.

We have already done a lot, and there is more we must continue to do – but I firmly believe we are heading in the right direction. Evidence for this is starting to come readily to hand. A much more recent ranking by the Graduate Management Association of Australia gave our MBA (Advanced) five stars – up from two stars in the previous survey – and our MBA four stars. We were also strongly endorsed by the 2006 Good Universities Guide.

All rankings enable us to identify, and react to, challenges and opportunities in particular areas. Underlying this is our commitment to delivering the best outcomes for our students, and this commitment ensures that we do not shy away from constructive criticism; in fact, we welcome it.

JAMES A. McWha  
Vice-Chancellor

## Correction

In the August edition of the *Adelaidean*, a story about Professor Derek Frewin incorrectly referred to him as the outgoing Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences.

In fact, he was the outgoing Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

The *Adelaidean* apologises to Professor Derek Frewin, and for any confusion caused.



## Hands-on history

It was a trip back in time for these students from St Joseph's School recently, when they were the first class to experience a new activity-based educational program at beautiful Urrbrae House on the Waite Campus.

Featuring University staff and volunteers in authentic late 19th Century dress, students experienced life as the Waite family would have some 100 years ago, as children in the schoolroom, as adult guests in the dining room, or as servants. The program also includes a schools kit for teachers. The program supports the local history curriculum and enhances the campus' community outreach activities.

Photo by Lisa Reid



# Our graduates on path to success

## Careers

University of Adelaide graduates are hot property in the Australian job market.

A recent report reveals that nearly 80% of University of Adelaide graduates obtained full-time employment within four months of completing their studies in 2004.

According to *Graduate Destination 2004*, which is based on an annual national Graduate Destination Survey and published by Graduate Careers Australia, of the University of Adelaide respondents, 78.7% were in full-time employment within four months of graduating, with a further 12.4% in part-time or casual employment.

By comparison, out of all South Australian graduates seeking full-time employment within this period, 75.1% were in full-time employment.

In some fields of study, a high percentage of University of Adelaide graduates succeeded in locating full-time work within four months.

These included Civil Engineering (100%), Medicine (97.9%), Agriculture (95.2%), Dentistry (95%), Economics (92.9%) and Mechanical Engineering (90.9%).

"This is an exceptional result considering a tighter market, mergers and acquisitions. It once again underlines the quality of the education and teaching we are providing," said Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

The results also show a high percentage of University of Adelaide graduates continuing their studies: 45.6% of graduates of first degrees continued on to further full-time study, compared to 23.4% nationally.

Story by Howard Salkow



# Five-star rating for MBA

## Business

Strategic changes to the University of Adelaide's Master of Business Administration (Advanced) program have resulted in it receiving a five-star rating from the Graduate Management Association of Australia.

Professor Graham Hubbard, Head of the Adelaide Graduate School of Business (AGSB), which oversees the program, said the renewed focus has enabled the school to have better quality control over its courses.

"When I assumed my role, we restructured the program to provide more electives – we now offer over 30 electives – increased the length of the program from 11-week courses

to 12, increased the quantity and quality of core faculty in terms of their academic qualifications, their publications and their business experience," Professor Hubbard said.

He said the MBA (Advanced) received five stars because it comprises 16 courses compared to the standard 12-course MBA, which received four stars.

"The highest quality MBA programs are over two years. Most students now choose to do a one or one-and-a-half year course. We offer both, but encourage students to take the longer one as it covers more areas than the standard course," he said.

Professor Hubbard said the AGBS is focusing on teaching excellence as part of what students want.

"They want a high quality, face-to-face classroom experience, and that is what we aim to provide. We have been focusing on improving the quality of our teaching staff and acting on student feedback," he said.

Another initiative is increasing its links with the business community, which is an important part of making the MBA courses relevant.

"We have introduced the Business Project as a compulsory course for the MBA (Advanced) to demonstrate

that our MBAs can add direct and immediate value to organisations by addressing real projects brought to us by organisations," Professor Hubbard said.

"The School also has an active MBA Alumni Association, which is a strong network benefit of doing an MBA with us. Our Centre for Executive Education also runs courses for organisations and individuals that can be linked into the MBA program, and we are linking our MBA and Executive Education activity together to get the best of both worlds."

Story by Howard Salkow

# Our Tall Poppies in bloom

## Science

University of Adelaide scientists have struck it rich, winning five of the eight South Australian Tall Poppy Science Awards for 2005-2006.

The awards recognise the achievements of outstanding young researchers in the sciences including physical, biomedical and applied sciences and biotechnology.

**Dr Bronwyn Gillanders** moved to South Australia in 2001 after several post-doctoral appointments to take up an Australian Research Council Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship in the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. Her research interests span freshwater, estuarine and marine systems and are focused primarily on ecology of fish and invertebrates. She is a world leader in the field of otolith (fish ear bones) chemistry.

**Dr Wendy Ingman** is with the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology; and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

Her research centres on the role of the immune system in reproductive health. During her university training, she studied the effect of the immune system on a very diverse range of aspects of reproduction, including ovary development and male erectile dysfunction. She now studies the role of the immune system in breast development and cancer.

**Dr Sam Mickan** is with the University's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering and his research explores medical applications of terahertz frequency – or T-ray – technology. His most significant contributions to science have been in the field of experimental T-ray optics, specifically



in T-ray system development for biosensing applications. His contributions are demonstrated by two patents and a number of seminal journal publications.

**Dr Julia Pitcher** is a motor control neurophysiologist based at the Women's and Children's Hospital with a research interest in how the human brain learns controls and remembers movements. She is currently investigating the consequences of being born small for gestational age – due to an adverse environment in the womb – on motor function in adulthood, and has found major alterations including larger differences in excitability of the motor areas between the brain hemispheres.

Tall Poppies (from left) Julia Pitcher, Sam Mickan, Carmela Ricciardelli and Wendy Ingman. Absent is Bronwyn Gillanders.  
Photo by Ben Osborne

**Dr Carmela Ricciardelli** is a Research Fellow in the University's Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

She is a cancer cell biologist with a strong research interest in understanding the ways cancer cells communicate with their nearby environment and spread to other sites in the body. Her research program has focused on hormone-regulated proteins in breast and prostate cancer.

Story by Howard Salkow

## Uni dominates Premier's Science awards

### Science

The inaugural Premier's Science Excellence Awards came close to becoming an all-University of Adelaide affair recently with our scientists winning three of the five categories while seven others were finalists.

The winners and finalists shared \$120,000 and were recognised for their leadership in raising the public awareness of science in South Australia.

It was also a night to remember for the Rathjen family. Professor Peter Rathjen, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, won the award for Research and Leadership for his research and work in stem cell biology and stem cell therapies; and his father Dr Tony Rathjen was a member of the South Australian Cereal Breeding team that won the award for Excellence in Research for Commercial Outcomes.

In a third award, University scientists teamed with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) for Excellence in Research for Public Good.

"This result is a clear indication of the outstanding work being undertaken by our scientists at this University," said Professor Neville Marsh, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

"There is a mix of youth and experience among this list which is a healthy position for us to be in," he said.

The 2005 winners and finalists from the University of Adelaide were:

#### Research and Leadership:

Winner: Professor Peter Rathjen, Executive Dean, Faculty of Sciences.

Finalist: Professor Rob Norman, Director Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

#### Excellence in Research for Commercial Outcomes:

Winner: South Australian Cereal Breeding Team – Dr Tony Rathjen, Dr David Sparrow, Professor Andy Barr and Professor Gill Hollamby.

Finalists: Turbulence Energy & Combustion Group, Schools of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering; and Professor John Wallace, School of Molecular & Biomedical Science.

#### Excellence in Research for Public Good:

Winner: SARDI Food Research Program, SA Research and Development Institute (with University of Adelaide). Team: Andrew Pointon;

Ben Daughtry; David Padula; David Hamilton; Tom Madigan; Dr Andreas Kiermeier; Dr Ian Delaere; Jo Slade; Geoff Holds; Viv Mattei; Felicity Brake; Samuel Phua; Sita Balshaw; Dr Connor Thomas and Dr Ken Davey.

Finalist: Don Robertson, Professor of Paediatrics, Department of Paediatrics and Women's & Children's Hospital.

#### Science Educator of the Year:

Finalists: Belinda Barr & Heather Bray, Joint Leaders, Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics & Molecular Plant Breeding Cooperative Research Centre, Waite Campus.

#### Science Communication Excellence:

Finalist: Dr Chris Daniels, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Story by Howard Salkow





Left: Alexander Marks (far left) with fellow staff and interns outside the Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress in Washington DC

Photo courtesy of Alexander Marks

Above: Margie Charlesworth  
Photo by Ben Osborne

# Heading overseas gives students a broad experience

## ● Student Services

Two University of Adelaide students are showing that getting the full student experience at university can actually mean leaving Adelaide!

Margie Charlesworth and Alexander Marks are participants in the University's Study Abroad scheme, which allows students to study for up to a year in a university or college in North America, Europe or Asia. Students can count their overseas results towards their Adelaide degree.

For Margie, her Study Abroad exchange will be her first time overseas. The Bachelor of Social Sciences and Diploma of Language student, who has cerebral palsy, left late last month to study for two

semesters at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada.

She said she will use the trip to further her study interests of Gender Studies and French – and to further herself.

"I want to challenge myself, and I want to get the most out of my university experience," she said. "I left home to live on my own at an early age, which was hard, and now I'm ready for the new challenge of going to a new country by myself.

"I also want to show other people with disabilities that you can come to university, and even study overseas, if you really want to do it."

Alexander is studying for a double degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering and Arts, and has just returned from his Study Abroad at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

In addition to his studies in political science, he worked as an intern at the office of a Californian Democrat politician at the US Congress in Washington.

"I was able to attend a Congressional briefing given by ambassadors of three European Union nations (Britain, France and Germany) to the US about their most recent discussions with Iran on Iran's nuclear capabilities," he said.

"Although you would think the importance of such a briefing would be pretty high, because the US Congress is such a flurry of activity there weren't many people there, so I actually got introduced to everyone involved and had the opportunity to ask a few questions!

"The college experience with its fast pace, unique lifestyle and excellent teaching was very worthwhile, and my time in Washington widened my horizons and made me consider a number of career paths to take in the future."

[www.adelaide.edu.au/student/study\\_abroad/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/study_abroad/)



# Jay's success a matter of balance

## Student Achievement

At 23, Malaysian-born Jay Ron Wong is pretty close to achieving a well-balanced lifestyle.

And it speaks volumes for someone who arrived in Adelaide in 2002 from Kuala Lumpur to undertake a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of Adelaide without family or friends – but with a dogged determination to succeed.

Fast-forward events and you have a mature individual, who has not only maximised every opportunity but also become a class act in the process.

This much was evidenced at a recent Gala Dinner held at the Hilton Hotel to celebrate Malaysia's Merdeka Day (Day of Independence), where Jay won the top award at an event hosted by the Australia Malaysia Business Council.

The competition, which is open to Malaysian students studying at South Australia's three universities, called for a student who is a good ambassador for SA; has contributed towards developing strong relationships between SA and Malaysia; shared their experiences with the wider community; and demonstrated outstanding achievement.

According to the judges, Jay was "head and shoulders" about the others.

"This means a great deal to me. To say I am honoured would be understating how I truly feel," Jay said.

"I was also humbled by the presence of the Foreign Minister the Hon. Alexander Downer and many senior academic leaders. This made me realise how prestigious the award is."

But the key to this young man is balance, and his ability to manage the accolades and successes. And this is but one of many he has already enjoyed.

He is a recipient of the Malaysia Australia Colombo Plan Commemoration and Adelaide University Scholarship; the Dean's Certificate of Merit for Outstanding Achievement in 2002, 2003 and 2004; the 2002 Aquinas College Academic Award; and during his high school education in Malaysia, he won an Entrance Scholarship and Best Student Award in Chemistry.



Jay Wong (second from left) at the Merdeka Awards with (from left) Professor Hock Tan (President of the Australia Malaysia Business Council and Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Adelaide), the Hon. Alexander Downer (Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs) and Sir Eric Neal (Patron of the Merdeka Awards)

As a member of the Malaysian water polo team, he represented his country at the South-East Asia Games in Malaysia; at the World Cup qualifiers in Iran; the 2nd Asian Clubs water polo championship in Malaysia; and training camps and friendlies in Hong Kong, China and Singapore.

Besides also excelling at swimming and soccer, and enjoying his newfound love of Aussie Rules Football, he has already secured a position with Santos as part of a three-year graduate development program.

"This is a fabulous opportunity and my goal now is to remain in Australia and fulfil my role as an engineer by contributing towards improving the quality of life of the community," he said.

Mechanical engineering, "for whatever the reason," says Jay, is firmly on the Wong's radar screen. Jay's twin Jay Wyn and his older brother Jay Vern (28) all chose the same career paths.

And his parents? His father has a successful printing business in Kuala Lumpur, while Mum is a retired nurse currently involved in voluntary work!

And you can rest assured they are taking a close interest in Jay Ron's role as aerodynamics team leader in Formula SAE, a project for final year engineering students to design, build and finance a race car to compete against other Australian universities in December this year.

Story by Howard Salkow

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# Making new designs on prison safety

## Architecture

New University of Adelaide research is pointing the way for increasing safety in prisons and reducing deaths in custody.

Elizabeth Grant is studying the issue of prison safety for her PhD through the University's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design. (She is also a Lecturer in Aboriginal Architecture at the University.)

As part of her studies, she is undertaking the first ever interviews of Aboriginal prisoners to identify ways of providing safe and culturally appropriate prison design, with the aim of reducing self-harm and suicide.

Despite a Royal Commission and numerous recommendations from coronial findings into Aboriginal deaths in custody, many of South Australia's prisons still have hanging points in cells or other areas where distressed or depressed prisoners are left unattended and unobserved.

She said while Victoria has committed \$50 million to improving prison design after a tragic series of deaths at Port Phillip Prison in 1998, South Australia is yet to commit funding to making its prisons safer.

"The Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody took place 14 years ago, but mortality rates are still very high - we have reached a stage where the media does not even report deaths in custody anymore," she said.

"I wanted to look at solutions to this problem from an architectural perspective, by talking to end-users of the prison system.

"This type of consultation has never taken place before. An architect who is building a house sits with a client and discusses their needs, but it is obviously very unusual for a prisoner to be asked these questions.

Ms Grant has visited every prison in South Australia, interviewing Aboriginal prisoners about their culture and living conditions.

"Currently, there are no standard rights to a safe environment for prisoners - this is something that needs to be addressed urgently," she said.

"Many of South Australia's prisons only got toilets in the last few decades.

"Think about the effect such conditions have on people who are

often already at the lowest point in their lives.

"Sending people to a very depressing environment when their lives are at a crisis point, and where suicide can appear to be the only solution to their problems, is not humane.

"This is something that applies to all prisoners, but even more to Aboriginal prisoners, who live quite differently to European Australians, with relationships to each other, and to the country, central to their survival."

Ms Grant has just been awarded an Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Research Grant that she will use to explore existing precedents in prison design around Australia.

"Some states have already introduced design concepts that open up views of natural environments around the prisons and cell design allowing Aboriginal prisoners to share space, which is culturally important to them, rather than isolating the prisoners in one-person cells," she said.

"Outdoor fires are also being allowed in cases where this is appropriate and safe, so that Aboriginal prisoners

Left: Elizabeth Grant  
Photo by Lisa Reid

Above: image courtesy of Ricky Maynard

can gather in an environment that is culturally appropriate."

"The introduction of art created by the prisoners is another concept that dates back to the 1800s in some prisons in Western Australia and is something that could be easily integrated into prisons in South Australia."

Ms Grant said she is concerned at the conditions she has seen through her research, with many prisons being used as mental institutions, leaving vulnerable people to exist without support in what are often quite dangerous environments.

"Ideally, the findings from this research will assist with the creation of safe environments that don't contribute to suicide and the creation of facilities that treat, rather than punish, the psychiatrically or psychologically ill," she said.

"The provision of proper detoxification facilities is also a key factor in many Aboriginal prisoners' adjustment to incarceration."

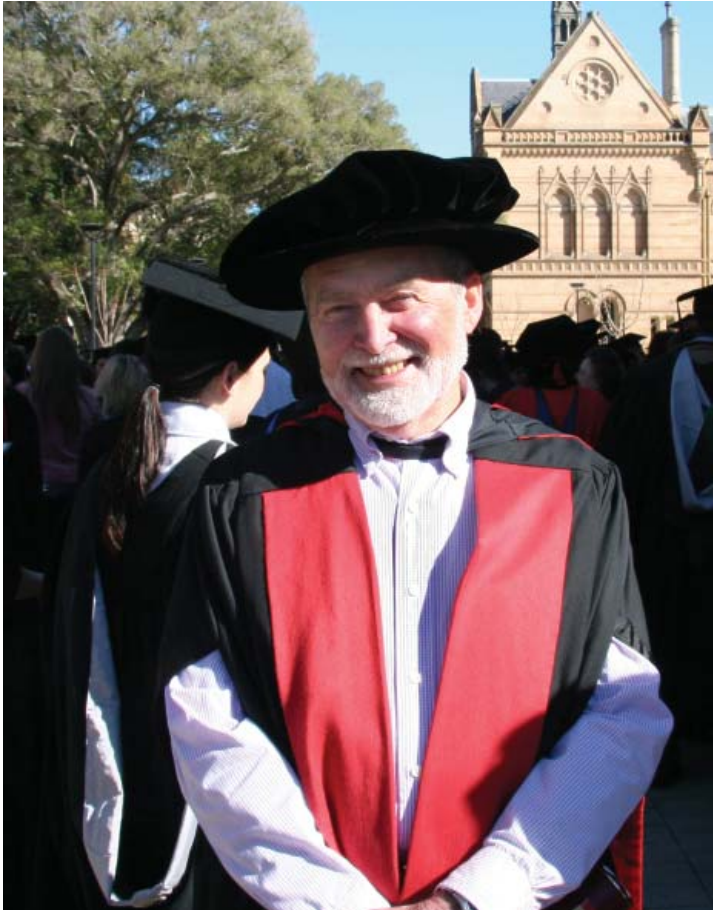
Story by Lisa Reid



# ● Graduations

Graduations are one of the highlights on the University calendar, and four ceremonies held last month proved to be no exception.

Some 700 students took part in the ceremonies – the last to be held in Bonython Hall prior to its long-awaited refurbishment and upgrade (see story on Page 15).



**Clockwise from above:**

**HISTORIC EVENT ...** Peter Strawhan graduated with a PhD in History, with his thesis entitled *The Importance of Food and Drink in the Political and Private Life of Don Dunstan*

**STATELY ...** Beautiful Bonython Hall, as always, made for a stunning setting for the graduation ceremonies

**ENGINEERING SUCCESS ...** Sivaneswaran Kansvaran (left) graduated with an Honours degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He is pictured with proud parents Chinniah Kansvaran (middle) and Visvanathan Arulsothy.







**Clockwise from top left:**

**SCIENCE SPEAKER ...** Adelaide Thinker-in-Residence and world renowned neuroscientist Baroness Professor Susan Greenfield gives the Occasional Address at the Sciences and Professions ceremony

**JOB WELL DONE ...** University Chancellor, the Hon. John von Doussa QC (middle), congratulates Nadia Mazlan (second from right) and her family on Nadia's achievement in graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting)

**FAMILY AFFAIR ...** Deborah Miller (second from left) celebrated her MBA with family (from left) son Jordan Miller-Owen, husband Wayne Owen and daughter Kimberley Miller-Owen

**LAW GENERATIONS ...** Kate Robinson (left) graduated with a Bachelor of Laws with Honours, 30 years after her proud father Martin Robinson also graduated with a Law degree from Adelaide

**PROUD MOMENT ...** Aimi Zahra Mohamed Nazir (middle) graduated with a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting). She is pictured with parents Mohamed Nazir (left) and Faizah Nazir, who is studying for her PhD in Commerce (Accounting) at Adelaide.



# Public lectures

Two prominent speakers will give public lectures hosted by the University of Adelaide early next month.

## Media



Award-winning journalist, author and commentator, Robert Fisk (pictured) will give the inaugural Edward Said Memorial Lecture at 5pm in Elder Hall on Saturday, October 1.

Fisk, the highly regarded Middle East correspondent for The Independent in the UK, is one of the few Western journalists to have interviewed Osama Bin Laden.

The Lecture has been established by a cross-faculty steering committee of academics with an interest in Said, regarded as one of the leading literary critics in the last quarter of the 20th Century.

Entry is \$10 for adults, and \$5 concession. The lecture is sponsored by The Australian Friends of Palestine Association.

## Law



University of Adelaide graduate and prominent law academic Professor Ivan Shearer (pictured) is the speaker for next month's James Crawford Biennial Lecture Series on International Law.

Professor Shear will give his lecture, entitled "Australia, America, and the Rule of Law in International Affairs: Comparisons and Contrasts", at 7pm on Friday, October 7 in Law Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building.

The lecture series is named in honour of well-known international lawyer Professor James Crawford, also an Adelaide graduate, who, among other career highlights, was the first Australian to serve on the United Nations International Law Commission.

# Adelaide home for computer evolution

continued from page 1

Professor Michalewicz, along with his son and several other people who have also moved to Adelaide, has started a software company called SolveIT Software which aims to provide business and industry with the evolutionary computation know-how to solve large and complex manufacturing, logistics and delivery problems.

He has also started teaching at the School of Computer Science, and hopes to involve students in research associated with SolveIT Software.

"I am impressed with the School of Computer Science— the staff and students are excellent," he said.

"I am teaching a course focusing on problem-solving skills to Honours students, and eventually would like to involve these and other postgraduate students with my company in a research capacity.

"Such a partnership will be beneficial to both the students, and business and industry: the students will be able to apply the skills they are learning at university to real-life situations that are faced by businesses, while they are still at university;

while the businesses will have the brightest young minds in the State helping to solve their problems in an innovative and cost-effective way."

Professor Michalewicz has no doubts he will enjoy his time in Adelaide, both professionally and personally.

"I had been to Australia many times during my career and enjoy all the major cities, but I fell in love with Adelaide from the moment I first came here and always wanted to live here," he said.

"I love the ocean and love living near it; here I can do this and still be less than 20 minutes from the city!

"Last year, when I was still in the US but looking at what I could do next, my wife and I said we'd both love to go to Adelaide – and then the position at the University of Adelaide became available, it was like a big flashing sign saying "This is what you should do!"

"I am really enjoying the city and the University, and I'm so glad I made the move."

Story by Ben Osborne

## Operatic magic!

The Vocal School of the Elder Conservatorium, in association with Adelaide Centre for the Arts, will this month present Mozart's *The Magic Flute* as you have never seen it before.

*The Magic Flute* will feature Voice students together with the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra (conducted by Keith Crellin). It will be directed by recent NIDA directing graduate, Andrew Davidson, who is considered a rising star among his peers.

Performances will be held from Thursday, September 8 to Saturday, September 10 at 7.30pm in Scott Theatre. Tickets are \$20 adult/\$15 conc/\$10 student, and are available from BASS on 131 246.

## C D R C

Dental School, The University of Adelaide

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# Growing healthy links to China

## Public Health

The University of Adelaide's links with China continue to grow, with its involvement in a recent health project set to have an impact on the lives of millions of Chinese people.

Dr Afzal Mahmood, Lecturer in the University's Department of Public Health, has been the driving force behind increasing collaborations with health officials and academics in Shandong province.

Shandong is located in China's East, and has a population of some 90 million people. The University of Adelaide already has a strong partnership with Shandong, including a longstanding agreement of almost 20 years with Shandong University which was re-signed again last year.

Dr Mahmood's project, aimed at improving rural health care, involves the University's Department of Public Health assisting the Shandong Department of Health's Division of Community Health, and Division of Medical Scientific Research, Education and International Cooperation.

"A larger number of people in Shandong live in rural areas, and they often find it difficult to get the quality care they need," Dr Mahmood said.

"There is also a lack of integration between the local village clinic, and the township hospital – so for example, someone might go to the hospital when they have something that could be treated locally at the clinic, or the clinic staff do not have optimum training to manage certain diseases."

"What we did was conduct an operations research, with the idea of making a 'template' for improved rural health care which could be replicated across the rest of the province," Dr Mahmood said.

"Community surveys and analysis of village clinics' situations pointed to various areas, such as infrastructure, equipment and staff training, where improvements can be made, and we have started



Dr Afzal Mahmood (left) with a village doctor in Qufu County, Shandong

planning for a quality of care project to be piloted in five village clinics and one township hospital."

Funding for this project has come from a number of sources, including Department of Public Health, and the offices of the Faculty of Health Sciences' Associate Dean International, and Pro-Vice Chancellor (International). AusAID, through its Australian Youth Ambassador for Development program, sponsored a young Master of Public Health graduate from Australia, Alexandra Raulli, to take part in a six-month exchange to Shandong

to assist with implementation of research. Dr He Wang at the University's Department of Public Health is a fellow researcher.

Rotary Australia World Community Services will provide support for infrastructure development in five village clinics and a township hospital in the pilot study. Its medical arm, International Infancy, Midwifery, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, may also provide the needed specialist training for the hospital.

Story by Ben Osborne

## China scholar's conference honour

### History

A world-leading authority on the impact of Chinese peoples around the world from the University of Adelaide has been given the prestigious honour of being the keynote speaker at an international conference held recently in Malaysia.

Dr Ching-hwang Yen (pictured), an Adjunct Associate Professor and Reader in the University's School of History and Politics, gave the address at the inaugural conference

on the study of Hokkien Chinese in South-East Asia, held in Kuala Lumpur.

The conference was an important part of the celebration of 120th anniversary of the founding of the Selangor Hokkien Association based in Kuala Lumpur, and was well attended by local scholars and invited experts in the field from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Australia.

Dr Yen gave the keynote paper entitled "The Role of the Hokkien Chinese in the History of Malaysia and Singapore".

"The Hokkien Chinese are perhaps the richest and most powerful ethnic Chinese group in South-East Asia, and many of them have sent their children to study in universities and colleges in Australia, the United States and United Kingdom," Dr Yen said.

"Their influence is felt not only in Southeast Asia, but also in China, Taiwan and other parts of overseas Chinese communities, including that in Australia.

"To be asked to give the keynote address at such an important conference is, on a personal level,



a big honour. It also boosts the University of Adelaide's profile and standing in Asia, and shows that the University has a strong engagement with the region."



# Awards hit the right note for Conservatorium

## ● Music

Staff and performers from the University of Adelaide's renowned Elder Conservatorium of Music continue to receive national and international recognition for their achievements.

The Conservatorium was awarded a prestigious Classical Music Award for 2005 by the Australian Music Centre and the Australasian Performing Rights Association. (The Conservatorium has reverted to its name of more than 100 years, after being known for a short time as the Elder School of Music.)

It was honoured for its outstanding contribution to Australian music through the "Beethoven Songlines Series", a series of 11 concerts it curated and presented as part of the 2004 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

The award was made for the Conservatorium's presentation of new Australian works, which were performed alongside major works of Beethoven.

"It is particularly pleasing because the Conservatorium is strongly committed to the creation and promotion of new works by Australian composers," Director and Dean of the Conservatorium, Professor Charles Bodman Rae, said.

"It is also a tribute to the important role played by the Australian String Quartet, the School's quartet-in-residence, which premiered several of the works in the series."

- Professor Bodman Rae's personal music research will also be honoured next month, as he receives the internationally prestigious Lutoslawski Medal in Poland.

Witold Lutoslawski is regarded as one of the great composers of the 20th Century, and Professor Bodman Rae worked closely with him from 1981 until Lutoslawski's death in 1994. Professor Bodman Rae's book *The Music of Lutoslawski* was first published in 1994 and is currently in its third edition.



Professor Charles Bodman Rae (left) and Witold Lutoslawski at the Royal Albert Hall, London, in 1993 before the European premiere of Lutoslawski's *Fourth Symphony*

According to the award's citation, Professor Bodman Rae is being honoured for his "unique contribution to the understanding of the art and ideas of Witold Lutoslawski".

"I'm very honoured to receive this award," Professor Bodman Rae said. "Lutoslawski was one of the greatest creative artists of our time, and he was also a man of modesty and great moral integrity."

## ● Coming Events

### Thursday, September 8

#### 8.45am Roseworthy Exhibition:

"A Century Partnership with Roseworthy", celebrating the centenary of the official affiliation of Roseworthy Agricultural College and the University of Adelaide. Open between 8.45am-5pm Monday to Friday until September 30, Information Centre, Roseworthy Campus.

#### 7.30pm Elder Evening Concert Series - *The Magic Flute*:

Presented in collaboration with the Adelaide centre for the Arts, and featuring voice students from the Elder Conservatorium and the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Other performances to be held on Friday, September 9 and Saturday, September 10 at Elder Hall – tickets for all performances \$20/\$15/\$10 and available from BASS on 131 246.

### Friday, September 9

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

Natsuko Yoshimoto, Leader of the Australian String Quartet performs *Sonata in Eb, K481* by Mozart and *Sonata No 1 in G, Op 78* by Brahms with Lucinda Collins. Elder Hall.

### Saturday, September 10

#### 11am "A Brush with Nature" art exhibition:

A free exhibition of flora and landscape watercolours by Beryl Martin, running Wednesdays to Sundays from Saturday, September 10 to Sunday, September 25. Urrbrae House, Waite Campus (enter from Fullarton Road).

### Thursday, September 15

#### 6pm Friends of the University of Adelaide Library event:

"Recovering Australian Literature: Scoping a New Anthology of Australian Writing" by Professor Nicholas Jose, recently appointed Professor of Creative Writing at University of Adelaide. Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus; free (gold coin donation invited). RSVPs are essential, as numbers are limited: phone Karen Hickman on (08) 8303 4064.

### Friday, September 16

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

Pianist Kristian Chong performs *Prelude and Fugue No 24 in D Minor* by Shostakovich, *Hungarian Rhapsody No 12* by Liszt and a selection of *Preludes from Op 32* by Rachmaninov. Elder Hall.

### Friday, September 23

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

Adelaide Connection, one of the city's premier jazz vocal choirs, perform both a capella and with a rhythm section. Elder Hall.

### Wednesday, September 29

#### 11am "Pride in Saltland Management" photography exhibition:

A free exhibition of finalists in a recent photo competition. Urrbrae House, Waite Campus (enter from Fullarton Road). Exhibition open until Sunday 9 October, 11am – 4pm daily.

### Friday, September 30

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

The Elder Chamber Ensemble performs *Façade* by William Walton. Narrators Keith Hempton and Guila Tiver, conductor Joanna Drimatis. Elder Hall 1 – 2pm. For further information call (08) 8303 5925.

### Saturday, October 1

#### 5pm Edward Said Memorial Lecture:

Award-winning international journalist, author and commentator Dr Robert Fisk will deliver the inaugural Edward Said Memorial Lecture, 5pm at Elder Hall. For more details please contact bassam.dally@adelaide.edu.au

### 8pm Australian International Marimba Festival opening concert:

Featuring performances by Katarzyna Mycka, the Elder Conservatorium of Music Percussion Ensemble, Bogdan Bacanu and Andrew Wiering. Scott Theatre, North Terrace Campus. Tickets \$20/\$15/\$10. Bookings on 0401 965 344 or [administration@classicconcert.com](mailto:administration@classicconcert.com)

### Friday, October 7

#### 1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series:

Postgraduate students in jazz present the music of Antonio-Carlos Jobim. Elder Hall.

### 7pm James Crawford Biennial Lecture Series on International Law:

"Australia, America, and the Rule of Law in International Affairs: Comparisons and Contrasts" by Professor Ivan Shearer. Law Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building.

### 8pm Australian international Marimba Festival final concert:

Featuring performances by Bogdan Bacanu, Andrew Wiering and the Elder Conservatorium of Music Percussion Ensemble. Scott Theatre, North Terrace Campus. Tickets \$20/\$15/\$10, bookings on 0401 965 344 or [administration@classicconcert.com](mailto:administration@classicconcert.com)



# Open Day

## 2005



There's no doubt about it: Open Day 2005 on Sunday, August 14 was a spectacular success. The full University of Adelaide experience was on display, including:

COW MAN (far left) ... an energetic member of the Dairy Brothers band

DNA ON DISPLAY (left) ... tasting some "gene juice" in the Faculty of Sciences display

FACE-PAINTING (below) ... some younger community members become human canvases

COUNT ON IT (below left) ... testing number skills in the Faculty of the Professions display

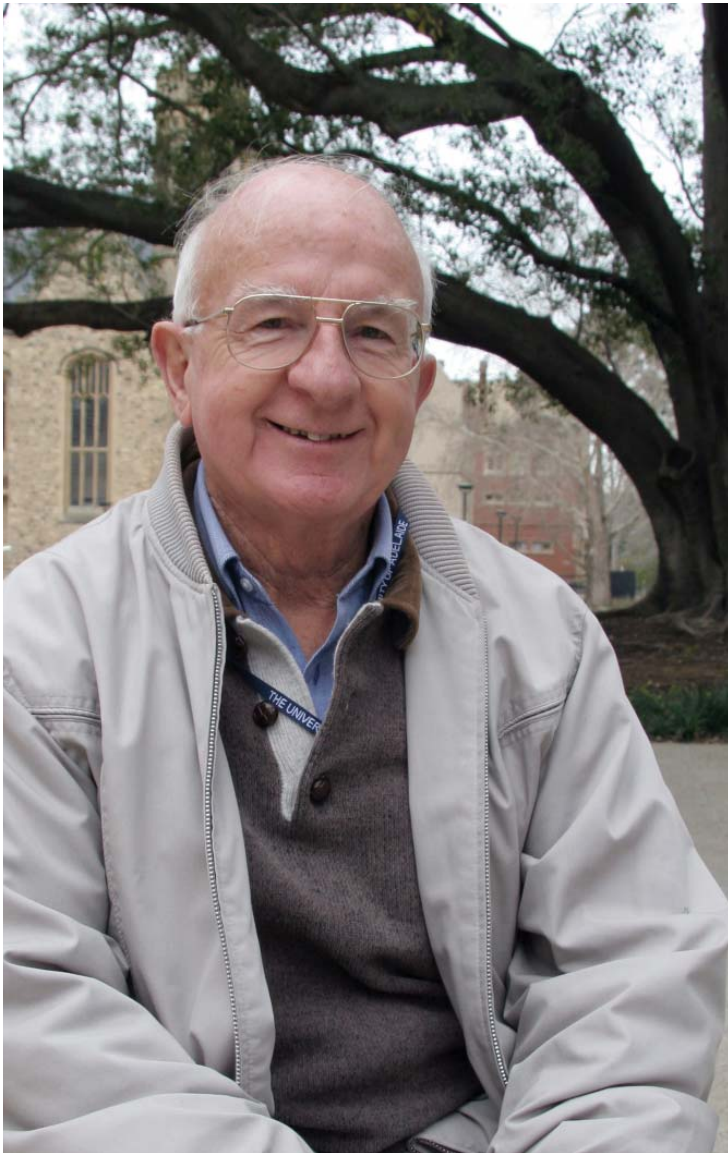


SPREADING THE WORD (right) ... the University's Student Ambassadors primed and ready for a big day of being the institution's student face

ROCK THE HOUSE (above) ... the Dairy Brothers in full swing

Photos by Anouska Kranz and Ben Osborne





# Going on tour keeps Bill involved

## Alumni

Bill Murphy's passion for chemistry started at the University of Adelaide and became his career.

Fifty years later, he is still involved with the University and next month, along with fellow graduates from the year 1955, he will take part in the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Ceremony hosted by the University to celebrate their achievements

He graduated with an Honours degree in Organic Chemistry, and after working at FH Faulding in Thebarton and completing a PhD at Australian National University in Canberra, went on to a 30-year academic career with Monash University in Melbourne.

After retiring in 1996 he returned to Adelaide, and now in his spare time volunteers for the University's Development and Alumni Office as a campus tourguide.

"When I first got back to Adelaide, I went on a tour myself and really enjoyed it, so

I thought it was an opportunity for me to get involved," he said.

"I enjoy wandering around campus and showing people what's here – it has changed a fair bit since I was a student, but it's still a very pretty campus. The people I take on tours are often surprised just how much there is to the place once you get past the major landmarks on North Terrace like Bonython Hall and the Mitchell Building."

All graduates from the University of Adelaide in 1955 are invited to attend the Golden Jubilee Commemoration Ceremony and luncheon on Friday, October 14. The ceremony will be held from 10.30am to 11.30am at Equinox in Union House, followed by luncheon at 12noon in the Eclipse Café. For more information, contact Joan Soon on (08) 8303 3317.

## North Terrace Heritage Tours

Regular tours are offered Tuesday mornings by Alumni Association Guides. The guides, most of whom are graduates of the University, share many wonderful stories from the past as they describe the finer features of the Mitchell Building, the Barr Smith Library and other heritage buildings throughout the campus.

These tours provide parents of new students, community groups, international visitors and members of the public with an ideal opportunity to view South Australia's oldest university or perhaps for graduates to revisit their alma mater. Stay for a coffee or lunch – ask us about the special deals available for tour participants.

**Bookings are essential. To register for one of the Tuesday tours, please contact Gaynor Tyerman at the Development & Alumni on (08) 8303 6356. Arrangements can also be made for group tours on other days.**

## Development & Alumni Events

### Friends of the University of Adelaide Library event

Professor Nicholas Jose, recently appointed Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide, will speak on "Recovering Australian Literature: Scoping a New Anthology of Australian Writing".

**Date:** Thursday, September 15

**Time:** 6pm for 6.30pm

**Cost:** Free, but bookings essential (gold coin donation invited)

Booking information: Karen Hickman, email [karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au) or phone (08) 8303 4064 by Tuesday, September 13

### Roseworthy Old Collegians Association AGM and Annual Reunion Dinner

The dinner will include the 2005 ROCA Award of Merit presentation and 10, 25, 40 and 50 year reunion groups.

**Date:** Friday October 14, 2005

**Cost:** Dinner members \$38; non members \$43

**Venue:** Glenelg Golf Club

**Bookings:** Dr David Cooper  
PO Box 503  
Kent Town SA 5071  
Ph (08) 8363 4371

### MBA Chapter: Network Breakfasts

Purchase your own breakfast, sit amongst your peers and enjoy stimulating conversation and network opportunities. Current students and graduates are all welcome!

**Date:** 1st Wednesday of every month

**Time:** 7.30am – 8.30am

**Venue:** East Terrace Café

For information regarding this event, please contact Paul Szuster at [paul@unimeter.com](mailto:paul@unimeter.com) or visit [www.agsb.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/events\\_adel/index.html](http://www.agsb.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/events_adel/index.html)

### Cornell Chapter Annual Dinner

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

**Date:** Thursday, November 10

**Time:** A short AGM will precede the Dinner at 6:15 pm

### Adelaide University Sports Association Blues and Scholarship Presentation Evening

All University of Adelaide alumni are welcome. Students who have excelled on their chosen sport will be presented with Blues and Half Blues Awards on this evening. Students and Alumni of the University are eligible for club letters for excellence in their chosen sport or for significant contribution to their chosen club.

**Date:** Tuesday, November 29

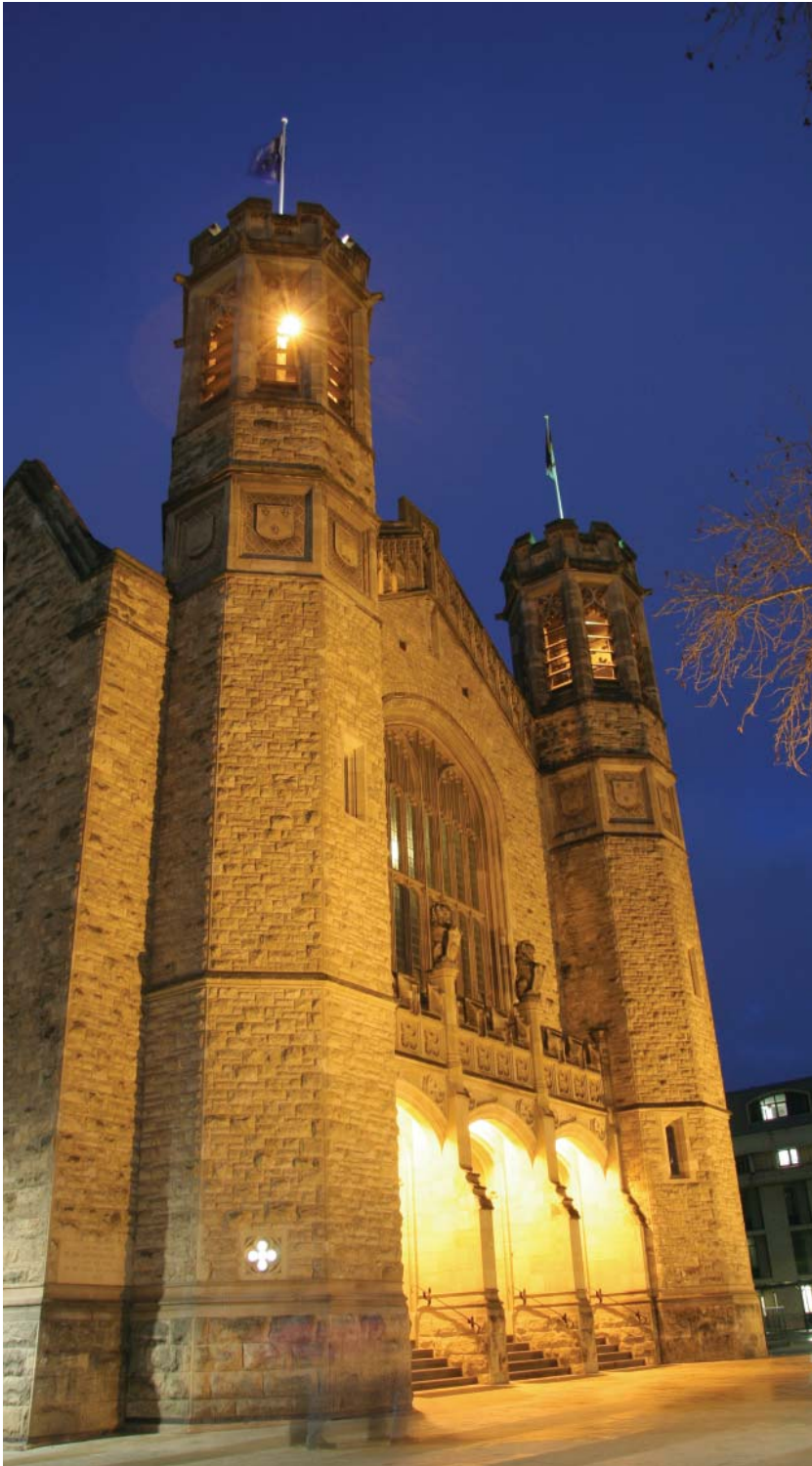
**Time:** 5.30pm for 6pm

**Venue:** Equinox Cafe

**Cost:** Free



# Helping a University treasure keep its cool



## Heritage

The “Great Hall” of the University of Adelaide has closed its doors for physical improvements, and will re-open in November with a breath of fresh air.

News that Bonython Hall is to be airconditioned will be welcome relief considering the warm temperatures experienced during December graduations. The Hall is also used for exams, expos and public meetings.

The first stage of the Bonython Hall upgrade will also involve earthquake strengthening of the northern turrets and incorporating an audiovisual installation in the main hall.

Built from 1933 to 1936 with a bequest by Sir John Langdon Bonython to meet the University’s need for an assembly hall, it now features on the state and national heritage registers.

“This is a building of architectural significance and comparable to great halls of other sandstone universities around the world,” said Paul Duldig, Executive Director, Finance and Infrastructure. “It is therefore imperative we maintain it.”

Mr Duldig said the proposed air-conditioning design incorporated the placement of fresh air intakes in the northern turrets.

“It was therefore decided that the repair and strengthening of the turrets had to be undertaken prior to the replacement of the intakes,” Mr Duldig said.

“We were advised that the masonry cupola had deteriorated, while large masonry elements were loose.

“We acted quickly to undertake the conservation works, giving

us sufficient time to install the air conditioning before the end of November.”

The project also required historians and researchers, who discovered the original 1933 specifications for the stone turrets were “Hard Murray Bridge Freestone” and that much of the detail and dressings for the Hall were cast in “Pressed Cement Synthetic Stonework”.

“Besides the importance of the upgrade, those involved have enjoyed learning more about Bonython Hall and how it was constructed. It has been a wonderful historical exercise,” Mr Duldig said.

In fact, Bonython Hall has a fascinating past and, before its construction, was a major subject for discussion. Although few questioned the need for such a building, there were heated debates as to where it should stand.

Its location – at the northern end of Pulteney Street, which blocked any extension – was deliberately chosen to avoid traffic through the University’s grounds. However, Colonel Light’s plan had Pulteney Street as one of the three main arteries from North Adelaide to South Adelaide.

Another “tale” is the floor’s incline – according to folklore it was designed to exclude ballroom dancing and other frivolities, but there is no documentary evidence to support this.

What is for sure, though, is that Bonython Hall will be a lot cooler come December.

Story by Howard Salkow  
Photo by Ben Osborne



September 2005

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Jamie Adam performing in Slovenia

# Percussion performers go global

## ● Music

The Elder Conservatorium of Music's percussion department is making sounds that are being heard all over the world, with an international schedule of performances, exchange visits and festivals across the second half of 2005.

- In June, student Jamie Adam was awarded second prize at a major international marimba competition, bringing home a prize of \$800 plus his expenses for travelling to the competition in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

The prize also included the opportunity to record with the Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra of Slovenia, the world premiere of *The Corridors* by Slavko Suklar, for broadcast on Slovenian TV and radio.

Jamie, 25, is studying for his Honours in Music at the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

- In October, the percussion world comes to the Elder Conservatorium as it hosts the Australian International Marimba Festival.

Held during the first week of October, a series of concerts and classes will give marimba aficionados the chance to share their skills and attend lessons held by the greats of the marimba world, including: Bogdan Bacanu, Professor of Marimba at Bruckner University in Austria; Kataryna Mycka, founder of the Kataryna Mycka International Marimba Academy; as well as the University's own James Bailey, Head of Percussion at the Elder Conservatorium, who has performed and taught around the world.

For further details and to book tickets for the public performances on the opening and closing nights of the Australian International Marimba Festival, visit [www.classicconcert.com](http://www.classicconcert.com)

- It's "Viva Las Vegas" later in October, with Conservatorium percussion students jetting off to the University of Nevada, by invitation of Dr Tim Jones, a University of Adelaide graduate who now heads up the undergraduate percussion program there.

Mr Bailey, who put the trip together after he went to Nevada as a guest lecturer last September, said the exchange will enrich the experience of musicians from both universities.

"This trip gives Elder Conservatorium students the chance to integrate into the Nevada curriculum and for the students to really exchange ideas. The course there is regarded as one of the best in percussion in the world, so this is a great opportunity for everyone involved," he said.

"The Nevada exchange has also been timed so the Adelaide students can attend the International Percussion Convention in Columbus, Ohio, immediately after their time in Las Vegas.

They will experience four days of concerts, masterclasses and performances at what is recognised as the premier event in the percussion calendar."

Story by Lisa Reid