Taking control of pain

It can be described as Australia’s “silent epidemic”: thousands of people suffering from chronic pain and being unable to fully control their lives as a result.

New research from the University of Adelaide is casting light on the impact chronic pain has, particularly its association with depression. For her PhD with the University’s Department of Psychology, Dr Della Steen studied a group of more than 100 people with chronic back pain who had not been involved with a pain-clinic treatment program.

She examined her subjects from a cognitive-behavioural approach: that is, how people’s beliefs and thoughts might shape the impact chronic pain can have on their lives.

For example, people who “adjust” and learn to live with the pain, rather than waiting until it goes, are much more successful in living relatively normal lives and are also much less likely to suffer from depression.

“Chronic pain is a huge problem across the world, and Australia is no exception,” Dr Steen said. “For example, in the US alone, nearly half a million work days are lost every year as a result of chronic pain, at a cost of approximately US$150 billion in related health care. It is estimated that the impact of chronic pain in Australia and other Western nations is on a similar scale.

“I was interested in how people adjust to chronic pain – why do some people adjust, and others don’t?” Dr Steen said. “I also wanted to explore the link between chronic pain and depression, and whether suffering from one condition led to suffering from the other.”

Dr Steen found that there may be high levels of depression among people with chronic pain, and that health professionals need to continue to be more aware of the psychological consequences of chronic pain.

“One in three people with chronic pain that I studied had symptoms of depression – but it is difficult to say conclusively whether the chronic pain led to the depression, or vice-versa,” she said.

continued on page 6
The University of Adelaide is regularly recognised for the contribution it makes to society. Often this recognition is in the form of awards or prizes given to our staff, students or the University as a whole, and a flurry of awards in recent weeks perfectly illustrates the impact we continue to make across a wide range of areas.

At the 2005 Business SA Export Awards, we were recognised twice for our international achievements. The first award was the Education Adelaide Education Award, given for our strong international focus on students, staff and the wider University community. Had we received this award on its own, we would have been quite pleased – but to cap off the night, we also received the most prestigious award on offer, the Premier’s Award for Excellence and High Achievement in Exporting.

To win this award – which effectively makes us “Exporter of the Year” – ahead of all the other worthy nominees from South Australian industry and business is an exceptional performance. It reinforces that while we are basedlocally, we are unquestionably a global player in education. It shows that we offer a world-class education product in Adelaide which attracts thousands of students from more than 80 countries around the world. And it highlights the excellent work of our staff in providing a quality teaching and learning environment for international students. It is a great result and one of which we should all feel proud.

The Elder Conservatorium of Music also received its own prestigious award recently. It won a Classical Music Award from the Australian Music Centre and the Australasian Performing Rights Association for its contribution to Australian music, and in particular, for its presentation of new Australian works alongside major works of Beethoven during the 2004 Adelaide Festival. The Conservatorium is another example of a local entity having an increasingly wide impact, and it is a result that we should all feel proud.

We were successful in three out of the five categories in the Premier’s Science Awards, as well as having finalists in all five categories. It is also interesting to consider the categories in which we were successful: Research and Leadership (Professor Peter Rathjen), Excellence in Research for Commercial Outcomes (SA Cereal Breeding Team at our Waite Campus) and Excellence in Research for Public Good (in association with SARDI). Our young scientists also performed well in the South Australian Tall Poppy Science Awards, winning five out of the eight available awards. This strong showing is encouraging, given that these are predominantly early career researchers who will undoubtedly make further contributions in their chosen fields.

The State Government also recognised our staff and volunteers at the University of Adelaide. There are many other ways, and simply because we don’t receive awards in some category or area doesn’t automatically mean we don’t do that particular thing well. Nor does winning awards change what we want to do as a University: delivering the best outcomes for our students and graduates, and providing a stimulating and nurturing environment for our staff. Receiving awards, however, does show that we are successfully engaging with the community and society around us, and that they recognise and appreciate what we do.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor
Students the winners in teaching revolution

A revolution in academic culture is being spearheaded by the University of Adelaide’s Centre for Learning and Professional Development.

“Even before the course has turned out its first graduate, we are seeing the course affecting the lecture and tutorial rooms at University of Adelaide, as academics integrate the new techniques they are learning into their teaching work,” said Dr John Willison, Lecturer in the Graduate Certificate in Education (Higher Education).

“The course takes academics on a journey from being experts in their discipline, to becoming experts in the education of their discipline.”

Lynn Rogers, who in 1995 was the first teacher in science at Adelaide to be recognised with a Stephen Cole the Elder Prize, is about to complete the course in teaching and learning.

Ms Rogers teaches first and second-year Science and Medical students and her workload is dedicated full-time to teaching. She has been teaching at the University of Adelaide for 18 years.

“Through the Graduate Certificate in Higher Education, I have seen my teaching change from being reflective to being interactive and that is benefiting the way my students think about learning as an active process,” she said.

“They are changing from being recipients of facts to being independent and lifelong learners.

“When I first heard about the Graduate Certificate, I plunged in feet-first. I’ve loved every minute of it and will continue after I have finished my studies, by participating in an informal network of teachers who have done the course, or who are interested in sharing their teaching experiences.

“Teaching is really my passion. I think teaching and research go together, but teaching comes first - otherwise we wouldn’t be here.”

To add to the opportunities at the University of Adelaide to develop teaching excellence, there is the new Graduate Certificate in Online Learning (Higher Education), commencing Semester 1, 2006. This program will be conducted in an online environment and encourage the integration of face-to-face teaching with online modes.

To learn more about teaching at the University of Adelaide, visit the CLPD website at www.adelaide.edu.au/clpd

Story by Lisa Reid

Our newest export: awards!

The University of Adelaide took out the Premier’s Award for excellence and high achievement in exporting at the Business SA Export Awards recently.

It also won the Education Adelaide education award category for outstanding export achievement in the field of education services, facilities, expertise and curriculum.

“South Australia becoming an education centre is part of the State Strategic Plan, with the State Government seeking to double the levels of overseas students within 10 years,” said University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha after the awards.

“It is appropriate that the University of Adelaide is leading the charge to make South Australia an international education centre of excellence.”

The University of Adelaide currently has students and staff from more than 80 countries and has outperformed the tertiary sector in international growth, achieving a 24.7% increase in its international student load while the corresponding figure for all Australian universities was 8.5%.

“International students from the University of Adelaide not only inject many hundreds of millions of dollars into the economy annually, they take fond memories back home with them and become ambassadors for our State throughout their business lives, which has great potential effects for our economy over a long period,” Professor McWha said.

All winners of Business SA export awards go on to the Australian Export Awards, held in Sydney on Thursday, December 1.
A University of Adelaide student’s plans for suburban Adelaide have won her recognition all the way from America. Sky Allen received an Honour in the Analysis and Planning section of the American Society of Landscape Architects’ 2005 Student Awards.

The final-year student from the University’s School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design was the only finalist from outside of North America.

Her project, titled Urban Infrastructure Strategy: Phased Neighbourhood Retrofit, puts forward the possibilities for the Bowden-Brompton area in Adelaide for the next 50 years.

“The area is close to the city, and while it is currently quite industrial, its location and underused land means it is likely to be embraced as a more residential location in the near future,” Sky said.

“I think it is important for landscape architects to be involved in the evolution of areas like this and to come up with active uses for public recreation areas including permaculture, or considered for multiple uses, rather than just recreation or car-parks.

“It’s also important to look at creating new public spaces as an area moves from industrial to mixed use.”

Sky’s lecturer, Mr Gale Fulton, encouraged students to enter the competition in order to get an idea of where their work sat in relation to other students.

“I entered my final project for the landscape architecture degree, which is a studio where we are given the opportunity to push an agenda or area of personal interest,” she said.

“I’m really interested in the challenges of retrofitting and renewing urban areas, and the challenges of managing their evolution.”

Sky is doing a double degree in Architecture and Landscape Architecture.

Across this semester, she will complete her architecture final project, where she has zoomed in on an industrial property in the Bowden-Brompton area for detailed design.

Upon completion of her degree, Sky will take up a graduate position with Brisbane City Council.

“Brisbane City Council has one million residents – it is one council the size of the whole of Adelaide,” she said.

“During my two years there, working as a landscape architect, I will get to work across a variety of projects, putting into practice the theories I have learned while studying at University of Adelaide. I’m really excited.”

Story by Lisa Reid
Architecture and medical students at the University of Adelaide have joined forces for an innovative new project which could lead to a better understanding of the housing issues faced by Australia’s indigenous population.

A new subject called Healthy Environments and taught by Architecture Lecturer Elizabeth Grant has allowed students from both disciplines to explore approaches to achieving safe, healthy and sustainable built environments for Aboriginal Australians.

The subject enables undergraduate students in the Bachelors of both Medicine and Design Studies to work collaboratively, learn professional consulting skills and develop an understanding of the importance of housing to health outcomes.

Working with the Aboriginal Housing Authority and supported by a team of plumbers, electricians, data analysts and other trades, students recently conducted a survey and fix of housing at Davenport Aboriginal Community, just outside Port Augusta (about 300km north of Adelaide).

Over three days, students visited every Davenport house, and after receiving the consent of the resident, interviewed them, surveyed the working condition of the house and fixed its non-functioning elements.

The data gathered during the survey will be used with the results from other surveys by government to form a national picture of the condition of Aboriginal community housing.

Associate Professor Jonathon Newbury from the School of Medicine said: “It’s a unique opportunity for students to have experiences of an Aboriginal community while doing something very practical.

“The students worked exceptionally hard at Davenport knowing that they were improving living conditions.”

Students also organised a community barbeque and met with other stakeholders such as Pika Wiya and Nunkuwarri Yunti Aboriginal Health Services, and the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School at Port Augusta.

"All the stakeholder groups are very keen to meet and encourage the students. The benefits of working with other practitioners are immense," said Ms Grant.

“Students can observe that within professional life, medical practitioners, health care professionals, architects and other design professionals must work collaboratively in this area to achieve improvements to Aboriginal health and housing.”
International lounge boost for students

Student Facilities

The Barr Smith Library has extended its offerings to its international students with new facilities and staff dedicated to providing a better service.

The International Lounge provides students with a casual reading environment and access to overseas, local news and current affairs material.

The Library received University strategic initiatives funding to develop the reading area for all library users, which is resourced with current material, such as local and international newspapers, current travel guides and brochures, and monthly 'glossies'.

Four computer terminals have been set up in the area, two for dedicated newspaper access and the other two for general library use. Tables are also available for users who wish to use their own laptops in the area.

The Lounge contains a unique collection of international art works given to the University as gifts from foreign visitors.

Ms Fiona Mariner, who has been appointed New Reference Librarian (International), said she is looking forward to working with the students in this role.

“My job involves contributing to the planning and development of library support for international students by liaising with the University's International Office, International Student Centre, OSA and other University units working with international students,” she said.

“I will also act as a consultant for international students and students for whom English is a second language, and refer students as appropriate to research librarians or to other University services.

“A further task is assisting in the selection of appropriate library materials for users for whom English is a second language.”

Story and photo by Howard Salkow

Low cost banking for UniSuper members

For more information on Members Equity Bank, please call 13 15 63 or visit www.membersequitybank.com.au

Story and photo by Howard Salkow

Taking control of pain

continued from page 1

“The depressed people reported significantly more pain, and significantly less feelings of control both over the pain and their everyday lives.

“They were also more likely to feel that external forces, such as other people or even fate, were responsible for their situation – whereas chronic pain sufferers who didn’t suffer from depression were more likely to believe that they could help themselves and adjust to the pain being a part of their lives.”

In Dr Steen’s study, there were also differences between the way men and women perceived and reacted to chronic pain.

Men with chronic pain were more likely to suffer from depression if their pain impacted to a significant degree on their daily lives, such as their ability to work or conduct social activities.

Women with chronic pain, on the other hand, were more likely to suffer from depression if they perceived the pain level was high and the amount of control they had over it, and their life, was low.

“’This is not to say that women are less tolerant to pain, far from it’,” Dr Steen said. “The levels of pain experienced by men and women in my study were about the same, and what my study showed was that because men and women can react differently to chronic pain, diagnosis and treatment may need to be different accordingly.

“For men, they may benefit more from education and how to reduce the interference chronic pain presents to everyday life. Women may benefit from more information about pain relief, not just pharmacological but other measures like massage, physiotherapy or heat treatment.”

Story by Ben Osborne
Willy Wonka has all the ingredients children love, but you are left wondering if his chocolate and candy factories – as portrayed in the recent smash movie Charlie and the Chocolate Factory – will continue to impact on young, growing teeth.

And this is all the more prevalent considering that after three decades of improvements, decay incidence in children is now increasing, according to a report conducted by the University of Adelaide and released by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

The report, Oral Health in South Australia 2004, was developed from a range of surveys conducted by the University’s Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH), and says that dental decay in both primary and secondary school-aged children attending the School Dental Service has steadily increased since the late 1990s.

In 1996, children aged 12-13 years had an average of 0.53 decayed permanent teeth but by 2002 this had increased by 75% to 0.93, said Professor John Spencer from ARCPOH.

“This is a worrying trend for future adult oral health, as this is occurring despite nearly every child and adolescent using dental services in the last two years, mostly at a school dental service clinic,” he said.

“In contrast, about one-third of adults have not visited a dentist in the last two years.”

Untreated dental decay accounted for more than 10% of the total decay experience among adults.

While most adults were satisfied with the dental care they received, many avoided or delayed care or recommended treatments because of cost.

“This is despite the fact that over 50% of people in South Australia have dental insurance, which is somewhat higher than the national figure,” said Professor Spencer.

Tooth decay in adults using the public dental service has also increased since the mid-1990s with dental problems, like toothache, reported by up to one in four adults each year.

The patterns of oral disease, use of services, expenditure and the labour force present a complex challenge for improving oral health and meeting the community’s need for dental care.

This report will help inform public discussion in the lead up to the formulation of a South Australian Oral Health Plan under the development of the South Australian Government.

“What we want to ensure is a better fit between those in need of dental treatment and the provision of dental services,” said Professor Spencer.

Story by Howard Salkow
Outdoor dining, the end of the “six o’clock swill” and our enjoyment of Mediterranean and Asian cuisines using fresh, locally-grown ingredients are aspects of Adelaide life, now taken for granted, that can be traced directly back to Don Dunstan’s influence.

Peter Strawhan has just completed his PhD in History at the University of Adelaide, with his thesis titled The Importance of Food and Drink in the Political and Private Life of Don Dunstan.

It tells the story of Dunstan’s life and work through the theme of his great passion for food.

“I wanted to focus on Don Dunstan, but didn’t want this to be a dry, political thesis,” he said.

“I was talking about it with a friend and she said ‘what about Don and food?’ Eureka!”

“So food was my starting point and I centred my ideas around his passion for food and drink, then I took it one step forward and argued that it was food that made him the ‘whole’ Don Dunstan, notably with the opening of his own restaurant.

“He was a remarkable man by any criteria. Conversation often turns to him if we’re out enjoying lunch in an outdoor setting – you know, if it wasn’t for Don, we wouldn’t have been here.

“Don Dunstan was this catalyst, an arbiter of change, determined to drag South Australia kicking and screaming into the twentieth century after years of Tom Playford’s conservative government.”

Dr Strawhan’s research tells the story of a revolutionary period in South Australian history through a mouth-watering array of episodes in Dunstan’s life, including the State-funded opening of Ayers House Restaurant, the Regency Park Food and Catering College and changes to licensing and dining restrictions that changed the face of dining out.
Dunstan was also concerned with giving the average person access to better dining experiences, with the government subsidising the Coalyard restaurant, intended to be an accessible restaurant for all, as opposed to the more opulent surroundings of Ayers House and Paxtons.

Dunstan helped his friend and supporter, Doris Taylor, to found Meals on Wheels, an important charity that still exists today, and further illustrates the position of food as a symbol for his political belief system.

Dunstan’s time in Fiji as a child and his later travels in Italy, Europe and Asia shaped his vision for a cultural shift in Adelaide’s eating habits.

His cookbook, one of the first to show how to make a stir-fry, was a best-seller. His own backyard was a source of exotic fruits, vegetables and herbs to be used in the kitchen, which formed the hub of his life in Clara Street, Norwood.

But he never ceased to extol the advantages of our Mediterranean climate and the wealth of food and wine produced in South Australia.

Dr Strawhan’s thesis is alive with interviews from Adelaide’s food experts and chefs including Primo Caon, Cheong Liew, Maggie Beer and Cath Kerry.

“It started with one phone call to Grahame Latham, who had been head of the Food and Catering/Regency Hotel School, established by Don Dunstan. Latham is living in Byron Bay now, but by luck, he was coming to Adelaide a week after I contacted him. He gave me lots of names, like the Caon Brothers, to contact and I just followed the yellow brick road from there.”

The Importance of Food and Drink in the Political and Private Life of Don Dunstan is a valuable reminder about what the Dunstan era gave to South Australia, and the rest of the country, as a result of the influence of chefs nurtured during this time.

Dr Strawhan said his thesis could have taken a number of different tangents, including Dunstan’s effect on and involvement with the arts. However Dunstan’s passion for food and drink dominated his life.

“My next step is to try and get a publisher and turn the thesis into a book,” he said. “Maybe at that point I will draw in some of the other material I collected while I was researching my thesis. It has been a terrific experience on the whole. I’ve met some really interesting people and feel like I’ve settled some unfinished business in my academic life by getting my PhD.”
A team from Waite campus is working on a revolutionary technique using X-rays to help understand the effects of salinity and soil characteristics on the root structure of plants.

Dr Rob Davidson and Dr Ann McNeill of the University of Adelaide’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences said using X-rays allows them to examine root systems without having to dig them up, which often destroys the plant under study.

“This technique will allow us to see how native plants in areas with high levels of salinity are interacting with a hostile environment. We are assuming they have various mechanisms that counter the salinity levels, and if we are able to see how these work, we can apply them to agricultural crops,” Dr Davidson said.

“There are hostile subsoils in 50% of the southern agricultural region and the methodology we have developed at Waite allows us to look at the way chemicals in soil impair root growth. Clearly, being better able to identify the root issues, and then use this information to correct them, will have a large impact for the agricultural community.

“One of the problems up until now has been that, in order to understand what is going on with the root systems of plants, you actually have to destroy the root architecture in order to examine it. It has also been a very time consuming process.

“Our technique is unique in that we remove an intact core, then grow plants in it and then X-ray the soil core so we can see the way the root has grown in relation to the soil characteristics throughout the strata. The X-ray gives us 1200 slices through a 50cm high, 15cm core.

“One existing technique involves physically making slices to examine changes in root density with depth. This is much, much easier than the existing techniques. The old ones don’t compare.”

After this stage, the process reverts to traditional techniques where more detailed information on small roots in relation to the attributes of soil is required.

The project has received $400,000 from the Federal Department of Education, Science and Training and $49,000 internal university funding during the past three years.

**Coming events**

**Saturday, October 1**
5pm Edward Said Memorial Lecture: “A Letter to Our Own” by Professor of Creative Writing, Nicholas Jose. Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.

**Sunday, October 2**
11am Waite Arboretum guided walk: Discover one of Adelaide’s botanical treasures in the company of a knowledgeable guide. Waite Arboretum, Waite Campus (meet in front of Urrbrae House – enter from Fullarton Road. Free car park available).

**Wednesday, October 5**
4.15pm Inaugural Lecture: “Domestic mandalas: houses and the cosmos in Nepal” by Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer. Law Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus.

**Friday, October 7**
1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series: Conservatorium postgraduate jazz students will present the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim, Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5, and available at the door from 12.40pm.

**7pm** James Crawford Biennial Lecture Series on International Law:
“Australia, America and the Rule of Law in International Affairs” by Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer. Law Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus.

**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

**Wednesday, October 12**
4.15pm Inaugural Lecture: “Characteristics of winning organisations in Australia: the winning wheel” by Head of the Adelaide Graduate School of Business, Professor Graham Hubbard. Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.

**Friday, October 14**
1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series: Australia’s internationally acclaimed a cappella jazz ensemble “The Idea of North”. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 and available at the door from 12.30pm.

**Saturday, October 15**
11am “When the chips are down at Urrbrae” exhibit: An exhibition of wood art and craft by Woodgroup SA. Exhibits are for sale. Open daily 11am-4pm, Urrbrae House, Waite Campus (enter from Fullarton Road).

**6.30pm** Evening Concert Series: “Israel in Egypt” by Handel featuring Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Adelaide Voices and the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $30/adult/$15 conc/$10/student.

**Tuesday, October 18**
1.05pm Friends of the University of Adelaide Library Event: Dr Mark Carroll will speak on the Ballets Russes National Research Project and related discoveries. Barr Smith Library – contact Karen Hickman on (08) 8303 4064 for more information.

**7.30pm** University of Adelaide Theatre Guild: “Domestic mandalas: houses and the cosmos in Nepal” by Emeritus Professor Ivan Shearer. Law Lecture Theatre 2, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 and available at the door from 12.30pm.

**Wednesday, October 19**
4.15pm Inaugural Lecture: “Drug development: Where commerce meets ethics” by Professor John Gray (Head of School of Social Sciences). Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.

**Friday, October 21**
10am Mechanical Engineering Project Exhibition: The State’s best young minds put their engineering skills on display. Level Four, Union Building until 5pm.

**1.10pm** Lunch Hour Concert Series: Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra with Russell Hammond (conductor) performs works by Smetina, Granger, and Holsinger. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 and available at the door from 12.30pm.

**Friday, October 28**
1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series: Works by Shostakovich and Ravel, performed by Leigh Harold (piano), Anthony Hunt (piano), Melanie Radke (violin), Sarah McCarthy (violin), William Newberry (viola), and Paul Taylor (cello). Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 and available at the door from 12.30pm.

**Wednesday, November 2**
6pm Young Investigator Award 2005: Featuring guest speaker A/Prof Michael James, “Drug development: Where commerce meets ethics”. Art Gallery of South Australia, RSVP by October 26 to (08) 8161 7165.

**Friday, November 4**
1.10pm Lunch Hour Concert Series: Brighton Secondary School Symphony Orchestra under John Nottie (conductor) performs works by Sibelius, Doppler and Humperdinck. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Tickets $5 and available at the door from 12.30pm.
Final-year Mechanical Engineering students will showcase their knowledge, skills and creativity as part of the School’s annual Project Exhibition, being held at Union Hall on Friday, October 21 from 10am to 5pm.

Organiser Mr Antoni Blazewicz said that by displaying their projects in the exhibition, students have the opportunity of direct contact with industry representatives, providing valuable experience and future contacts.

“This year we hope it will be even more popular as, mainly due to increased number of projects, we are moving to a new venue, the Union building. This has easier access for the general public, more room, and all of the projects displayed on one floor.”

Some of this year’s projects include a self-balancing scooter, a robotic ping-pong player, and the Formula SAE racing car.

“Other masterclasses the group attended were those with Felix Renggli in Basel, Switzerland, and Philippe Bernold and Sophie Cherrier in Paris.”

A group of flute students from the Elder Conservatorium of Music has made its mark on the world stage.

The group, known as Flutes of Adelaide, travelled to Europe recently for a series of performances, concerts and masterclasses in London, Paris and Switzerland.

Flutes of Adelaide features Hayley Radke, Clare Beens, Natalie Nowak, Amy Ellis and Claire Walker, and is led by the Head of Woodwind at the Conservatorium, Ms Elizabeth Koch. The group was joined by highly regarded pianist and accompanist, Leigh Harrold.

Ma Koch said the tour generated much interest and support from the international flute community, and highlighted the respect in which the Elder Conservatorium’s music program is held.

“International flute magazines such as La Traversie in Paris and Flute Focus in New Zealand are wanting to publish stories about the tour, and leading European flautists made us very welcome in visiting their homes and conservatories for lessons and master classes,” she said.

“Our major performance of the tour was in London at Australia House which went very well, and the audience gave us quite a favourable response.

“One of the most memorable masterclasses was given by Michael Cox, who is Principal Flute of the BBC Symphony and St. Martin-in-the-Fields Orchestras – his teaching was colourful and exciting, and left us thoroughly inspired.”

Other masterclasses the group attended were those with Felix Renggli in Basel, Switzerland, and Philippe Bernold and Sophie Cherrier in Paris.

“Other masterclasses the group attended were those with Felix Renggli in Basel, Switzerland, and Philippe Bernold and Sophie Cherrier in Paris.”

Flutes of Adelaide (back, from left) Clare Beens, director Elizabeth Koch, Natalie Nowak, (front) Amy Ellis, Claire Walker and Hayley Radke

Photo courtesy of Impact Image

“’The trip has provided great excitement and inspiration for the students,’’ Ms Koch said.

“It has been wonderful to learn from the world’s leading flautists, and to visit some of the best music institutions in Europe – it is such a magnificent opportunity for the students, as it helps shape their future and playing in many amazing ways.”

Students exhibit engineering future

Mechanical Engineering

Final-year Mechanical Engineering students will showcase their knowledge, skills and creativity as part of the School’s annual Project Exhibition, being held at Union Hall on Friday, October 21 from 10am to 5pm.

Organiser Mr Antoni Blazewicz said that by displaying their projects in the exhibition, students have the opportunity of direct contact with industry representatives, providing valuable experience and future contacts.

“For the last few years the exhibition, held in the Engineering South building, had a very good attendance,’’ he said.

This year we hope it will be even more popular as, mainly due to increased number of projects, we are moving to a new venue, the Union building. This has easier access for the general public, more room, and all of the projects displayed on one floor.”

Some of this year’s projects include a self-balancing scooter, a robotic ping-pong player, and the Formula SAE racing car.

“There are also a number of projects dealing with such important issues as alternative sources of energy and user-friendly equipment for disabled people,’’ Mr Blazewicz said.

Mechanical Engineering students Daniel Post (left) and Philip MacDonald with their entry for this year’s project exhibition: a car brake energy regeneration system. The system is a compact method of storing the braking energy of a car and reusing it to assist with acceleration.

Story by Jasna Rojevic

Photo by Ben Osborne
Professor Renfrey Burnard Potts 1925-2005

Professor Ren Potts was a very well known and popular graduate and member of the academic staff at the University of Adelaide. He was the 1948 Rhodes Scholar, and then Professor of Applied Mathematics from 1959 until his retirement in 1990. He served the University with distinction in many roles, including Head of the Department of Applied Mathematics, Dean of the Faculty of Mathematical Sciences, and Chairman of the Education Committee.

Professor Potts was an internationally renowned applied mathematician. In particular, he was a pioneer in Operations Research, which concerns application of mathematics to business and commerce. He also contributed well-known research in diverse application areas such as mathematical physics, road traffic analysis and robotics. Generally his main interest was in using established mathematics to analyse and improve the way the real world works. He was also an outstanding theoretician who made new mathematical contributions to the theory of networks, of matrices, and of differential and difference equations. He published about 90 research papers, and supervised more than 20 PhD students.

He received many national honours, including an award of Officer of the Order of Australia in 1991. He was elected to the Australian Academy of Sciences in 1975 and to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering in 1983, one of the few such double academicians. He was very active in ANZIAM, the Applied Division of the Australian Mathematical Society, and was awarded the first ANZIAM Medal in 1995.

Professor Potts’ undergraduate lectures always were interesting, confident, and even amusing. The excitement of doing mathematics with actual relevance to the real world was the key, and he was best at conveying that excitement, even at early undergraduate levels. He was also often in demand as an after-dinner speaker at conferences, and his speeches were full of witty observations and jokes, some, but not all, with a mathematical flavour. He was also well known socially in the University of Adelaide community. He was an enthusiast for sports of all kinds, and an Adelaide Crows football fan to the end. He participated (very competitively) in a University lunchtime running group for most of his academic life. Another great interest was classical music: he was a strong supporter of the Elder Conservatorium; played the clarinet well; and acted as a disc jockey for the University radio station after his retirement.

Contributed by Ernie Tuck

The School of Mathematical Sciences is holding an afternoon memorial seminar in honour of Professor Ren Potts, including brief talks by his colleagues and students, on Friday December 2 in Room G08 of the Mathematics Building.

This seminar will be preceded by a concert featuring the works of J.S. Bach (Professor Potts’ favourite) in Elder Hall from 1.10pm to 2pm.

All are welcome to either or both activities, and in particular the concert will be in the style of and at the time of the regular Elder Conservatorium Lunch Hour concerts, though not formally part of that series.
Upgrade to make Wine Centre of attention

The National Wine Centre continues to improve with age.
And in fulfilling its promise to the wine industry and the local community, the University of Adelaide has undertaken significant refurbishments to enhance the wine experience.

In early September, University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha unveiled a “new-look” Exhibition Centre and announced plans to redevelop the Concourse Café area.

He also said that many of the initial objectives had been achieved.

“When we purchased the Centre two years ago, we embarked on a major strategy to enhance our international profile in wine education and strengthen our links with industry and the community,” Professor McWha said.

“It is therefore pleasing to note that we have not only enhanced our links with the wine industry, but also encouraged Adelaideans to both visit and use the Centre for various events.

“We have also kept our promise by not charging an entry fee and this is not going to change.”

He added that the Centre has become a sought-after venue for banquets, weddings and conferences, and overseas and local visitation has increased exponentially.

Professor McWha said the Exhibition Centre required considerable maintenance work.

“We have made significant improvements to the interactive videos which will now be more user friendly. We have also upgraded the software and hardware,” he said.

“The Concourse Café is about to undergo a major redevelopment that will further enhance the wine tasting experience. The hours will also be extended on weekdays and weekends.

“In offering a wider range of wines and beers in a Bistro-type atmosphere, there will be more traditional Australian food on the upgraded menu; visitors will still be able to enjoy wine tasting and there will be selected merchandise in the retail area.”

Story by Howard Salkow

Jarrod Stehbens 1982-2005

Jarrod Stehbens was a young man of enormous character. He died having spent his short life living every bit of his potential doing the many things that he loved.
Those who knew him deeply admired the way he lived and are proud and privileged to have been able to call him a friend.

Jarrod (or ‘Stehbo’ as many of us knew him) grew up in the seaside town of Beachport on the southeast coast of South Australia. Here, while catching rabbits and searching for craypots washed up on the beaches, he developed a deep appreciation for the ocean and for wide-open spaces.
During more recent times spent in the city and overseas, it was clear that you could take the boy out of the country but you couldn’t take the country out of the boy.

Jarrod loved adventures. He dived remote locations across the country, from southern Queensland to coastal NSW and along the full length of the southern Australian coastline from Beachport to Perth. He rolled his swag out a metre from the edge of the limestone cliffs of the Great Australian Bight. He drove to Darwin on a whim, swam in freezing lakes in Norway with friends from Sweden and came home from Europe when his bank balance couldn’t buy him a beer. He lived and worked on Roko Island in the Torres Strait (with resident crocodile) and was just about to move to another - Helgoland off the coast of Germany in the North Sea.

For a bloke who loved a yarn, he was never short of material.

Jarrod’s passion for all things marine fuelled his career in marine ecology. Jarrod completed his undergraduate degree in marine biology at Flinders University, where he was president of the Flinders University Marine Biology Association and was heavily involved in the university dive club.

For his Honours degree at the University of Adelaide, Jarrod investigated the roles of disturbance and productivity on the diversity of subtidal benthic marine communities at West Island, South Australia.

During this work, Jarrod collaborated with scientists from Europe, South Africa and Chile in an international research effort coordinated by the Leibniz-Institute for Marine Science in Kiel, Germany. In September, Jarrod was to begin a PhD at the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Germany.

Despite his age, Jarrod was the most capable field worker many of us have ever worked with. He was strong and practical, thoughtful, and a genius under pressure. This, combined with his infectious enthusiasm, made Jarrod invaluable in the field. If you ever needed someone by your side during moments of chaos or long periods of low morale, it was Jarrod.

On the third Southern Ocean expedition, when the camp got flooded, when we couldn’t find habitat, or relief, we could find heart by singing along with Jarrod and his $1.50 CD of questionable German music. Jarrod was in charge of morale on field trips and group singing was one of his innovative and inspiring solutions that united field teams through celebration and difficulty. Jarrod was also in charge of retrieving snagged anchors – we will lose many more for his loss.

Jarrod was tragically taken by a shark while diving on August 24. It is now that we need him most. He’d be the first to show us the steps towards returning to what we love. He’d rekindle our passion for the sea. It is now that we need him most. His bond with the sea and humanity will continue to be an inspiration for all who knew him.

A contribution from all in the University of Adelaide’s Southern Seas Ecology Laboratories
Going behind the scenes at Library

A group of alumni and friends of the University recently had an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of one of its greatest assets, the Barr Smith Library.

The 28 attendees were invited by the Development and Alumni Office and University Librarian Ray Choate, and as part of the comprehensive tour saw many of the Library’s most valuable items.

The tour commenced in the Ira Raymond Room, where Mr Choate spoke briefly about the history of the Library and introduced Steve Thomas, the Library’s Senior System Analyst, who demonstrated the new Library Portal System.

The Special Collections area was a major highlight of the tour. Among the items displayed by Special Collections Librarian Cheryl Hoskin were a Trianon Press Facsimile edition of Spencer’s Faerie Queen, which was originally published in London in 1596 and Epistolarum by Leonardo Brun, which was printed in Venice in 1472 and given to the University of Adelaide as part of Sir Samuel Way’s bequest in 1916.

“We also looked at the exhibition of some of the treasures of the Barr Smith Library, which are currently on exhibit in the foyer area. These include manuscripts with the signatures of George Washington and Queen Elizabeth I,” Mr Choate said.

“We genuinely appreciate the ongoing support we receive from the University’s alumni and friends, and it was a pleasure for us to show people around and give them the opportunity to see what the Library has and what it does.”

• The University’s Bequest Officer, Mr Jon Russack, is organising a series of four fascinating events for alumni and friends of the University in 2006, including a day trip to Roseworthy Campus, a visit to key research laboratories and tours of other areas of interest at the University.

The next event will be a tour of research laboratories in the Faculty of Health Sciences to be held later this year. If you would like to receive an invitation, please contact Jon Russack in the D&A office on (08) 8303 3234 or email jonathan.russack@adelaide.edu.au.

Alumni Board membership

Nominations are now open for two General Member positions on the Alumni Association Board.

Any member of the University of Adelaide Alumni Association can apply, with applications closing on Friday, November 11.

For more information about the nominations, including selection criteria, visit www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni, or contact Kim McBride on (08) 8303 3198 or email kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

Development & Alumni Events

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) - Annual Dinner and ROCA Award

Presentation and AGM

The 2005 ROCA Annual Award of Merit will be presented at the Annual Dinner. The Dinner will include 10, 25, 40 and 50 year Reunion group presentations, and will be preceded by the AGM.

Date: Friday, October 14
Time: AGM 7pm, Dinner at 7.30pm
Venue: Glenelg Golf Club
Bookings: Dr David Cooper 08 8363 4371; A/F 08 8332 5882
RSVP: Gaynor Tyerman on (08) 8303 4064 or email gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

Cost: Free

MBA Chapter Event

The MBA Alumni Association proudly presents Robbee Spadafora MBA (Director Marketing, m.Net Corporation): “Riding the Next Wave: 3G”

Date: Friday, October 21
Time: 6pm for 6.15pm start
Venue: Adelaide Graduate School of Business, NAB Room, 5th Floor 233 North Terrace
Cost: $15 for MBAAA members, $20 for non-members
RSVP: Gaynor Tyerman on (08) 8303 6356 or email gaynor.tyeman@adelaide.edu.au by Monday, October 17

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library Event

Dr Mark Carroll will speak on the Ballets Russes National Research Project and related discoveries in the Barr Smith Library.

Date: Wednesday, October 19
Time: 6pm
Venue: Business, NAB Room, 5th Floor 233 North Terrace
Cost: Free (gold coin donation invited)
RSVP: Bookings essential with Karen Hickman on (08) 8303 4064 or email karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au.
It’s a matter of design for retired University research scientist Dr Ole Wiebkin.

Now an honorary titleholder in two University departments (Microbiology and Dentistry), Dr Wiebkin is able to further indulge his other passion: set design.

His latest work is for this month’s University of Adelaide Theatre Guild production of *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, Joe Orton’s blackly comic ménage-à-trois set in 1960s London.

“I was very lucky in that both my parents were very talented artistically – my father was a very competent landscape painter and my mother was an outstanding embroiderer,” Dr Wiebkin said.

“I started out designing in the 1960s in England and kept at it when I came out to Australia to study and eventually live. I really enjoy being creative, and using colour and space to create the appropriate setting and atmosphere for productions.”

Some of Dr Wiebkin’s design credits include the South Australian Jubilee 150 production of Duncan McKie’s *Emperor’s Nightingale*, numerous Gilbert & Sullivan musicals, and more recently the sell-out season of *Les Misérables* featuring Normie Rowe.

For *Entertaining Mr Sloane*, he has sought to recreate the look and feel of a London flat, circa the early 1960s.

“It’s been a lot of fun,” he said. “I wanted to use as much authentic material as I could find, so we’ll have the old-style iron from the 1950s which you used to plug into the ceiling light globe socket, and an old ironing board, and so on.

“The director, Geoff Brittain, also has a few surprises in store and the set has been designed with this in mind.”

**Theatre**

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**Entertaining Mr Sloane stars**

Ben Brooker, Tony Busch, Lindy Le Cornu and Bill Ramsay.

Performances are from Tuesday, October 18 to Saturday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 25 to Saturday, October 29 (note Opening Night is Tuesday, October 18) at 7.30pm in the Little Theatre.

Tickets are $20/$15, and available from the Guild on (08) 8303 599, its website or BASS on 131 246.

www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild
One of Australia’s leading chamber ensembles, the Australian String Quartet, has launched its 2006 national subscription season.

The quartet-in-residence at the University’s Elder Conservatorium of Music will perform four concerts of stellar chamber music across the country, including Adelaide. Other recent and scheduled performances include those at Wigmore Hall, London; Esterhazy Palace, Austria; Konzerthaus, Berlin; The Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing and Shanghai Concert Hall, China.

The 2006 national season begins with Concert One, “Distant Voices”, on Thursday March 9, with works by Shostakovich and Beethoven.

“We start our season with what I feel are some of the greatest quartets of the repertoire,” said cellist Niall Brown. “Beethoven’s Quartet Opus 137 is one of my all-time favourites, and in the centenary of his birth, we will perform one of Shostakovich’s best-known works, the deeply personal and vividly communicative Eighth String Quartet.”

Concert Two, “Amadeus”, on Thursday, May 11 features works by Mozart, Suk and Janacek, and guest violist Jurg Dahler.

“This is a great concert for me because Mozart, Suk and Janacek feature the viola to the full,” said ASQ violist Jeremy Williams.

“Haydn’s Sunrise Quartet is a piece which one never tires of performing, and if I were stranded on a desert island with the music of one composer, I think Haydn would have to be the one!” said violinist James Cuddeford.

“This year’s program wouldn’t be complete without a visit again to the world of Mozart, and this time we present the compact, yet power-packed, Adagio and Fugue.”

All performances will be held at 7pm in the Adelaide Town Hall, with wine tasting from 6pm and a pre-concert interview with an ABC Classic FM presenter from 6.10pm. For more information, visit: www.asq.com.au

Concert Three, “Shimmer”, on Monday, July 24 will feature guest clarinetist Catherine McCorkill to perform in the all-time favourite Mozart Clarinet Quintet.

“Mozart wrote the work for basset clarinet and Catherine’s beautiful and mellow tone on this instrument is a testimony to his original intentions,” said violinist Natsuko Yoshimoto.

“The 250th anniversary of Mozart’s birth just couldn’t be celebrated with playing this key chamber work.”

The final concert, “Soundscapes”, on Wednesday, November 8, features a range of composers and genres, from Mozart and Haydn to Debussy and Sculthorpe.