New gamma ray telescope to be built at Woomera

A large $3 million gamma ray telescope is to be built at Woomera in outback South Australia as part of an effort by the University of Adelaide and Japanese universities to search for high-energy emissions from space.

The new telescope, with a multi-mirror dish up to 10 metres across, will be constructed in 1998 as part of the CANGAROO (Collaboration of Australia and Nippon (Japan) for a Gamma Ray Observatory in the Outback) Project.

The telescope will form a link in a world network to study energy sources such as pulsars and the recently discovered blazars.

C reative W riting C hair to harness local talent

The University of Adelaide is to establish a postgraduate Chair in Creative Writing in partnership with the South Australian Government.

The position — believed to be the first of its kind in Australia — is aimed at fostering excellence in South Australian literature and encouraging new writers.

An appointment is expected by the end of this year, with new postgraduate courses starting in 1997.

The Head of the University’s Department of English, Professor Penny Boumelha, said the Chair in Creative Writing was important for both the University and South Australia’s arts industry.

“It’s often felt that there’s not enough official recognition for creative writing in Australia, and many of our writers who become successful tend to move interstate or overseas,” Professor Boumelha said.

“There’s also a lot of unharvested talent in our State — there are many people who have writing skills who may benefit a great deal from our courses.

Frogs don’t usually take too well to computers, but Big Bertha from the University of Adelaide’s live frog collection recently made an exception.

She showed great interest in an $8000 top-of-the-range multimedia laptop computer, which was this month donated to Zoology to aid frog research.

Three Information Technology firms — EDS, Protech and Compaq — made the joint donation to Associate Professor Mike Tyler in recognition of his internationally significant research into frogs.

The donation also celebrated the opening of the EDS Asia-Pacific Education Centre in Adelaide.

The State Manager of EDS, Mr Alan Scott, said the company wanted to celebrate Adelaide's live frog collection recently made an exception.

“Associate Professor Tyler is an internationally recognised expert on frog research, so this sponsorship with Protech and Compaq was an opportunity to provide his world-leading research with world-leading computer equipment and advice,” Mr Scott said.

Associate Professor Tyler said the computer would be put to good use in the many different areas of frog research being conducted at the University.

“I’m very honoured to be presented with this new computer, which will no doubt have many applications for our environmental research,” he said.

“It’s pleasing to know that this research is recognised by companies such as EDS, Protech and Compaq, and that we have these important links with industry.”

—David Ellis

Agriculture for the future an Open Day highlight

Find out how agricultural scientists are working to ensure a sustainable and productive future for South Australia’s crucially important primary industries, and how fulfilling careers result from the study of agricultural science, at the University of Adelaide’s 1996 Open Day on Sunday, 4 August.

As well, visitors to the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences marquee on the Fisher lawns can taste tri-tip pan cakes and alkaline noodles — new cereal products with local and international market potential — and discover the sensory skills of wine appreciation.

Faculty Open Day coordinator Bill Wallace says the objective is to demonstrate the contribution of innovative research and teaching to South Australia’s future in agriculture.

“Visitors will be able to find out, for instance, how researchers are working to reduce soil erosion, minimise the use of agrichemicals in pest control, and to develop strategies to overcome increasing herbicide resistance in weeds,” Dr Wallace said.

“We will also be focusing on emerging agricultural industries, such as agroforestry, native flowers and new initiatives in plant and animal biotechnology,” he said.

Continued Page 3

Open Day

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INSIDE

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Addressing history

In the last edition of the Adelaidean we read Malcolm Goad's tribute to Harold Woolhouse. On 11 July, the eve of what would have been Harold's 60th birthday, we held a celebration of his life with speeches by the Premier and other prominent South Australians in the nature of Harold's greatness. Harold was more than just a great man; he was something of a phenomenon in modern Australian Higher Education. He arrived in 1990 and his influence was felt early. In a report tabled in the Commonwealth Parliament in 1991, Dr Jim McWilliam, who had chaired the Review of the Waite Institute in 1989, assessed progress in implementing the recommendations of the McWilliam Review (which recommended major change and a drastic cut in funding). He reported that the University had acted decisively in effecting the necessary changes, commenting favourably on the new mood of collaboration, improved teaching and research facilities, and structural and administrative changes. McWilliam's observations have been backed up comprehensively by the assessment of the results of Research Training Grants of the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences in recent years.

How else could such changes in a relatively short time? Certainly energy and drive contributed but the outstanding feature of Harold's vision has been that for the Faculty and the Waite and Roseworthy campuses and the determined way he went about categorically and implementing the details of this vision. Harold was a great man — a man of vision!

A clearly articulated and shared vision is important. If we want to improve a system quickly and achieve rapid change, a clearly articulated and shared vision is necessary if we want to improve a system quickly and achieve rapid change. What has it achieved, and who has noticed?

The University's 1995 Affirmative Action Report, due soon, will be circulated within the University. In the meantime, the Adelaidean continues to publish articles about affirmative action. In the next edition, information regarding the Sir Joseph Verco Dental Chapter dinner to be held at The Adelaide Club will be published.

Although the time of the meeting was here corrected from that stated in the June 17 edition, the address of The Club was still stated as 156 North Terrace. That was my estimations, Sir, would indicate that the Club has moved to a more modern, perhaps more spacious, more historic green-doored site — perhaps encouraged by the latest changes in its governing bodies.

Further, why has no one from the History Department objected to members of the University of Adelaide community holding semi-public functions in what was once the university's grand hall — a haven for the time honoured traditions of British gentleman's club living?

To date the Melbourne University, in its Strategic Plan (Adelaidean, 20 May 1995) suggests that there are significant numbers of staff who do not consider women to be disadvantaged in the workplace. They are unlikely to support any strategies to improve the position. An emphasis on policy change, may, as the Commentary suggests, be irrelevant if staff do not accept that there is a problem. On the other hand, it is accepted that some women are disadvantaged, then reversing this situation will depend on identifying the mechanisms which advantage men. Those who are disadvantaged may be unwilling to recognise or renounce this advantage.

These are the problems. What are the solutions? One is acknowledging there is a challenge to be met, another is owning that challenge. The Equal Opportunity Office cannot and should not do it alone. The University must take seriously affirmative action strategies in its strategic planning, and this means that Divisions, Faculties, Departments and areas must develop and implement their own strategies. The Equal Opportunity Office and the Personnel Services Branch will present the issues, provide consultancy services and assist in reviewing procedures and practices. It is the responsibility of Directors, ultimate bosses, and Branch Managers necessary for equal employment opportunity for women to ensure the University realises its full potential.

Adelaidean

Julie Ryke

Sandra Shiel

GUEST COMMENTARY

Affirmative action in the University of Adelaide

by Dr Kay Rollison

Opinion

Equal Opportunity

The University's 1995 Affirmative Action Report is now being circulated within the University. The report was reviewed annually to the Affirmative Action Agency as a requirement of the Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Opportunity (Women) Act. Outlines what success the University has had with its affirmative action strategies over the past two years, and what its plans are for the next two years. This is the time of the year when the SA Government has been going on in the University since 1986. What has it achieved, and who has noticed?

Affirmative Action strategies have certainly had an impact in some aspects of the University's operations. An affirmative action review of staff recruitment and selection resulted in the introduction of written selection criteria, and the practice of requesting referees' reports to be based on these in the Equal Opportunity representatives on appointment committees, now widely considered to add value to the appointment process. Where affirmative action strategies have been implemented, women are becoming more widely valued. Where harassment occurs, it is more quickly named as such and often dealt with effectively.

But have affirmative action strategies created equal employment opportunity for women in the University's workforce? Despite some improvements, we are well below national averages. Academic staff statistics for 1987 and 1995 show that the percentage of women academic staff were women; by 1995, this had risen to 20%, compared with a national average of 27%. Of all female academic staff in 1987, 58% held tenure compared with 86% of male staff. As in 1987, 44% of all female staff had tenure, compared with 68% of male staff. As in 1987, general staff women are more experienced, 35% compared to 28%, but is still short of the national average of 35%. The largest numerical increases were in levels A and B, with the percentage of women rising in level B (25% to 39%) but remaining the same in levels C and D. Women constitute a majority in levels HEO 1 to HEO 4, but their proportion continues to reduce at every classification from HEO 5 to Chief Officer. Fewer than 20% of Chief Officers are women, compared to the national average of 25%. Given current rules of change, it could take up to twenty years for there to be equal numbers of male and female academic staff, and an even longer for women who are equally represented at senior academic and administrative levels.

Why has there not been greater change? Some of the obvious reasons are:

1. Women staff are not adequately represented at senior academic and administrative levels. The appointment of a new Minister for Employment, Education, and Training in late 1994 and early 1995 has resulted in initiatives including the undertaking of research and training in the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences in recent years.

The Coalition policy statement on Higher Education and Research Training Grants indicates that the time of the election enunciated a policy for the sector which, if not grand, was generally judged to be reasonable and coherent. With the appointment of the new Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, we looked forward to the implementation of this policy. However, I'm sure we would accept in its place a new vision which would see what is a very good support system of higher education, judged by world standards, become greater than ever. To date, the messages received from staff at all levels of the University echo the same: we need new visions.

In the areas of University culture and climate change, there is a need for new visions. The University culture is more inclusive, and the vision held by the University, the University of Adelaide community, is a vision for women. Women's rights to equality in the workplace are now entrenched as fundamental to many disciplines, and (excluding casuals) has increased from 17% to 28%.

There are ways to change the University culture and climate. We need to have new visions. We need to have new visions. The University of Adelaide community is a community of women. If we are not prepared to change our vision and to change the climate of the University, we are not prepared to change the culture of the University. The University of Adelaide community, including the University of Adelaide community, has a responsibility to change the University culture and climate. We need to have new visions.
Theatre Espresso a potent brew

An original program of workshops and public performances being presented by the multi-disciplinary event, Theatre Espresso this week may be a pilot for future national programs to support the development of young playwrights in this country.

Coordinated by the Theatre Espresso director-in-residence Chris Drummond, and co-presented by the Guild and the Australian National Playwrights' Centre in Canberra, BREWED/Theatre Espresso will be led by Australian playwright Stephen Sewell to the University of Adelaide for a five-day intensive workshop from 15-19 July.

He will work with playwrights Fiona Sprott, Corrie Hosking and Michael Hill, and nine actors to explore issues associated with the art of writing, developing, redrafting, performing and interpreting drama in an environment that challenges them to take risks whilst providing them with support and feedback.

The multi-disciplinary event includes performances by Adelaide University's first year and final year students, and artists from Adelaide Central School of Art; and the public are invited to attend the workshops, use the Science Field Camp on the Fisher laws.

A tropical aquarium of nature studying species of frogs, including 'Big Bertha', the hidden treasures of the Tate Geological Museum, and talks by some of Australia's leading research scientists on topics ranging from the future of renewable energy to molecular genetics research and the water quality debate to Frog Magic.

The Science Tea will also incorporate the Investigate Science and Technology Centre's Stordame, which is sponsored by the Faculty of Science.

Economics and Commerce

Talks by international economics researchers Professor Kym Anderson and Dr Randy Stringer will be highlights for those interested in world affairs. Professor Anderson will deliver an address on development economics in the Pacific Rim, while Dr Stringer will discuss the role of economics in environmental policy. Both Departments have scheduled talks on courses and careers throughout the day.

Lego and Mathematics

If you're not sure what Lego has to do with pure mathematics, come to the University of Adelaide's Open Day.

Faculty staff will be working hard to give prospective students and the public a better understanding of the applications of mathematics and statistics — and the link to Lego is just one example.

Agriculture to be Open Day highlight

From Page 1

Minstrels, mapping and museums

Level 1 of the Napier Building will be enlivened by music from wandering minstrels and students in music, art and design. Visitors will see as visitors discover 3D mapping, computer-aided language learning and delve into literary sites on the World Wide Web.

As well, the Classics Museum (upper floor, Mitchell Building) will be open to visitors as part of the Faculty of Arts Open Day program.

Laboratory tours and talks on courses and careers for students and the Public are planned, and visitors will have a chance to find out how computers are used to 'listen' to a language in the Language Laboratory.

Warm up at Wilto Yerlo

One of the warmest places on Open Day will be the Pfitzner Court, where Wilto Yerlo staff will be providing coffee, as well as providing warmth, open fires in the court will be used to cook bush Tucker, while Wilto Yerlo staff will be on hand to talk about tertiary access for indigenous Australians.

Architecture

Visitors to Architecture will step into a virtual classroom as students use the Internet to work on design tutorials, deliver them for assessment, and then leave their work displayed to the world.

The innovative program was developed by Behaviour Lecturer Dr Robert Woodbury, who believes its interactive nature provides a substitute for the traditional 'classroom', as well as encouraging excellence in computer skills.

As well, visitors will see some imaginative interpretations of possible developments for North Terrace, presented as highly crafted models.

Science Trail highlights

One day will barely be enough to do justice to the displays, special events and hands-on activities being developed by the Faculty of Science for Open Day. The specially-marked Science Trail will guide visitors through departmental displays and the Science Field Camp on the Fisher laws.

There will be a tropical aquarium of nature studying species of frogs, including 'Big Bertha', the hidden treasures of the Tate Geological Museum, and talks by some of Australia's leading research scientists on topics ranging from the future of renewable energy to molecular genetics research and the water quality debate to Frog Magic.

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Mock trial

Open Day visitors could spend a whole day just visiting the Faculty of Law, where law students and faculty staff will start the day with a video, provide a barbeque lunch followed by the Library and faculty talks, before treating visitors to a mock murder trial (see below).

Unibooks

Medieval musicians, wine tastings and special deals on refreshments will be features of a busy day at Unibooks. Apart from browsing three floors of books, visitors will be able to taste Montrose Poet's Corner wines and receive a six pack of the university's Hill of Grapes to a free glass of wine when they purchase a pizza at the Unison's Equinox restaurant!

Radio SUV

An invitation to the Bonython Hall courses and careers display may find themselves part of a radio program, SUV staff and Student Radio volunteers will broadcast directly from Bonython Hall from 11am-2pm during Open Day, and from 1.23pm on Information Day (5 August).

Visitor information

An official Open Day program listing the highlights will be available for visitors, along with maps and information about the University of Adelaide, from any of the four Information Booths to be located at entrances in North Terrace, Frome Road, Victoria Drive and Kintore Avenue.

For more Open Day details, see Bulletin Board, page 1.

INFORMATION DAY

SPORTS ASSOCIATION BALL

The Adelaide University Sports Association is celebrating 100 years of service by holding a special Centenary Gala Ball this Saturday night.

Billied as the “Ball of the Century”, the event is open to all past and present students of the University, and provides the chance to share good food, wine, and some of their best stories.

Tickets are $45 for the black tie event (Sports Association members can wear their club’s sports blazer) and will feature the band Spank You Very Much, as well as guest speaker Mr Bill Scammell, the University’s Chancellor.

Venue: Upper Refectory, Union House, (opposite the Sports Pavilion)

Enquiries: 303 5403

AITEA CONFERENCE AND DINNER

The Australian Democrats spokesperson on higher education, Senator Natasha Scott-Peppiell, will be addressing the sector at the Annual Dinner of the Australian Institute of Tertiary Education Administrators (AITEA) at Fernilee Lodge on Friday 19 July.

The dinner follows AITEA’s State Conference at The University of Adelaide’s Thebarton Campus on the same day.

The conference, organised by AITEA in collaboration with the Equal Opportunity Offices of the three SA universities, and the University of Adelaide’s Women’s Professional Development Network, focuses on issues, opportunities and strategies for women working in the higher education sector.

Keynote speaker is Unisa’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Equity & External Relations), Professor Eleanor Ramsay. Guest workshop presenter is Deborah McCulloch (Women’s Electoral Lobby).

Further information is available from Esther Tobin on 303 5116.

DANCE MOVEMENTS

Members of the Dance Department have been active in the World Dance 96 festival in Melbourne this month.

Dean of Performing Arts, Dr Anita Donovan, was invited to present a paper at the 11th World Dance Alliance Congress, and will also present a paper in the ranks of 12 international dance critics for the Dance Critics Workshop.

Senior Lecturer, Ms Simi Roche has been active in the World Dance 96 festival in Melbourne this month.

SEPANG UPDATE

A total of 198 students enrolled in 16 winning program subjects at Sepang College. The South Australian Institute of Technology (S·I·T) recently sat their first semester examinations. The papers, now being marked, were located at 22 universities and 77 students, with examinations held just 30 minutes behind Adelaide time.

Table of the subjects involved revealed 1 degree level 1 courses offered at 5-1T began on 9 July. 65 students have enrolled in this intake — 29 in Science, and Commerce, five in Computer Science, two in Science, and 29 across the various Bachelor of Engineering degrees.
International energy research wins major grant

The University of Adelaide — and the environment — are two of the big winners following the announcement of the 1996 Targeted Institutional Links (TIL) Program grants from the Federal Government.

A major international collaborative research project with significant environmental spin-offs has been awarded $235,000 over three years.

The project — a joint venture between the University of Adelaide's Department of Chemical Engineering and the National Laboratory of Coal Combustion at Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China — aims to:

- develop a technique to convert organic waste into an environmentally friendly fuel
- reduce the impact on the environment from organic waste disposal
- reduce the quantity of waste being disposed of.

The leader of the international research project is the University of Adelaide's Dr Dong-ke Zhang (Chemical Engineering), who was recently appointed to the prestigious position of Adjunct Professor with Huazhong University. He is also the winner of the Combustion Institute's David Warren Award for excellence in combustion research.

Dr Zhang said a process called "low temperature pyrolysis" would be used to thermochemically decompose organic waste disposal material. The fuel produced by this process could then be used as a substitute for (or a blending agent with) current transport fuels.

"Low temperature pyrolysis is one of the most important renewable energy technologies that will not only help the nation's energy industry, but also minimise the environmental impact of waste disposal," Dr Zhang said.

"This project to convert waste matter into renewable energy will therefore have major benefits for the treatment of agricultural, industrial and domestic waste, including sewage sludge.

"We believe the processes involved in this will be simple, easy to operate and control, and cost relatively little," he said.

The TIL funding for this collaborative research project with Huazhong University was announced last month. It was welcomed by Dr Zhang, who said the project would boost the University's already expanding commercial and academic links with China.

"I am very happy to be heading this research project, because of my close ties with Huazhong and my interest in this area. Hopefully it will have enormous benefits for the University of Adelaide, for Chemical Engineering, and for the environment as a whole," he said.

—David Ellis

Roseworthy centre a step forward

South Australian livestock management and husbandry is set to take a major step forward with the construction of a $350,000 Livestock Research Centre at Roseworthy Campus.

The new facility, to be operated by the Department of Animal Science, has been jointly funded through the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences and an ARC infrastructure grant.

The research centre will provide many new opportunities in nutrition, husbandry and dietary research, says Dr Jim Gallagher, deputy Head of the Department of Animal Science.

"The extension of livestock research facilities at the Roseworthy Campus will provide a unique service, particularly for postgraduate students, and will allow previously unachievable, or very time consuming and expensive research to be carried out in a modern, well-designed building," he said.

"Postgraduate students are already utilising the new centre to carry out extensive tests into nutrition and various diets of sheep. The building can hold sheep, goats and pigs and could diversify into cattle, deer and horses.

"Several experiments which have recently been set up include looking at the palatability, digestibility and nutritive value of different types of rice straw, and looking at increasing the nutritive value of low quality roughage rations such as poultry manure, citrus peel, molasses and wheat straw. A wide range of lupins is also being evaluated for livestock.

The air-conditioned centre contains a laboratory and surgery facilities as well as feed storage rooms and yards, capable of holding up to 100 animals in individual pens and metabolism crates.

"The combination of this new research centre, the new SARDI nutrition laboratories, and the SARDI/PISA Pig and Poultry Production Institute provides a valuable tool for livestock research, and will ensure that the Roseworthy Campus is on a very competitive level with other institutions in Australia and overseas," Dr Gallagher said.

—Elizabeth Butler

New Creative Writing Chair

From Page 1

"What we're trying to do, through the new Chair in Creative Writing, is to create a training and research structure for writers in South Australia and encourage them to remain here."

Professor Boumelha said there was strong demand for higher degrees, and graduate certificates and diplomas in Creative Writing.

"Adelaide itself has a very active writing scene, which is shown through the South Australian Writers' Centre and Writers' Week during the Festival of Arts.

"We've already had a lot of interest in the course, without any publicity, and I think the demand will be high. There's no shortage of people who write, or who would like to write," she said.

The University and the SA Government's Department for the Arts have each contributed half the funding for the new Chair.

Professor Boumelha said advertising for the position would begin soon.

—David Ellis

Environmental Studies Medal winners Megan McCarthy and Brett Bryan with environment awareness program award winner Anne Brow at the Mawson Graduate Centre's 21st anniversary celebrations on 2 July. Photo: David Ellis
A failure by teachers to consider variation in students’ learning behaviour means that many are failing to reach their potential, according to Professor Erik Meyer, a visiting senior research fellow in the Faculty of Medicine.

Professor Meyer, from the Student Learning Research Group at South Africa’s University of Cape Town, is studying the way medical students in the Faculty conceptualise “diagnosis.”

He argues that university teachers need to be sensitive to differences in their students’ learning and take some responsibility for making appropriate responses to these differences.

He believes that responding to variation in learning — rather than focusing on improving teaching — will revitalise university teaching.

Professor Meyer said that even “virtuous” learners — students who seek to understand deeply what they are learning — can fail at university if the methods of assessment are not sensitive to their intentions.

“There are also some kinds of learning environments that discriminate against students who are trying to understand deeply what they are doing,” he said.

“Good students often can’t compete the way the competitive rules of the game are structured.”

He discussed these issues at a public lecture in the Faculty of Medicine on 28 June. Professor Meyer is being hosted by the Department of Pathology, and is one of a series of Visiting Senior Research Fellows who will be in the Faculty in 1996-97.

He praised the Faculty of Medicine for examining the issue of learning. He added that, in general, university teaching had failed to recognise the importance of variation in student learning.

Professor Meyer is studying students’ conception of “diagnosis,” a fundamental issue for medical teachers. He has found that at one end of the scale, some students have a simple “unstructured” conception — that of finding a label for the ailment — and at the other end, some students have sophisticated conceptions based on likelihoods and tested hypotheses.

These conceptions, he argues, shape the way the students approach learning.

“Telling the student that their view is naive or unreflective or as a part of that context.

“Students are honest in telling us about how they go about learning. We can anticipate with a reasonable degree of accuracy the kinds of difficulties they will experience in adjusting to university study,” he said. “And we can take pre-emptive action if we are concerned.”

“Do this requires a shift in thinking at a policy level; the basic issues concerns extending the locus of academic practice to include scholarship of student learning.”

—David Washington

Professor Erik Meyer from the University of Cape Town — one of a series of Visiting Senior Research Fellows in the Faculty of Medicine in 1996-1997. Photo David Ellis

New gamma ray telescope to be built at Woomera

From Page 1

Dr. Patterson, from the University of Adelaide’s Department of Physics & Mathematical Physics, said the telescope would give Australian and Japanese astrophysicists access to a world-class facility for research and postgraduate training.

“This is a fine example of international cooperation in a science which will benefit Australia,” he said.

“Our collaborative partners — Professor Tadashi Kifune from the University of Tokyo and Professor Toru Tanimori from the Tokyo Institute of Technology — have received ‘priority funds’ for this project from the Japanese Government.

“It’s hoped that funds for some vital site works will also be available from Australian sources, such as the Australian Research Council.”

Dr. Patterson said a design study of the gamma ray telescope had been completed by the Mitsubishi Electric company of Osaka, based on the design of a 10-metre radio telescope at Nobeyama, Japam.

The dish will be filled with mirrors to collect the faint “light flashes” produced in the Earth’s atmosphere by gamma rays of very high energy.

“The information gathered by this telescope will be able to tell us more about large-scale conditions in the universe, because the gamma rays are absorbed on their way between galaxies,” Dr. Patterson said.

“We are very interested to find out more about some special gamma ray pulsars in our own galaxy, as well as the more energetic emissions coming from blazars,” he said.

Dr. Patterson said as well as the construction of the new telescope, plans had been made for the existing 3.6-metre CANGAROO telescope at Woomera to be refurbished.

He said it would be recoated with a fresh aluminium mirror at the Anglo-Australian Observatory in Coonabarabran, New South Wales, to improve its sensitivity until the new 10-metre telescope is constructed.

—David Ellis
A group of PhD students from the University of Adelaide has returned from a unique geological field trip in North America.

Nine students from the Department of Geology and Geophysics — Garry Adams, Darrell Beng, Peter Haines, Rob Meggen, Scott Midren, Paul Polito, Bruce Schaefer, Charles Sevcik and J on Teadale — spent one month in the US and Canada visiting sites of major geological significance.

Their journey took them to some of the world's best known sites, including the gold mine (Newmont Mining), the Robinson/Ruth copper mine (BHP) and the Homestake Gold mine (Homestake Mining).

Organised by the students themselves, the field trip was aimed at giving them first-hand experience of geological sites they had only read about in textbooks.

"We wanted to incorporate the best known examples with the widest range of geology and with major geological phenomena in an area that was easily accessible, highly regarded and well documented," said PhD student Mr Paul Polito.

"It's one thing to read about different geological structures, but you don't entirely realise what they're like until you've seen them up close and it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for us, and we're absolutely certain that the trip was an outstanding success," he said.

Although at times marred by poor weather, the field trip exposed the students to unique scenes of landscape and wildlife. They also found the American and Canadian people to be very friendly and helpful.

"To cut costs, the group decided to camp in tents and cook for themselves for most of the journey.

"This not only shaved a few good cooks among us, but also brought the group closer as a whole, which was very important," said Mr Polito.

"Sleeping in tents made for some interesting times — freezing cold nights in the snow, boiling hot nights in Death Valley — but it added to the whole experience. One night a herd of buffalo even came through our campsite," he said.

Mr Polito said the group was extremely grateful to the many sponsors who helped fund the trip, and to bus driver and tour guide Dylan Hiroms of Suntrek Tours.

"Dylan's knowledge of the local areas enabled us to go to places we wouldn't have otherwise visited, or even known about. His enthusiasm in the places we visited for geological reasons also broadened our cultural knowledge of the American Indians and the days of the Wild West.

"We all agree that the trip was made such an outstanding success because of Dylan," he said.

Mr Polito said the group's unique experience in North America was something they would all remember, and would be invaluable to their careers in the fields of geology and geophysics.

He said he highly recommended such a trip to other students within the department.

—David Ellis

Homestay shows A delaide through visitors’ eyes

Adelaide families are helping the University of Adelaide give Japanese students the warmest possible welcome during their stay here.

Each year many students from Japanese universities come to Adelaide for a four-week language and cultural course. One of the most important parts of their time here is the Homestay Program, which is run by Continuing Education.

Under Homestay each of the Japanese students spends a month living with an Adelaide family. This allows them to experience Australian culture and family life, as well as providing them with a friendly environment while they are away from their friends and family in Japan.

Host Families who take part in the program come from all areas of Adelaide and all backgrounds, and are paid $130 a week to cover costs.

One such family is the Shepherds, who have been hosting students from Shion Women's University in Kobe for the past four years.

Ken Shepherd is Associate Professor in Plant Science at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus. He and his wife, Joy, decided to become a Host Family because they wanted to help students make the most of their stay.

"We wanted to repay the enormous hospitality that was shown to us," said Dr Shepherd. "It's an enjoyable experience. Each of the students is very different, and we make good friends with many of them in this way."

Mrs Shepherd said the students and the Host Families learn much about each other and their unique cultures.

"The students look at what we do on a day-to-day basis in a much different way. That makes us look at the same things differently — we see these things through our visitor's eyes, and what we take for granted we suddenly think about and appreciate more."

"The Shepherds said some of the things that have made a big impression on the Japanese students they hosted include Australian food, slang, Adelaide's beaches, Aussie Rules Football, the countryside, and being able to see the stars at night.

"It's been very interesting just sharing simple pleasures that we tend to take for granted," said Dr Shepherd. "For the students to go out at night in the countryside, look up at the sky and see the Milky Way and Southern Cross is absolutely fascinating to them. Our last student, Hitomi Matsuda, has written to us and said that among the things she will never forget is her first sight of the Southern Cross."

"The University also organised a tour for all the Host Families and students — a night walk through the Glenelg Conservation Park."

"It was wonderful, something we'd never thought of doing before, and we met many other families who enjoyed the experience equally."

The Shepherds said they would be happy to keep hosting Japanese students each year, and would recommend that other families join the Homestay program.

"I think it's a very rewarding experience for any family that has the time to do such a thing, because of the friendships that are made and the exchange of information about our different cultures," Dr Shepherd said.

Continuing Education is currently looking for more Adelaide families to host Japanese and also South Korean students.

Those interested should contact Homestay Coordinator Ms Sandy Pugley on (08) 303 4777.

—David Ellis
Alumni News

IN BRIEF

Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship to Adelaide graduate

Adelaide graduate Dr Hazel Rowley has been awarded one of five Fellowships to participate in the International Forum for US Studies at the University of Iowa from February to April next year.

This Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship aims to promote work by non-American scholars on issues affecting the United States.

The selection panel received nearly one hundred applications from more than 40 countries, and was selecting scholars who could give fresh perspectives on American issues.

Dr Rowley will be working on a biography of the Black American writer Richard Wright.

"As a Black American, Wright was marginal to the mainstream of US culture," Dr Rowley commented.

"He spent the last fourteen years of his life living as an expatriate in Paris and had connections with a number of third world activists. He interested me as a public intellectual."

Dr Rowley published a biography of the Australian writer Christina Stead in 1995, and was the guest speaker at the Cornell Chapter's Annual Dinner last November.

Honey on Toast

When you tuck into your honey on toast at breakfast time, does it occur to you to wonder about the mathematical principles governing the behaviour of your favourite spread?

Professor Ernie Tuck, Dean of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, will deliver an illustrated talk on "The Mathematics of Honey on Toast (and other everyday fluid flows)" at 7:30pm, Wednesday 14 August, in the Benham Lecture Theatre.

This illustrated talk is FREE and is offered as part of the Alumni Activities Program for 1996. Both members and non-members of the Association are welcome; families are encouraged to bring high school aged children along.

Please call the Alumni Office to let us know you are coming: 303 4275.

Dental Chapter dinner meeting

Graduates, students and friends of the Dental Faculty are invited to a dinner meeting of the Sir Joseph Veron Dental Chapter, on Wednesday 24 July at the Adelaide Club, 165 North Terrace, 6.30pm for 7.00pm.

Mr Tim Goh will speak on the foundation of the Australian Dental Students' Association and the Asian-Pacific Dental Students' Association.

Please book through the Alumni Office: telephone 303 4277, or by email gsauer@registry.adelaide.edu.au.

Informal Cello Afternoon

Cellist Janis Lauras joins with pianist Ludmila Collins for an informal afternoon of music in the Hartley Building Concert Hall at 2:00pm on Sunday 18 August. Hosted by the Cornell Chapter (Arts and Performing Arts). Queries: 303 4275.

ALUMNI NEWS

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Association action on threats to higher education funding

The Alumni Association has been acting to assist the University in its efforts to lobby against possible funding cuts in the August Federal Budget.

At their meeting on 17 May the Association passed unanimously the following motion:

while recognising that

any reduction in Commonwealth funding to higher education not only directly and flagrantly contravenes the higher education policy of the Liberal National Federal Coalition Government (as authorised and published on 20 February 1996) but would seriously affect the ability of universities to carry out the teaching and research which is critical to Australia's national interest

and given that

any reduction in Commonwealth funding would be specifically reflected in the quality of teaching and research output and thereby diminish and further that

the value of the degrees and other awards earned by the 1.5 million students of the universities, being very much the measure in the community's view of a university's standing, would be significantly decreased

The University of Adelaide Alumni Association is firmly of the view that the interests of Australia as a whole would be damaged by a reduction in Commonwealth funding for higher education and urges the Federal Government not to implement a fund cut and, accordingly, directs the Chair to mobilise the appropriate Vice-Patrons as was done successfully in 1989.

The motion was subsequently communicated to the Vice-Chancellors, the Students' Association, the National Tertiary Education Union, the Australian University Alumni Council, all alumni directors of Australian Universities, the Prime Minister and the Federal Minister Senator Vanstone.

At the Association's AGM on 20 June the membership endorsed the action of the Trustees and advised the Chair to write to the Prime Minister and thank him for his public commitment to higher education.

After the Trustees meeting the Chair had sought from the Patron Mr Paul Vanston, Patron of the Association agreement to use their names by the Association in supporting the Prime Minister's stance on a possible reduction in higher education funding. The letter below was sent to the Prime Minister on 3 July 1996.

The Association encourages all alumni of the University (graduate or staff) to write to their members of Parliament to express their support for a continuation of at least the present level of funding of higher education in order to promote and preclude the prejudicing of research, scholarship and economic activity.

—Geoff Sauer

A letter to the Prime Minister

3 July 1996

The Hon John Howard
Prime Minister of Australia
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Prime Minister,

This is further to our letter of 22 May 1996 regarding the unanimous resolution of our Trustees on 17 May 1996 which asks you for your reply of 23 June 1996.

We write now with the authority and support of the Officers of this Association listed below.

We are directed by the membership of this Association at its recent Annual General Meeting (17 June 1996) to thank you for your public commitment to higher education and its funding. We are particularly directed to thank you for your public assurances that the Coalition's electoral promises will be honoured and most particularly the Coalition's Higher Education Policy of Quality, Diversity and Choice as authorised and released on 20 February 1996.

We believe that the cuts that seem to be being contemplated by the Minister, Senator Amanda Vanstone, would be a breach of the Coalition's Higher Education Policy.

We support in general terms the submissions made to this subject by the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee, by the Group of Eight (G8) Universities, by the Australian University Alumni Council, by our three South Australian Vice-Chancellors and others.

We support in particular our own Further Education Minister, the Hon Dr Bruce Buss, whom he says, inter alia, that "Drastic cuts would have a severe impact on teaching and research programs and affect our pursuit of academic excellence, economic growth and development."

These views have been put generally to the Australian Senate in a speech by Senator Baden Teague on 30 May 1996. He is a graduate of this University and is an elected Member of our governing body, the Council of the University. Further, Senator Teague was, as we understand it, a significant contributor to the Coalition Higher Education Policy and during his eighteen years as a Senator for South Australia he has actively involved himself in education which is almost certainly the most important single factor regulating the future of Australia.

Finally, Mr Prime Minister, we submit that any reduction in Commonwealth funding for Higher Education would not be in the best interests of Australia or its people. It would lead both to a diminution of the awards handed out by our 1.5 million Alumni and the prejudicing of our collective ability to continue to attract overseas students thereby compromising the contributions that these students make to Australia both culturally and financially (presently about $2 billion annually).

Thank you for your kind consideration of these earnestly held views.

Yours sincerely,

Mr WF Sammell
President & Chancellor
Dr EH Medlin
Chair

for, and on behalf of:

Professor Sir Mark Oliphant
Vice-PATRONS
Professor Sir Geoffrey Badger
Mr C Warren Bonython
Mr David Girdler
Mr David David
Dr Barbara Hardy
Dr Ivan arrett
Dr I enny Linn
Mr Graham Spurling
Dr Winifred Wall

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Mr Simon Hall
Mr Geoff Park

VICE-PATRONS
Professor Sir Geoffrey Badger
Mr C Warren Bonython
Mr David Girdler
Mr David David
Dr Barbara Hardy
Dr Ivan arrett
Dr I enny Linn
Mr Graham Spurling
Dr Winifred Wall

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Nominations are invited for 1996 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Any member of the alumni body of the University may nominate alumni for Distinguished Alumni Awards.

Further information may be obtained from the Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association, Geoff Sauer, on telephone (08) 61 8 303 4277, or by email gsauer@registry.adelaide.edu.au.

Respectfully submitted,
EH Medlin
Adelaide moves into 21st century with 3D model

A 3D computer model of the city of Adelaide, developed by the University of Adelaide, has been released. The model features at the recent launch of the 21st century vision for the city.

The Adelaide 21 Project officially launched its report at the Art Gallery on 3 July to a packed house of South Australian dignitaries.

The report outlined Adelaide 21’s vision for the city by bringing together the ideas of learning, creative imagination, Adelaide as the gateway to South Australia, the gathering place, and the “city of light and style”.

The 3D computer model of Adelaide — the first of its kind in Australia and one of the few in the world — was showcased at the launch.

It is expected to become a widely used tool for Federal, State and local government, as well as industry.

—David Ellis

Adelaide-based Urban Ecology Australia (UEA) was at Habitat II with 10 members, “the largest delegation from Australia”, according to UEA Secretary Sharon Ede.

Ms Ede pointed out the UEA was invited to showcase the University’s Ecotour Project at Habitat II’s Best Practices Exhibition in Istanbul, and that it was “the first Australian NGO to be accredited to Habitat II”.

John Edge, Editor