**Scan Optics to develop ENT microscope**

A major grant to develop a new portable microscope for ear, nose and throat surgery has been awarded to a company based at the University of Adelaide’s Thebarton Commerce and Research Precinct.

Scan Optics, best known for its ophthalmic (eye surgery) microscopes, which are used in more than 70 countries worldwide because of their low cost, hardness and reliability, has won a grant for more than $200,000 from the Commonwealth Committee of the Industry Research and Development Board.

The money will be used to help develop a similar line of microscopes for ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery, to be used in hospitals in Third World countries as well as in consulting rooms in developed countries.

"ENT microscopes are technically more complicated than ophthalmic ones both in mechanical and optical design. The entire development project will take two years to complete, at a total cost of just over $400,000," chief executive of Scan Optics, Dr Rod Watkins, said.

The company based at the University of Adelaide and enjoys a connoisseur of science parks.

"The fact that there are strong performers included Mathematical Physics, which was awarded four grants. The awards of Bachelor of Labour Studies and Diploma of Labour Studies will be discontinued. New students in Labour Studies will enrol in a new Bachelor of Arts (Labour Studies). The special entry provisions for this course, which recognise relevant work experience, will be incorporated in an entry scheme for the BA as a whole."

In Education, the Graduate Diploma, which provides teaching qualifications to students who have completed another degree, will continue although places are expected to be reduced by the Commonwealth.

From 1997, no new students will be admitted to the Bachelor, Graduate Diploma and MA offerings in Drama Studies and Educational Theatre. However, currently enrolled students will be able to complete their courses, and, in the case of BA (Drama Studies) students, continue to Honours.

"The BA (Dance) degree will be restructured through an articulated arrangement with DETAFE, ensuring a degree course remains available in South Australia. Professor O'Kane says the changes reflect the University's focus on research, and its importance in creating a high quality environment for undergraduate teaching. Since the restructurings were announced, she has had discussions with students from Drama, Dance, Labour Studies, Education and Women's Studies, with further talks likely as the changes are introduced. She has also addressed Academic Board on the issues."

The restructuring package will enable the University to cope with the five percent cut in funding announced in the Federal Budget, while maintaining a focus on the University's competitive strengths. Approximately 100 separation packages are currently being negotiated across all Divisions and central administration.

—David Ellis

**Minimal course change following restructure**

Changes to the University of Adelaide's 220-plus courses will be minimal and only one discipline area is to be phased out under the restructuring. The University to cope with a five percent Federal Government Budget cut. Currently enrolled students will be able to complete their courses in the usual way.

Much of the restructuring is in response to Federal Government expectations that the cuts in student load should happen at postgraduate coursework level as far as possible. Negotiations with the Government on 1997 student load are continuing.

Under the restructurings, the Department of Women's Studies and Anthropology will combine to become a merged unit, while Labour Studies and Politics will amalgamate to form a single department.

"The disciplines remain, and students can expect even more from courses involving these areas in the future," Professor O'Kane said.

"The BA (Dance) degree will be restructured through an articulated arrangement with DETAFE, ensuring a degree course remains available in South Australia. Professor O'Kane says the changes reflect the University's focus on research, and its importance in creating a high quality environment for undergraduate teaching. Since the restructurings were announced, she has had discussions with students from Drama, Dance, Labour Studies, Education and Women's Studies, with further talks likely as the changes are introduced. She has also addressed Academic Board on the issues."

The restructuring package will enable the University to cope with the five percent cut in funding announced in the Federal Budget, while maintaining a focus on the University's competitive strengths. Approximately 100 separation packages are currently being negotiated across all Divisions and central administration.

—Patricia Cree

**ARC Large Grants**

Researchers at the University of Adelaide have been awarded 37 new Australian Research Council Large Grants in the latest round, worth $6.5 million over the next three years. The University has attracted two-thirds of the $10 million in Large Grant funding awarded to South Australian universities in the round announced last week.

Strong performers included Plant Science, which was awarded six grants, and Biochemistry, Physics and Mathematical Physics, which were each awarded four grants.

Full details will be included in the next edition of the Adelaidean, published on 18 November.

**INSIDE**

Commentary: architecture and computing, p.2
Annual Financial Report: Bulletin Board, p.4
Koala fingerprints and evolution, p.5
Well met

Through the current sad times of effecting changes in the wake of the Commonwealth Government's decision to cut the operating grants of all Australian universities by 5% over the next three years, there has been for me one small bright patch. That has been meeting the students who have come to see me to discuss their future and the future of the staff who teach them in the disciplines most affected. It has been a salient reminder of what bright and articulate students we have; students whose concerns and values reach beyond self-interest and encompass those of the departments in which they study and those of the University as a whole.

Meeting with our students in a time of crisis has been a new experience as has going to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore to meet a large number of our former students, our Alumni, particularly through the Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention. I was amused to discover that this Convention seemed to be almost totally organised by what is referred to in Malaysia as the Adelaide mafia, a group of powerful Malaysians who are still very attached to their old University and are keen to further its interests in the wider Asian/Australian region. It was also fascinating to meet many of our younger Alumni and see their enthusiasm for some of the exciting developments in Malaysia and also for helping their alma mater. They made me very welcome and I am deeply grateful. It was also interesting to have addressing the Convention another Adelaide graduate, Professor Victor Hoo. He has a unique history, having been identified with the would-be Adelaide mafia to their great delight.

Back at home, I was pleased to meet my old friends, the cranky pensioner, Penny, and our "Rainbow Serpent" the water python — at the Roseworthy Open Day. I have to say that our possum, who I’ve met when she was not on show, and who exhibited a truly friendly personality, was rather cross; I think for some reason she doesn’t share the University staff and students’ positive attitude towards Open Days. I was sad that the water python was not at her home and that perhaps I was too early and she’s a late riser. The grumpiness and quietness of this pair, however, was not matched by the enthusiasm of those organising and participating in the Open Day — a spectacular Fun Fair with many different stalls and detailed information available.

Speaking of animals I have met, on the facing page you'll see a photo of me with my own little lion at Spiegali House; you may observe that he looks a little apprehensive about the Federal Budget issue which she is explaining.

Mary O’Kane

True ambassadors

It was my pleasure and privilege to accompany the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, under the baton of guest conductor, Simon Tim Abbott, on its recent tour to Port Pirie, Renmark and Mount Gambier.

I can’t speak highly enough of these young students. They were formed magnificently in each of the centres with young Sally Cooper again displaying her amazing ability, performing the Mendelssohn violin concerto with effortless beauty, accompanied by a polished and committed orchestra of whom Graham Abbott (and I) were indeed very proud. They also performed the overture from The Magic Flute by Mozart and the Schumann Symphony, each work played professionally and beautifully.

The audiences in each of the centres were overwhelmingly appreciative and many compliments were extended to the players.

Personally, I was immensely proud of a true such of a wonderfull endavour and extend my congratulations to the true ambassadors of the Elder Conservatorium and university.

The tour was sponsored by the SA Country Arts Trust and the University Foundation to whom the full appreciation and gratitude of the University — the students. Congratulations to the true ambassadors of the Elder Conservatorium and university.

The newspaper of The University of Adelaide

Adelaide

John Edge

Printed by Cadac Color

The newsletter of The University of Adelaide

Julie Ryke

Layout

Deadline for the next issue is 7 November

Room G07 Mitchell Building, South Australia, 5005.
Tel: (08) 8313 5714; Fax: (08) 8323 8437; Email: jryke@registry.adelaide.edu.au
WWW: http://www.adelaide.edu.au/Adelaidean/home.html

Material may be reproduced without permission but full acknowledgement must be given to the Adelaidean.

David Ellis

Contributors

Electronic Arts

Adelaide Echoes

David Washington

Bit Streams

by Dr Rob Woodbury

Department of Architecture

In North America, where until recently, my favourite recreation was to canoe the length of a wilderness river. On such trips, confluences, the places where rivers join, held me in thrall. At such a place, streams mix, transforming each other, and a single different river flows on till the next joining. In South Australia, this is also the case, but our rivers do not sparkle fine fish in there, but they are hard to find and harder to catch. Somehow though, our students must learn the craft to take only what they need and want from the spawn.

Most of our streams have joined and now some icy confluences, so few come flowing in. With global communication, convergence and competition, in which the phrase “comparative advantage” has a harsh real meaning, but it is a skewed meaning because the tools that will enable and sustain this new world of virtual universities and international collaboration in courses and degrees are computers. Those universities that build effective computing infrastructure can come in the forefront of the race that do not must walk the banks. Good infrastructure takes time and is difficult to create in a devolved environment.

Lastly, from the sparsely populated, high mountains in the centre flows an utterly glacial brook. In this time of pressing need for more investment in information technology, the University has less money to spend. Yet, the costs of not finding the resources are high. This University, Adelaide, this State and Australia have much to gain by having in our society a large cadre of computer-savvy scientists and professionals. Conversely, we have much to lose if we offer less than what is required.

Now the new river is complete. Six confluences, six pauses for thought, and suddenly there is thunder ahead. A rapid? Or a waterfall?

What can be done? And how much time is there to do it? We have bright students who are eager and, by and large, well-prepared. We have a cascade of information technology development, some useful, some less so. Academia is responding, in its unique, critical and apparently slow way to the changes computing brings. But it is responding, at all scales, from individual staff to the body corporate. Lastly we have an increasingly market driven system with budgets insufficient in themselves to take the necessary steps, whatever they are. In my view, this University has a characteristic challenge in its environment which it serves has much to gain by both urgency and care. Urgency because time really is passing and institutions and societies are not bidding it. Care because, like in all complex issues, wise decisions must be taken to have strong and positive effects.

I could argue specifics here, but I do not feel this is the venue. I will say though that to have graduates capable in this new media requires them to have access to good computing facilities, of a higher quality and in a better venue. I will say though that to have graduates capable in this new media requires them to have access to good computing facilities, of a higher quality and in a better venue. The professional (and scholarly) working life. Now though, reliance and peer-to-peer collaboration so essential in computing is electronic. The computer challenges us to re-think the way we teach. We are confronted with a new teaching medium, and it is essential to think about its effects.

We have a cascade of information technology development, some useful, some less so. Academia is responding, in its unique, critical and apparently slow way to the changes computing brings. But it is responding, at all scales, from individual staff to the body corporate. Lastly we have an increasingly market driven system with budgets insufficient in themselves to take the necessary steps, whatever they are. In my view, this University has a characteristic challenge in its environment which it serves has much to gain by both urgency and care. Urgency because time really is passing and institutions and societies are not bidding it. Care because, like in all complex issues, wise decisions must be taken to have strong and positive effects.
New Adelaide scholarships for S·I·T twinning students

Outstanding students coming to the University of Adelaide in 1998 from its Malaysian twinning partner S·I·T (Sepang Institute of Technology) will be eligible to win one of a new series of scholarships announced recently.

The equivalent of six full-time tuition scholarships will be available to S·I·T students. The Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, announced the awarding of awards scholarships during a visit to the S·I·T Campus at Port Klang on Saturday, 19 October.

S·I·T Director and CEO, Dr Paul Chan, welcomed Senator Vanstone, whose visit included a tour of the facilities. Luncheon and some enthusiastic entertainment in the form of a Lion Dance and a choir provided by S·I·T students.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O’Kane, the Registrar and the University’s Academic Director at S·I·T, Dr Tom Kurucove, were among the officials present — it was Professor O’Kane’s first visit to S·I·T. Professor O’Kane was in Kuala Lumpur for the Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention. [See a further report in Alumni News on page 7.]

WebGenie enters the internet software market

Adelaide-based company WebGenie Software is casting a spell over internet users world wide.

After less than one year in business, WebGenie is rapidly becoming one of the world’s leading internet software development companies.

The software tools designed by WebGenie enable internet users to add new dimensions to their own web sites, whether they are individual users or large companies.

In less than a year the response to our software has been fantastic, as evidenced by the many awards we’ve received from the internet community,” he said.

Mr Anderson said WebGenie’s flagship product, CGI*Star, was selected by Microsoft as one of their recommended NT Webserver developers.

“That’s high praise indeed, from a company that’s at the top of its class in computer software,” he said.

For more information visit WebGenie’s home page (http://www.webgenie.com) or phone Tim Anderson on (08) 8303 5020.

David Ellis

Wind Ensemble première for CD

The Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble will present the world premiere of Australian composer David Stanhope’s EGBDS on 8 November at 1.00pm in Elder Hall.

EGBDS (Edward Grieg by David Stanhope) was commissioned by Robert Hower and the Ensemble for the CD they are now recording. Entitled “The Little Ripper”, the CD is the result of a quality audit grant from the University.

It will include all of the wind band works of David Stanhope, and will be released in December 1996 on the Tall Poppies label. The Ensemble’s first CD was released in 1994.

SCIENCE SCHOLARS SCHEME

School leavers who show excellence in Science will be rewarded and encouraged under a new program at the University of Adelaide.

The Science Scholars Scheme will provide students entering the University’s Bachelor of Science course with extra educational opportunities, such as special projects, advanced studies and participation in research programs.

The emphasis of the scheme is on providing a greater depth and breadth of learning and a challenge for the very able student. In some cases there may be scope for accelerated progress through the course.

An initiative of the Faculty of Science, the program will also award eligible students a $500 grant to cover study-related expenses during the first year of their Science Degree at the University.

Places in the Science Scholars Scheme are limited. To be eligible, school leavers must achieve scores of 19 or 20 in three relevant subjects (SACE, PES, or equivalent interstate or International Baccalaureate results). The closing date for applications is 17 November 1996.

For further details phone the Science Office on (08) 8303 5673.

PHYSICS WORKSHOP

Physicists from around the world have convened on the University of Adelaide for a workshop on theoretical physics.

The Topical Workshop on Neutrino Physics, at the University’s Institute for Theoretical Physics, began on 31 October and runs until Wednesday, 6 November. Participants include experts from Japan, Italy, Switzerland and the United States, as well as Australia.

As part of the workshop Dr Boris Kayser, from the National Science Foundation in Washington, will give a public lecture on Monday, 4 November in the Flentje Lecture Theatre at 7.30pm.

For further details phone the Institute for Theoretical Physics: (08) 8303 3533.

PROJECT EXHIBITION

Mechanical Engineering students will present their inventive ideas at a one-day exhibition for the University and the public on Friday and Saturday, 8-9 November.

This year’s annual Project Exhibition showcases the best mechanical engineering projects by third and fourth-year students, and includes working displays as well as passive exhibits.

A rough-terrain wheelchair, motorised snowboard, orbital vehicle, laser scanning system and computer models are all features of the exhibition.

The display will be held in the Holden Laboratory, Engineering South Building, and goes on show at 11.00am on Friday, 8 November. Prizes for the best projects will be awarded at 4.30pm.

The exhibition, sponsored by Mobil Refining Pty Ltd and the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing, will continue until 1.00pm on Saturday, 9 November.

THE ROBIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

The News

THE ROBIN MEMORIAL LECTURE will be given in Napier Theatre 102 Napier Building, North Terrace

by His Excellency Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO Governor of South Australia

Title of address: Engineering, at the Crossroads?

Monday 4 November 1996

5.30pm for 6pm sharp commencement of proceedings

Enquiries 8303 5135

PAGE 3
Link projects build music profile

A specially built theatre made entirely of pillars of empty champagne bottles was the unique setting for Alma, an opera based on the life and many loves of Alma Mahler which was one of the attractions at this year’s Barossa Music Festival.

Alma is one of two projects developed recently by Faculty of Performing Arts senior lecturer Grahame Dudley, and supported financially by the Barossa Festival, the State Department of the Arts, and the University’s Quality Audit Fund.

The opera was composed by the Kidney Art Ensemble, which Grahame Dudley leads, and performed by a mix of academic staff, students and professional composer/performers from the Elder Conservatorium and the Department of Music Studies. Kidney Art Ensemble was also responsible for the musical score to the Adelaide Festival hit, Excavations, earlier this year.

Grahame Dudley’s second project is entitled New Works; this will be performed in the Space Theatre at the Adelaide Festival Centre on 22/23 November. The program includes a new ‘rap cantata’ (Fish Factory) by masters degree student Patrina Newsome, which has been composed for the combined talents of the Conservatorium chamber choir, Pro Canto, and the Elder New Music Ensemble.

The major work on the program will be Philip Glass’s Madrigal Opera, which received its Australian premiere in the Madley Dance Space in August, under the direction of Grahame Dudley and Frank Ford.

US honour to Adelaide weed scientist

Associate Professor Stephen Powles, Director of the CRC for Weed Management Systems at the University of Adelaide, has become the first Australian to win a coveted Honorary Member Award from the Weeds Science Society of America.

The award is made annually to only one individual from outside North America who has made a major contribution to weed science. It was announced at the recent GRDC Australian Weeds Conference in Melbourne.

Dr Powles said he believed his award was in recognition of the leading role Australian weed scientists have taken in research into herbicide resistance.

“The CRC for Weed Management Systems in Adelaide has earned an international reputation for work in herbicide resistance,” he said.

“Australia has one of the world’s biggest resistance problems due primarily to ryegrass, which has the potential to develop multiple resistance to a number of herbicides if farmers and land managers do not correctly manage chemical use.”

With weeds costing Australian producers an estimated $3 billion per year, the work of the CRC has a direct financial benefit to producers through the provision of state-of-the-art integrated weed management systems. These systems will effectively lower weed densities, decrease the use of control inputs and provide greater reliability of control procedures — resulting in enhanced competitive- ness, higher grain quality and reduced environmental damage.

Dr Powles will travel to the United States early next year to be presented with his Honorary Member award in Orlando, Florida at the Weeds Science Society of America Annual Conference, where he will also deliver a lecture.

Boris, Bruce and the Water Suite

Also new this month is Water Suite, a composition by Elder Conservatorium masters student Jim McCarthy for two percussionists and an eight member chamber ensemble which will be premiered in Elder Hall on 25 November.

Featuring 85 percussion instruments and performed by Jim McCarthy and fellow masters student Kevin Tuck, Water Suite chronicles the journey of rain from its creation to the ocean in seven movements.

Jim McCarthy describes the work as a “cross-pollination of styles of music.”

“It’s essentially a theatrical piece, half rock concert and half serious recital, with a commercial edge,” he said.

The recital will provide a rare opportunity to see and hear Boris and Bruce, two monster marimbas created by Jim McCarthy, which are reputed to be the world’s lowest-pitched marimbas.

Joining Boris and Bruce and the usual percussion set-up of vibraphones, xylophones and drums are some more unusual items including fire extinguishers, car brake drums, circular saw blades and champagne glasses.

A scene from Alma, with Catriona Barr as Alma and Nick Bishop playing painter Oskar Kokoschka. Photo: Oliver Dudley.
Koala fingerprints offer clue to evolution

New research at the University of Adelaide has uncovered an unusual link between humans and koalas — they both have fingerprints.

Although the existence of human-like fingerprints on the hands and feet of monkeys and apes (and a few other mammals) has been known for decades, this is the first time such skin patterns, known as dermatoglyphs, have been discovered on koalas.

The koala fingerprints were first noticed in February this year by the University's Wood Jones Professor of Anthropological and Comparative Anatomy, Professor Maciej Henneberg. He and his wife were touring the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Victor Harbor, south of Adelaide.

"We looked at the koalas' behaviour in the trees and we realised that the way the koalas used their hands and grasped branches resembled that of monkeys and apes," Professor Henneberg said.

"Since we were allowed to handle the koalas I inspected the foot of one of them, and there on its big toe, which is like a human's thumb, were dermal ridges similar to human ones."

Even more interesting was the arrangement of the koala's skin ridges — in a "looping" pattern, much the same as human fingerprints, which contain loops, whorls, arches and so on.

Professor Henneberg, who has had a long-standing research interest in human fingerprints and is also a forensic scientist, believed the discovery deserved further attention.

In April he and researchers Ms Kassie Lambert and Mr Chris Leigh (Department of Anatomy and Histology) began studying koala fingerprints. They used the same fingerprinting methods used by police and also studied the fingerprints with electron microscopy, with both techniques yielding some interesting results.

The research found that although the fingerprints of chimpanzees resemble those of humans, because of hand size and shape, the skin ridges on chimps' hands are much finer and do not contain loops. However, koala fingerprints do contain loops, and the width of the skin ridges is almost the same as that of humans.

But the question is: why?

Professor Henneberg said hopefully this discovery will go some way to helping answer that question.

"The actual function of dermatoglyphs, the reason why we have these skin ridges on our hands, is still being debated," he said.

"Although every police officer uses fingerprinting, and although everyone knows about fingerprints, we are really uncertain as to their exact function.

"So the real importance of this work lies in the understanding of evolution and evolutionary adaptations."

Professor Henneberg said koalas, being marsupials, evolved in separation from primates for about 80 million years. But he said the fingerprints on hands and feet are similar for primates and koalas because they serve a similar function — the need to grasp objects.

"This is becoming an interesting issue in debates about how evolution progressed, because it tells us that perhaps we can start predicting certain things about evolution. That if an animal has mammalian skin, it has to grasp a lot of objects during its life, it will develop skin ridges such as fingerprints," he said.

"That challenges the currently prevailing view of evolution, which says that evolution is a series of changes in organisms through time that is largely due to chance, and then a bit modelled by natural selection."

"Instead, this supports the view that evolution, although a natural phenomenon, may have some rules, some direction," he said.

Professor Henneberg said this discovery could also have implications for forensic science in Australia.

"Although very unlikely, police should know that there may be situations in forensic cases where koalas could leave fingerprints," he said.

"It is sometimes difficult to match a set of partial prints from a crime scene, and the presence of koala fingerprints could be misleading to the investigating officers.

"So for forensic science it's of general interest to warn police that, in Australian situations, koalas may leave fingerprints."

A paper on koala fingerprints was presented by Ms Kassie Lambert at this year's 13th Australian and New Zealand International Symposium on the Forensic Sciences in Sydney.

Research into this area is continuing, with Ms Lambert due to commence a larger project next year, while the possible fingerprints of other Australian animals are being studied by the year Science student Mr Matt Holmes.

—David Ellis

Israeli visit — promoting SA's role in dryland farming

The University of Adelaide's Department of Agricultural Business and the Australia Israel Chamber of Commerce recently organised a visit by twelve farmers and academics which it is hoped may boost international research links and enhance South Australia's position as a leader in dryland farming systems.

The one-month visit by members of the Israel Association of Field Crop Growers included comprehensive tours of farms and industry groups throughout Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

In SA the group visited several grain-growing properties, as well as the University's Waite and Roseworthy campuses, where they inspected pasture seed trials, and agronomy and cereal research.

Head of the Department of Agricultural Business, Dr Hugh McEldain, said the trip was very successful.

"The group has a particular interest in dryland farming and cereal cropping, especially as their Mediterranean climate is very similar to ours," Dr McEldain said.

"Although they have very different land ownership and land management practices, they were very impressed with what they saw, in particular ley farming techniques."

State MP for Light, Malcolm Buckby (representing the Minister for Primary Industries) met the group at Roseworthy Campus.

—Elizabeth Butler
Supervisor of the Year

Dr Susan Carthew (pictured left) from the Department of Environmental Science and Management has received the 1996 "Supervisor of the Year Award" from the University of Adelaide’s Postgraduate Students Association.

The award allows postgraduate students to nominate their supervisors, publicly recognising and thanking them for their outstanding work and support.

Dr Carthew is a senior lecturer in ecology and conservation biology, who supervises nine postgraduate students. She started work at Roseworthy in 1990, one year before the completion of the University of Adelaide.

"Susan is easy to relate to, very approachable and is always available to help or offer advice," said PhD student Ms Jo Chivell, who nominated Dr Carthew for the award.

"She’s a great supervisor to have, especially while battling through a PhD, and I’m pleased that she was chosen as the Supervisor of the Year."

Dr Carthew said she was "amazed but honoured" to have received the award.

"It really was a nice surprise, and it’s good to know that your work is being appreciated by students and others," Dr Carthew said.

As well as the award to Dr Carthew, two other supervisors were given Honourable Mentions. They were Professor Ernie Tuck from the Department of Applied Mathematics (North Terrace Campus) and Professor Sally Smith from the Department of Soil Science (Waite Campus).

—David Ellis

Photo courtesy of Environmental Science & Management.

New Enrolment Procedures for Continuing Students

The University of Adelaide is implementing an ‘Early Enrolments’ pilot scheme this year for continuing students in specified courses in the Faculties of Arts, Dentistry and Law.

This pilot scheme is part of the ongoing program by the University to upgrade its services to students and is designed to make the enrolment program more client-oriented and a more efficient and less time-consuming process.

The courses involved in the pilot scheme are:

- Arts: All internal students
- Dentistry: B.D.S.
- Law: LL.B. and LL.B. (Honours)

Continuing students in all other courses will enrol in the usual way in January.

Students involved in the Early Enrolments pilot program have an Enrolment Information Guide posted to them. To aid in this process, it is essential that students’ address details are up to date. Participants seeking further information or elucidation may visit their Faculty Office or the Student Information Office prior to the Enrolment period noted in the Information Guide.

The Faculties of Law and Dentistry have now completed the first step in the Enrolment Process, with students having lodged their 1997 enrolment forms. The Arts Faculty, the largest in the University, will enrol continuing students in the week commencing 2 December.

The aim of the new procedure is to significantly streamline the enrolment process, reducing the time students spend on campus during enrolments and removing much of the stress and frustration faced by students and staff alike.

The response from students so far has been positive and it is hoped that continued feedback will assist in further improvements to the Enrolment Process.

The University of Adelaide team behind the recently launched company Optimatics Pty Ltd (Adelaide) won page 1 of a High Commendation in the AWWA South Australian Water Awards, announced on 24 October.

The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s Dr Angus Simpson, Associate Professor John Dandy, and their postgraduate student Mr Laurie Murphy (now a design engineer with Optimatics) were commended for their development and application of the genetic algorithm technique to pipe network optimisation.

The technique has consistently proven more effective than other methods in identifying lower cost design options for pipe networks. It has shown savings of up to 49% of the cost of water distribution systems when compared with systems designed by experienced engineers.

The group has recently been undertaking a consultancy to optimise the design of a pipe network in the south western corner of Las Vegas.

The Australian Waste and Water Association’s annual awards recognise outstanding contributions to water affairs.

The Minister for Infrastructure, the Hon. John Olsen, presented the awards at the Annual Dinner associated with the AWWA South Australian Regional Conference held in conjunction with National Water Week.

—John Edge

Leading Spanish scientist in Adelaide

The Department of Geology and Geophysics is hosting a visit this month from Professor Puri Fennoll Hach-Ali of the Department of Mineralogy and Petrology of the University of Granada in Spain.

Professor Fennoll, who is in Adelaide under the Faculty of Science Distinguished Visiting Scholars Scheme, is one of Spain’s leading earth scientists, with an international reputation in the field of mineralogy and geochemistry of ore deposits.

While in Adelaide, she is contributing to the ore deposits research program in the Department of Geology and Geophysics. In particular, she is continuing her collaborative research with Reader in Economic Geology, Dr Ross Bath, on ore deposits in southern Spain.

Professor Fennoll held appointments at Bilbao and Salamanca before taking up her post at the University of Granada, where she has been Catedrática (equivalent to our Professor) since 1983. She is an active worker for the earth sciences profession and is always in demand to serve on national committees and appointment committees for other universities in Spain.

Acting Dean of Science, Professor Caroline McMullen, said that, although women were now well represented in the various disciplines of science in Spain, this was not the case until relatively recently.

"Professor Fennoll was one of the first women academics to achieve recognition in geology and is an outstanding role model for female students in her country," Professor McMullen said.

Professor Fennoll has just completed a term of several years as President of the Sociedad Española de Mineralogía. Another of her recent activities has been that of Executive Secretary of the newly-formed Universidad Eurorarabe; this is based in Granada and seeks to strengthen academic links between European universities and those in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

Professor Fennoll will give a public seminar in the Mason Lecture Theatre on Wednesday 6 November at 1.10pm (see Coming Events for details).

SA water award for Optimatics team

The President of the Postgraduate Students’ Association, Mr Simon Hall, said the annual award was intended to encourage the highest quality of supervision for our postgraduates. This year the quality of the nominees was exceptional, and we expect to see that continue over the years," he said.

As well as the award to Dr Carthew, two other supervisors were given Honourable Mentions. They were Professor Ernie Tuck from the Department of Applied Mathematics (North Terrace Campus) and Professor Sally Smith from the Department of Soil Science (Waite Campus).

—David Ellis

Photo courtesy of Environmental Science & Management.
malaysian Convention draws a broad cross-section together

The Annual Dinner of Adelaide Alumni (Kuala Lumpur) Bhd was held in conjunction with the Convention record number of some 150 Adelaide alumni attended the function at the Kuala Lumpur Golf and Country Club.

For the evening was Chapter President Ir Chris Chong Chow Pang (BE 61) and he welcomed Australian High Commissioner, HE Mr Bill Farmer.

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni at KL dinner —Geoff Sauer

Singapore C chapter hosts combined function

Dr Robert Klein, a pioneer in the development of artificial limbs, died recently at the age of 82.

Dr Klein graduated MBBS in the University of Adelaide in 1939 and worked at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as surgical registrar following service in World War II.

A specialist in rehabilitation medicine, he was a driving force in the growth of plastic surgery in Australia, founding the Australian Plastic Surgery Society in 1952, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics in Australia in 1971, and later establishing the Lincoln School, now the National Centre for prosthetics and orthotics at La Trobe University.

Dr Klein was elected an MBE in 1967.

Mutual Community

The special offer made by Mutual Community to alumni of the University continues to be extended to members of the staff.

A special mailing has been undertaken in the expectation that further information is required please contact Geoff Sauer at the Alumni Office. Please note that no names and addresses have been provided to Mutual Community for this mailing nor will they be in the future.

All revenue derived from the program is to be used for the benefit of the University.

Cornell AGM/Dinner

Members of the Cornell (Arts and Performing Arts) Chapter are reminded that the Chapter’s Annual Dinner will be held at St Mark’s College on Thursday 14 November, following the Annual General Meeting.

This year’s guest speaker will be the acclaimed performer and director Robyn Archer, Director of the next Adelaide Festival.

The AGM will take place at 6.30pm, followed by the dinner at 7.00 pm.

The Annual General Meeting will be preceded; please bring your own table wines. $35 per person. Bookings: telephone 8303 4275.

Science Chapter Lecture

On Friday 15 November, Associate Professor Victor Gostin will deliver the third Science Chapter Lecture for 1996.

His topic will be “The Geology of Mars”. This year’s third Science Chapter Lecture Lecture for 1996 —Adrienne Eccles

SRC proved an important training ground for yesterday’s students

The Chair of the Alumni Association, Harry Medlin and the Director, Alumni Relations attended the recent Malaysian Australian University Alumni Convention in Kuala Lumpur.

Patron of the Convention was Malaysia Australia Foundation Chairman, DPTSH Dr Abdul Taib Mahmud (LLB 61, DNiv 94) and Chair of the Convention Steering Committee was Dato’ Dato’ Khong Soon Poong, President of the Australasian alumnus, Dato’ Lee Yee Cheong (BE 61) who oversaw the coming to fruition of an idea that came from a proposal he made in Adelaide in October 1995 during the Annual Meeting of the Australian University Alumni Council.

Keynote speakers at the Convention included Malaysia Prime Minister Dr Mahathir, Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer and Education Minister Amanda Vanstone (BA 81, LLB 83). Session leaders and panelists included a broad cross-section of Malaysian and Australian educationists, business and government leaders.

It is highly likely a reciprocal Convention will be held in two or three years in Adelaide under the umbrella of a number of organisations.

The major political input to the Convention has been reported extensively in the media both in Australia and in Malaysia.

—Geoff Sauer

VC meets Adelaide alumni at KL dinner

The Adelaide Chapter of Australian Alumni had hosted a successful dinner and seminar on Wednesday 16 October, to which alumni of the three South Australian universities were invited.

Some 60 alumni, mainly of the University of Adelaide, attended and after a buffet-style meal heard Alumni Chair Harry Medlin, Flanders University Vice-Chancellor Ian Chubb and University of SA International Projects Manager Bob Koehe speak about various aspects of the future of higher education in South Australia for international students. A lively question and answer session followed.

—Geoff Sauer

—Geoff Sauer

most sincerely for a great job.

This was the first time that the three universities had combined for an alumni function off-shore and it proved most successful.

Much goodwill was generated and there is a great possibility of further cooperation between the universities and their alumni.

—Geoff Sauer
1997 Rhodes Scholar: ‘it’s a very exciting opportunity’

Rhodes Scholars are chosen for their academic excellence and their contributions to sport and community service. Mr Roddger gained a Bachelor of Economics degree in 1992, and a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1995. He is now completing Honours in Law and is currently an associate to Justice Mathison of the Supreme Court.

During his years at the University he has played an active role as president of the Students’ Association, president of the Adelaide University Union, and as a member of the board and co-convenor of the Finance Committee.

Mr Roddger has distinguished himself in a variety of sports, in particular football and kayaking. He played first-grade amateur football for St Peter’s Old Collegians, St Mark’s College and for the University of Adelaide, and was a member of the All-Australian University Hockey Team for 1992. This year he was also part of South Australia’s winning team in a 24-hour canoe marathon.

Mr Roddger said it was a “great honour” to be awarded the Rhodes Scholarship, which pays for tuition and travel expenses, as well as providing a generous stipend for living expenses.

“It’s a very exciting opportunity. I feel it would have taken me a little longer to study overseas, and the Scholarship will give me the opportunity to do that. I am already looking forward to studying at Oxford,” he said.

While at Oxford Mr Roddger will study for two years for a Bachelor of Civil Law degree, the equivalent of a Master of Law in Australia.

His study will focus on the interaction between the British common law system as it applies in Australia, and the European Union.

Mr Roddger is the fourth and latest in a long line of Rhodes Scholars to have come from the University of Adelaide.

The 1996 South Australian recipient, Ms Natalie Olesnicky, last year completed Honours in Genetics at the University of Adelaide. She left for Oxford in September to begin her DPhil (equivalent of a PhD).

—David Ellis

Economics/Law graduate Anthony Roddger, South Australia’s latest Rhodes Scholar.

University of Adelaide Law student Anthony Roddger has been named South Australia’s Rhodes Scholar for 1997. The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the world’s most prestigious, enabling recipients to study at Oxford University in England.

The scholarships are awarded to students in countries throughout Asia, North America, Africa and Europe, with nine Rhodes Scholars awarded each year in Australia.

Rhodes Scholars are chosen for their academic excellence and their contributions to sport and community service.