Success maintained in latest grants round

The University of Adelaide has topped the nation in funding per staff member in the latest round of Australian Research Council Large Grants.

The University was sixth in dollar terms but was the clear national leader for earnings per academic staff, attracting a total of $2.28 million for 37 new grants for next year.

The University also attracted a prestigious Special Investigator Award, jointly awarded to Professor Robert Saint and Dr Helena Richardson in the Department of Physics. The total value of the Large Grants over the next three years to the University of Adelaide is $6.5 million. The University was awarded 37 out of 58 Large Grants made to South Australia.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, who is also the Chair of the ARC's Research Grants Committee, said she was pleased with the quality of grant applications nationally.

She was particularly pleased to note that the new arrangements in having partner chief investigators from overseas and agencies (such as CSIRO) had worked well.

She said that in South Australia there were several examples of chief investigators (the principle holder of the grant) having arrangements with researchers overseas and in other agencies.

"I am delighted with the University of Adelaide's performance, and I am also pleased with the performance of the other two universities in South Australia," she said.

"Research grants such as these are an important driver of knowledge-based industries in this State."

Professor Saint and Dr Richardson were awarded the Special Investigator Award, worth $680,000 over three years, for their groundbreaking work on how genes function and control cell proliferation during animal development.

A century ago Adelaide University (Professor Sir William Henry Bragg, the first Nobel Laureate in Physics) pioneered the use of X-rays to peer at atoms.

"Since the ancient Greek philosophers conjectured that everything is made of atoms, scientists have been struggling to identify the smallest units of matter," Professor Thomas said.

"A century ago Adelaide University's William Bragg (the first Nobel Laureate in Physics) pioneered the use of X-rays to peer at atoms.

"Today, giant accelerator machines, some larger than cities, can probe deep inside the atom, exposing the fundamental particles and forces that make up the physical world."

The Australian Research Council (ARC) announced it would provide $3.6 million to fund the Centre for High Energy Physics and Theoretical Physics.

Professor Thomas said the Centre would focus on the way that the fundamental constituents of matter, known as quarks and gluons, are combined to make up protons, neutrons and atomic nuclei.

"As yet, there was no satisfactory understanding of the structure of these particles, known as hadronic matter. However, most visible matter in the universe is made up of hadrons. Sun and nuclear reactors are all powered by energy released in reactions involving hadrons."

Professor Thomas said the latest mathematical and computational techniques would be brought to bear on this cornerstone of the ultimate goal of a unifying "Theory of Everything."

Professor Thomas said the Centre would provide researchers in Adelaide with direct links to research conducted at international laboratories with facilities which aren't to be found in Australia, "Professor O'Kane said.

"The Centre will also contribute to the nation's knowledge base in high performance computing and information technology, as well as mathematics and theoretical physics."

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(A more detailed account of their work will be published in the next edition of the Adelaidean.)

Large Grant winners were across all disciplines and included such diverse topics as:

- Avoiding manganese stress in barley: Molecular genetics to probe manganese efficiency (Professor Robin Graham and Dr Susan Barker, Department of Plant Science)
- Tampering with the biological clock: The impact of perinatal drug administration (Dr David Kerinaway, Obstetrics and Gynaecology)
- Australian forest policy: Conflicts, politics and illusive resolutions (Professor Doug MCEachern, Department of Politics)
- Luminescence dating on a million year time-scale (Emeritus Professor John Prescott and Dr Gillian Robertson (Physics and Mathematical Physics) and Professor D.J. Huntley (Simon Fraser University)."

In other research news, the University was awarded just over $2.5 million worth of grants and fellowships for 1997 from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), slightly up on last year.

University researchers were awarded 23 grants from the NHMRC for projects and equipment.

The University of Adelaide also won seven ARC Fellowships for 1997, worth nearly half a million dollars. The new Fellowships were awarded to researchers in the faculties of Science, Art, Mathematics and Computer Science, and Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences.

The University was awarded seven Australian Postgraduate Award (Industry) scholarships.

A full list of grant and fellowship recipients will be published in the 2 December issue of the Adelaidean.

—David Washington

Above: "Dog of Darkness", an etching by Barbara Hanrahan from her second printmaking phase, after 1975, and featuring a family theme. It is one of a group purchased by the University recently. Reproduced by kind permission of Susan Sideris, Kensington Gallery. See story on page 8.
Being centred

Congratulations to Tony Thomas, Tony Williams and Graeme Hugo in Physics for their magnificent achievement in securing one of the eight Special Research Centres announced by Minister Varstone on Wednesday.

For the University this is also an achievement in facility management. We now have the target set in the research management plan of two new Commonwealth funded centres in the period 1995-97. In Graeme Hugo and his team were awarded the Key Centre in Social Applications of Computer Science and now the two Tonys have secured the new Centre for Investigating the Subatomic Structure of Nature.

Of course it is highly possible that we will exceed our target for new Commonwealth funded centres as we are soon to be interviewed for four proposals shortlisted in the current Cooperative Research Centre round. There are new proposals in Molecular Plant Breeding and International Nutrition, and applications for the extension of existing Centres in Australian Petroleum and Tissue Growth and Repair. A great deal of detailed planning and review has occurred prior to these preparations for these critical interviews.

This University has pursued a policy of attracting Centre funding and is now a core partner in eleven Cooperative Research Centres, two Special Research Centres, one Key Centre for Teaching and Research in Information Engineering. This strong emphasis on centres not only reflects our excellent research capability but also highlights the desirability of achieving long term funding for areas of research concentration.

Now we have a problem that we can indeed attract centres we need to examine whether we are using them to best advantage. This involves teaching and research. We looked at this issue in our submission to the Review of the CRC program and concluded that Research Centres provide excellent research training at the postgraduate and the undergraduate level. They enable students to work in a well-staffed research environment in which to work and introduce them to the University's research partners in industry and other public sector research organisations. Industry tells us that it particularly values people trained in these centres.

However we may have been slower to connect research centre activities with our more general educational activities. There is one spectacular example of our success in this area and that is the Wool Technology Foundation which is run under the auspices of the CRC for Premium Quality Wool and which has been praised by the Minister several times recently. I believe we need to look more closely at engaging Commonwealth-funded research centres in our teaching programs.

Another development which we have embraced in the bid for a CRC for International Nutrition, is the involvement of international partners; we already have Malaysian and Indonesian partners and are looking for a Swedish partner. These centres are one of our best ways of building strong international links.

In short, it's time to look more closely at the nature of the "ideal centre" for the University of Adelaide.
New Division Heads appointed

The University of Adelaide has appointed two new Division Heads to lead its education and research into the next century.

Professor Judith Brine has been appointed Head of PALACE (the Division of Performing Arts, Law, Architecture & Urban Design, Economics & Commerce), while Professor Malcolm Oades is the new head of the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

Professor Oades has spent more than 30 years teaching and researching at the University of Adelaide.

A distinguished soil scientist, he has been the acting head of the Division of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences since January this year.

With his new appointments as Division Head and as Director of the prestigious Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Professor Oades is leading the largest and most successful agricultural research complex in Australia.

The Waite Campus is home to four Cooperative Research Centres – Soil and Land Management, Viticulture, Weed Management Systems, and Premium Quality Wool – collaborating with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), the CSIRO, and the Australian Wine Research Institute.

Professor Oades said high-quality education and research would play a major role in ensuring agriculture was sustainable both economically and ecologically in the next century.

“The challenges for rural industries are to prosper with a changing environment, to produce 'clean green' food and fibre in a manner which does not decrease the quality of our environment,” Professor Oades said.

“To succeed, rural industries require the strongest scientific and technological support possible, including well-informed and able graduates, to support production and environmental protection.”

Research in the Division is strongly supported with numerous large Australian Research Council (ARC) grants and a Special Research Centre. Professor Oades was recently awarded an ARC large grant of $196,000 over three years to conduct research into the retention of organic matter in soils.

“The strong research ethos in our Division spills over into teaching, where we prepare our students for the challenges ahead in terms of production, sustainability and the health and safety of our men and women working in an industry that is very far from being 'blue collar' or overseas,” Professor Oades said.

Professor Judith Brine spent 16 years with the University of Adelaide’s Faculty of Architecture and Planning during which she was Head of Department and Dean of the Faculty. In 1987 she became the first PhD graduate from the Faculty, and two years later Professor Brine took up a position as head of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Canberra, where she is currently Dean of the Faculty.

The University of Adelaide’s Division of Performing Arts, Law, Architecture & Urban Design, Economics & Commerce is one of its largest, comprising about 3,500 students and 100 academic staff.

Professor Brine said she was looking forward to the challenge of taking on a Division which had such a diverse range of interests.

“I’m very interested in the whole discipline mix involved in PALACE. I’ve always had a design faculty background, but I think I’ll enjoy dealing with the other faculties, such as Law and Economics and Commerce, which seem to have very natural connections.

“In the work I’ve been doing outside of university has been business related, so I’ve got a rather good business background. This will also give me the chance to delve more into areas such as Law and the Performing Arts,” she said.

Professor Brine said she hoped PALACE would further develop what she described as its “public face.”

“All of the Faculties that make up PALACE are involved in work connected with the outside community, and I find that particularly interesting because I like to explore the research going on in the university. The University of Adelaide is nicely placed for that,” she said.

“There’s something very pleasant about coming back to Adelaide. I always liked working here, and I always enjoyed the high academic standard of the staff and students. It’s lovely to see people that I haven’t seen for some years, and I’m looking forward to working with them again.”

—Patricia Cree & David Ellis

Top management academic visits

A leading international expert in the field of cross-cultural and comparative management is visiting the Adelaide Graduate Business School this week.

Professor Geert Hofstede is Emeritus Professor of the University of Limburg and Tilbert University in the Netherlands, and founder and director of the Institute for Research on InterCultural Co-operation (IRIC). His work provides a systematic framework for examining the impact of national culture on management practices and his landmark 1980 study, “Culture’s Consequences: International Differences in Work Related Values,” has been translated into many different languages and remains a best seller.

Professor Hofstede is in Australia as the Distinguished Guest Speaker at the 1996 ANZAM (Australian and New Zealand Academy of Management) Conference, and as Emeritus Visiting Professor at RMIT in Melbourne.

While in Adelaide, Professor Hofstede will present a dinner speech to the University of Adelaide’s MBA Society on Thursday 22 November, and a seminar on “Current Issues in Cross-Cultural Research” at the Adelaide Graduate Business School on Friday 23 November at 3pm. Contact Dr Laubie Li for details (tel 8303 4584, fax 8223 4782, email: lii@cconomics.adelaide.edu.au).

ARTS APPOINTMENTS

Dr Anita Donaldson, Dean of Performing Arts, has been appointed as a Trustee of the Adelaide Festival Centre Trust. This is a statutory appointment, and Dr Donaldson is the sole Trustee to come from the academic arena.

Professor Donaldson is visiting the Festival Centre’s board in the state, Dr Donaldson said.

“Working for the Centre, I put my skills and knowledge to work in the many areas of responsibility undertaken by the Trust — including the Festival Centre’s carparks and restaurants — and at the same time learning about all the ins and outs of this important organization.”

Dr Donaldson has also been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Australian Science and Technology Industr (ASCIbITE) at the University of Adelaide on Monday 2 December.

The University of South Australia’s city campus, the three-day conference focuses on the use of informatics in teaching and research connections, socially, internationally and professionally.

Two of the speakers, who bring a wealth of experience in the field, are Dr Lynn Zémer from Australia, Dr Carol MacIntosh from the United States, Professor Stephen Brown from the UK, and Dr Frank Voon from Singapore.

The 1996 ASCITE awards for exemplary use of electronic technologies in teaching and learning in tertiary education will be presented at the conference dinner.

The ASCITE website can be accessed at: http://www.netspot.unisa.edu.au/ascitebite

CHEMeca 96 AWARDS

University of Adelaide Chemical Engineering staff and students were among the winners of nine awards presented at the 1996 ASCITE conference in Melbourne.

Their paper described the scale-up of a bioprocessing plant to produce wheat germ protein, and their paper was described at the conference.

The shedden Uhde Medal and Prize for the country’s leading young (under 40) chemical engineer was won by Dr Simon McCracken from the University of Melbourne.

Dr McCracken’s paper on “Potential Applications in Wound Repair” was presented at the conference.

The Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) conference is held in Sydney.

The Premier, Mr Dean Brown, will open the thirteenth annual conference of the Australian Society for Computers in Learning in Tertiary Education (ASCILITE) in Melbourne on Monday 2 December.

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Laptops to be routine for Mechanical Engineering students

Computers are no longer an optional extra for today’s university students; in many disciplines, such as engineering, they are an essential part of the infrastructure of learning. Departments now routinely provide expensive computer suites for their students, and a majority of students purchase computers for home use. But how do you ensure that the software on home computers is compatible with packages used on campus? And what about equity in the use of computers by students who simply can’t afford a home computer?

The University of Adelaide’s Department of Mechanical Engineering has taken a lateral approach to these questions with a pilot scheme which it hopes will eventually provide each student in the Department with his or her own laptop computer — to use on campus, in the field, and at home.

The scheme (approved by Senior Management last month) involves the Department organising a bulk purchase of laptop computers, and acting as guarantor for a student rent-to-own arrangement. Students will be able to obtain a laptop by two means — direct purchase (at a significant saving because of the bulk order), or through the rent-to-own scheme. The Department has also negotiated an arrangement whereby one laptop will be donated by the vendor for every ten units sold through the scheme. These computers will then be loaned to students — rather like a reserve book collection in a library — which will be made available to those students who cannot afford the direct purchase or the rental/purchase options.

Toshiba, which has already been involved in similar schemes in some South Australian secondary schools, has been chosen to provide the laptops through Ledin Pty Ltd, its educational seller in SA, who will also arrange training for students.

The base unit is a Pentium-based IBM-Compaq with 16 Mb of RAM, 800 Mb of hard disk, a passive colour monitor, a PCMCIA Ethernet card, and a suite of common software.

The upfront cost of this package will be approximately $3000, and each unit comes with an insurance package and extended warranty cover. Upgrades such as additional RAM, an active colour display and accessories will be possible.

Under the rent to own scheme, the Department will enter into a fixed-term rental arrangement with an external funding company, Equico, and then on-rent the computers to the students. Equico will administer the scheme and collect student payments — expected to be around $1100 monthly (including insurance and warranty) based on a 36 month loan period. At the end of the rental period, the laptops will be offered to the students for a nominal fee.

Students can enter the scheme in the second semester of their first year. After they have had time to be sure Mechanical Engineering is their career, the Department expects 50 to be the upper limit entering the rental/purchase scheme each year, and has been given permission to underwrite the scheme for the cohort entering second year in 1997. To maximise the initial bulk order — now being set up for the start of 1997 teaching — all engineering staff and students can participate in the direct purchase arrangement. However, the Departmental financing option is available only to Mechanical Engineering students.

Mechanical Engineering’s Dr Scott Snyder said that with 75% of the Department’s students purchasing or having access to a home computer by the time they finished their degree, there was considerable inequity in the system in respect of the one in four who could not.

“With this scheme, we can offer better value for money to those making an up-front purchase, better financing for those who can afford the rental option, while the donated computers ensure we can help those who absolutely can’t afford their own computers,” Dr Snyder said. “Basically, we’re trying to improve the quality of education for all students — by optimising the existing practice of home purchase by the majority.”

With their suite of common software, the laptops can be used in a variety of situations without needing to plug into the University network. However, the Department will also spend around $30,000 to provide appropriate campus infrastructure for network access — fitting a large room on the third floor of the Engineering building with bench space and chairs, Ethernet connections and power for 50 laptops, printing facilities, a desktop computer with scanner and CD-ROM drive.

It will also install lockers where students can store their laptops when not in use, and a video surveillance system.

“I expect these laptops will form a loan pool — rather like a small library — for students to use when their own computer is not in use, and a video surveillance system,” Dr Snyder said.

Dr Snyder expects Mechanical Engineering’s initiative — which is a pilot for the Faculty of Engineering and a first for a major University — to be of interest to other faculties with a strong computing focus. The scheme will be reviewed in mid-1997, after the laptops have been in use for one semester.

Innovative student design projects go on show

The carbon-framed mountain bike pictured above won its design category at the University of Adelaide’s Department of Mechanical Engineering’s annual poster exhibition, where students showcased their talents during a two-day project exhibition.

The exhibition ranged from poster displays to actual working models. The mountain bike won its design category, fourth-year students David Evans and Paul Johnson, the Meditex Prize for Innovation.

The aim of the project was to apply research they had done into composites to the design and construction of a carbon composite-framed mountain bike.

Other first-prize winners in different categories were fourth-year students Billy Palar and John Rohrsheim. Their project aimed to improve the effectiveness of a submarine sonar array by minimising vibration.

Third-year students Ross Arnold and David Turner were also first-prize winners for their design of a rig to demonstrate friction welding.

The exhibition was sponsored by Mobil Refining and the South Australian Centre for Manufacturing.

—David Ellis
A new book on the often vexed issue of affirmative action will be launched at the University of Adelaide this week.

The Politics of Affirmative Action: ‘Women’, Equality and Category Politics is by Associate Professor Carol Bacchi from the Politics Department. It has been described as a “goldmine of insights” and a “major contribution to an issue of central concern to feminists”.

Dr Bacchi says few policies have attracted the antagonism directed against affirmative action. Her book presents a comparative analysis of countries reputed to be leading the way in policies for women — the United States, Canada, Australia, Sweden, the Netherlands and Norway — and looks at why an expressed commitment to affirmative action so often fails to translate into meaningful reform.

Dr Bacchi’s central argument is that the debates around affirmative action have played themselves out through what she has called “category politics” — the political use of conceptual and identity categories (such as “equal opportunity” or “women”) in ways that deligitimize affirmative action and keep reform within limits.

She also argues that proponents of affirmative action too often make the mistake of refashioning the reform in response to attacks upon it, in the process reducing its potential impact.

An example is the insistence by some that their form of affirmative action does not undermine “merit” because they wish only qualified women to be appointed. This effectively removes the opportunity to challenge existing concepts of what constitutes merit.

The result, says Dr Bacchi, is that affirmative action (where it exists) is understood as a species of philanthropy, a reform which acknowledges the need to “assist” the “disadvantaged”.

“This view constitutes affirmative action targets as the problem and leaves the privilege of those in positions of influence and authority unchallenged,” Dr Bacchi said. “In fact, it enhances that authority by putting into their hands the power to decide who needs ‘assistance’, when and in what form.”

Carol Bacchi says her goal is to draw attention to the perverse effects of the dominant representations of affirmative action, and to the need to challenge these representations as a first step to meaningful change. She also hopes that her work will provide a framework for focusing on the political uses of categories.

Professor Doug McEachern will launch The Politics of Affirmative Action at 5.00pm on Wednesday 20 November in Unibooks. It will be available from Unibooks at an expected RRP of $29.95.

—John Edge

Challenging study of Affirmative Action

W hitting on scholarship menu

A new scholarship to honour the centenary of the birth of Sir Thomas Playford could lead to the King George Whiting, South Australia’s most popular fish, once again becoming common in our gulf waters — and the University of Adelaide’s Zoology Department will be playing a key part.

The Department will be the home of the inaugural recipient of the Playford Memorial Trust Scholarship in Aquaculture. Departmental staff, along with the SARDI Aquatic Sciences Centre at West Beach, will co-supervise a PhD research project to understand the production of King George Whiting fingerlings (baby fish) in properly managed marine larval fish ponds.

The research will focus on finding ways of feeding whiting from birth to the fingerling stage when they are mature enough to find their own food in the wild, or be fed by fish farmers.

The longer term aim is to allow aquaculture and stock enhancement of King George Whiting.

A successful program to restock South Australian waters with King George Whiting will have flow-on benefits for other scale fish — both for aquaculture and for fishing in the wild — as well as positive effects on a whole range of tourism, recreation, hospitality and commercial activities.

The major sponsor of the new aquaculture scholarship is the Australian Hotels Association. Representatives of the AHA and other major donors were thanked for their support by the Premier, Mr Dean Brown, and the Trustees at a reception in the State Administration Centre on Thursday 7 November.

The Playford Memorial Trust is an independent body which was established in 1983 to promote research into primary, secondary and tertiary industries in South Australia. It is chaired by the Hon. Jennifer Cashmore.

—John Edge

Thai academics in ‘shadow’ visit

Two distinguished Thai academics recently completed an eight-week stay at the University of Adelaide, continuing the close links between Adelaide and Thailand.

The visitors were Dr Vason Silpasuwan, the Deputy Dean for Planning and Development within the Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University, and Dr Prapan Wisetratakan, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Prince of Songkla University.

Both academics were at Adelaide under the Thai University Administrators (TUAS) project. The project, aimed at improving the skills of Thai university administrators, was made possible by a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Australian and Thai governments.

During their stay Dr Vason and Dr Prapan were “shadows” or “understudies” of senior executives at the University of Adelaide, giving them exposure to academic and administrative processes within an Australian university.

Dr Vason spent most of his time within the University’s Faculty of Medicine, while Dr Prapan spent much of his time with the Faculty of Arts.

They said they had enjoyed their experience at the University and had learnt a great deal about the way Faculties at Adelaide were run.

—David Ellis

Pictured L to R: Dr Prapan Wisetratakan and Dr Vason Silpasuwan. Photo: David Ellis.
The photographs, objects and documents collected by Australian explorer and scientist Sir Douglas Mawson are to have a new home at the University of Adelaide.

On Sunday, 24 November, the Coach House at the University’s Waite Campus will be officially opened as the home of the Mawson Collection.

This is an important step for the joint project between the University and the South Australian Museum to house, care for and exhibit the prized collection, which was donated to the University by the Mawson family.

The Coach House was built by Peter Waite in the early 1880s and is the oldest building in the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct. Heritage architects Woodhead Firth Lee have renovated and refitted the Coach House for its new purpose.

An archive, research room and storage and display areas will be housed within the building, as well as an innovative gallery which includes an audio visual presentation featuring images of the Antarctic by Mawson’s photographer, Frank Hurley.

The gallery was designed by talented young designer Sandra Rodda, made possible by a grant from the Australian Antarctic Foundation.

The Coach House will be officially opened by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of South Australia, Mr John Delahunt, on Sunday, 24 November at 10.30am.

—David Ellis

Making the Freiburg Connection

Short-term exchange programs can bring many long-term benefits — something Judith Wilson, the acting head of German Studies, knows from personal experience.

In 1974 and 1975 she studied at the University of Freiburg, in the south of Germany, on a German Academic Exchange Scholarship, and the Freiburg connection has remained ever since.

This year her department was instrumental in bringing about a university-wide exchange agreement, which the University of Adelaide has signed with Freiburg.

Two of Adelaide’s German Studies students have already taken advantage of that agreement, with second-year student Ms Jane Williams being awarded a scholarship by the Department of German Studies, and third-year student Ms Patricia Brooks one of two scholarships on offer from Freiburg University (the second scholarship will be available for study in Freiburg in the first semester of 1997).

Ms Brooks, who left Adelaide last month to spend one semester at Freiburg, said the exchange program was a major opportunity.

“A friend of mine went on an exchange to Japan, which motivated me to do something similar,” she said.

“The only way to really learn the language is by going to the country where they speak it all the time, and I think this is the best way to do it — to study in Germany and count what I do towards my degree.”

As well as the exchange programs offered to Adelaide students, this semester two visitors from Freiburg have been working in Adelaide’s Department of German Studies.

Ms Michaela Krug, a PhD student at Freiburg, has been working there as a tutor.

Known as a “Praktikantin”, Ms Krug is the first postgraduate student from the University of Freiburg to come to Adelaide to participate in a new practical program for German students who are studying either German as a Foreign Language or Intercultural German Studies.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for German students to gain some teaching experience and see what German Studies involves in Australia,” Ms Krug said.

“For the department it’s an excellent way of promoting further exchange and ensuring the vitality of its link with Germany.”

Freiburg’s Professor Rolf Renner was also here for six weeks this semester as a Distinguished Visiting Scholar. He contributed to the recently formed Centre for European Studies’ interdisciplinary program, with a seminar on the theory, art and literature of post modernism.

Professor Renner said he was positive about the future of the exchange scheme.

“What I am hoping is that we can extend the exchange with Adelaide and establish some closer links in teaching and research.”

“There has been some discussion in Germany about a State link between the universities of Baden-Württemberg and the three South Australian universities.

“This would increase the exchange options for students and create new possibilities for collaborative research,” Professor Renner said.

Although initiated by the Department of German Studies, the exchange with Freiburg was successfully negotiated due to widespread university support both in Adelaide and Freiburg.

Some of the Adelaide-Freiburg connections which already exist include such diverse areas as Linguistics and History, Music and MusicoLOGY, Agricultural Science and Biology.

There are currently three students from Freiburg in Adelaide as part of the exchange scheme — studying Politics, English and Biology.

Ms Wilson said she hoped the ties between Adelaide and Freiburg would continue to strengthen.

“I’d like to see other Faculties of this University encourage their students to study a foreign language.”

“This would put them in a position to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by universities such as Freiburg.”

“I really do believe that the long-term benefits of such exchange programs — to staff, students and the community — are too important to ignore.” Judith Wilson said.

—David Ellis

'Theory of Everything':
$3.6m Adelaide centre to probe ultimate goal

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“It’s a very exciting development for the University of Adelaide, with significant benefits for the State and the nation,” she said.

As well as focusing the research efforts of Australian and international scientists working in subatomic physics, the centre will:

• provide an outstanding environment for postgraduate and postdoctoral training within international research teams;
• provide a flow of public information and education through public lectures and media appearances; and
• act as a source of inspiration to young people who will eventually make careers in other areas of science, mathematics and engineering.

Beyond the fundamental questions about the structure of matter at its deepest level, the Centre will examine questions such as:

• Are matter and anti-matter exact opposites?
• Are the four known forces of Nature all there are?
• What is matter like at the centre of a pulsar or inside a supernova?
• How do the properties of quarks and gluons change under extremes of temperature and density?

—David Washington
In Brief

ASO Concert: special alumni offer
The last Australian String Quartet Subscription Concert for 1996 will be held in Elder Hall on 28 November at 8:00pm. The ASO is offering Alumni Association members a discounted ticket price for this concert only: $23.00 is a saving of $5.00 off the regular price. The ticket price for concession card holders is $18.00.

You can book at any BASS outlet. To take advantage of this offer your Alumni membership card must be presented when booking. There is a limit of two discounted tickets per membership card. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

The program will be:
Alfred Hill: String Quartet No 1 (Maori Quartet)
Alfred Schnittke: Piano Quintet with guest Lucinda Collins
Ludwig van Beethoven: String Quartet Op 59 No 1 (Razumovsky)
NB: This concert is NOT part of the Elder Hall Concert Series.

da Vinci Chapter night at the theatre
The Leonardo da Vinci Chapter has organised a group booking for members and friends to see The Venetian Twins, based on the play by Carlo Goldoni, at the Playhouse, 13 December at 8:00pm.

Tickets are available at $28.00 (normally $36.00) from the following members of the Committee: Bice 8269 6464; Maria 8269 4765; Francesca 8235 1105; Romano 8356 2756.

For the best seats, please book early and no later than Monday 9 December. Student and concession card holders should book direct with the theatre.

After the play, the Chapter has planned a visit to the newly opened Jemmy Watson Wine Bar, 192 Pirie Street, where Vincenzo Andreacchio and his ensemble will be performing.

Mutual Community
The special offer made by Mutual Community to alumni of the University earlier in the year has now been extended to members of the MBA Society. A special mailing has been undertaken recently and if 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.

Lecture for management graduates
All members of Adelaide University’s MBA Society, past MBA graduates and current students enrolled at the Adelaide Graduate Business School are welcome to attend a dinner speech to the MBA Society by Professor Geert Hofstede on Thursday 21 November.

Professor Hofstede is one of the world’s best-known management academics and is visiting the Adelaide Graduate Business School from 20-24 November. His speech is entitled “National Culture, Organisational Culture and Managerial Reforms”. The dinner begins at 7.30pm at the South Park Motor Inn; those interested in attending should contact Ms Leah Hill on 8303 3269 by 19 November.

Former Adelaide Economics professor, Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Harcourt (MSc 1959), has been made the 1996 Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia.

Professor Harcourt, who now lives in England, is widely regarded as one of Australia’s leading economists. He has made seminal contributions to economic theory, most notably in the context of the Cambridge capital theory controversy.

He is known internationally for the depth and insight of his critical writings both in contemporary economic theory and in the history of economic thought. He has sought a new political-economic philosophy and a deeper understanding of the possibilities for economics to produce a more just and equitable society.

Although he has lived and worked overseas for extended periods during his career, he is very much an Australian economist and a considerable part of his wide international reputation derives from work undertaken over the long period of his association with The University of Adelaide.

After graduating from the Universities of Melbourne and Cambridge, he began his academic career as Lecturer in Economics at The University of Adelaide in 1958, later becoming Senior Lecturer and Reader. He then held a University Lectureship in Economics and Politics at Cambridge and was a Fellow of Trinity Hall in the early sixties.

Returning to Adelaide early in 1967 he was appointed to a personal Chair and continued to work here for nearly twenty years. However, the lure of returning to Cambridge proved strong and in 1982 he went back to the UK to take up a University Lectureship and a Fellowship at Jesus College.

His fascination with biographical interpretation of the works of major economists is a hallmark of his recent scholarly contribution, especially with regard to the work of Joan Robinson, Richard Kahn, Piero Sraffa, Nicholas Kaldor and others. His published output has been prolific and he has worked widely as an editor and a member of editorial Boards. Over the years, he has made numerous contributions to policy debate both as a professional economist and as an adviser and mentor to the Australian Labor Party.

Professor Harcourt was elected a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia in 1971 and appointed an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia in 1994.

[Adapted from the Fellowship Citation by courtesy of the Economic Society of Australia.]

Singer wins Zonta award

University of Adelaide music student Catriona Barr has won this year’s Zonta Club of Adelaide Fellowship Award (presented at Ayers House on 6 November).

Ms Barr is completing an Honours degree in Music in the Elder Conservatorium, specialising in Voice. The promising young mezzo-soprano has many performances to her credit, including the title role in Co*Opera’s Carmen and, recently, that of Alma Mahler in Alma for the Barossa Music Festival.

The $5000 Zonta award is designed to assist outstanding young women fulfil their career potential. Ms Barr says it will enable her to take the essential step of advanced vocal training with leading international tutors.
Andrew Bear doesn’t believe there is a literacy crisis at university level, but there are literacy problems.

Three years ago, he set up a subject called “Professional English for Professional Purposes”, which Andrews Bear will also teach in 1997, is a practical subject for students wanting to improve their real and written communication skills. It will be available initially at second and third year levels with a quota of 60 students.

Its aim is to provide instruction and practice in the main forms of writing encountered in professional settings such as contracts, business letters, policy statements, memoranda, media statements, local government and legal documents. A public speaking exercise will also be an assessment exercise.

Andrew Bear stresses that “English for Professional Purposes” is not English as a foreign language, or English — although it will be of use to students interested in working in those fields.

He says the Adelaide subject will have a distinctive emphasis on the problems and issues of contemporary English and how they affect language use.

“I don’t believe there’s a literacy crisis at university level. There are some other gear provided. E.g. 220/240V power, 50Hz 1,000W. 20-50W tungsten continuous, 50-250W tungsten auto reverse, quick recharge, radio & sound amplifier, sony stereo tape recorder, sony stereo tape player, sony turntable, reaeharge, radio & tv sound receiver, orchy BA, dynamat, 6 x 9 drivers, etc. $150 only. Ph Johnson 8290 6065.

BANKSIAS: Well established Banksia serrata and Banksia spinulosa. 8” pots $4, 6” pots $6, 4” pots $8. Ph 8352 3450 (H); email kbaines@adelaide.edu.au.

WANTED: 3 br home, fully furnished & equipped, 5 mins walk to Mitcham station, suit visiting academic & family, avail Feb 1997. ’Figaro’ $50 pw, Ph 8231 3221, 8201 3522 or email: christine.steele@wills.unimelb.edu.au.

HOUSE: 3 br house, L shape lounge/dining, huge garage, close to university. Unit 8303 3167 or 8376 1563.

Packing listed so if you need them, let me know.

RENTS: 2 br adelaide, upstirs flat. Close to transport & shops. Cat ok. $65 pw, Ph 8377 0430. 2 br adelaide, Susie or Kyla on 8269 2252 or 8210 0438.

UNIT: 2 br unit, fully furnished & equipped, 5 mins walk to Adel Uni, Avail late Dec 96. Ph 8377 0436.


CAR: Manual, 3.5 litre, 3 br house, 5 mins walk to Waite campus. Ph 8210 0438.

HOUSE: Crafers, 5 min to University, 5 min to cinema, 10 mins to Uni (North Terrace). Avail late Dec. Ph 8376 1064 or 8376 1122 (wk).

SOMERTON PARK: 3 br, fully furnished & equipped,esz, s/pool, c/port, garage, close to beach. Suit family. Long or short term. Avail 1 Dec. $300 pw (w) or $380 p/w (f). Ph 8377 0436 or 8376 1125.

THEBARTON: Huge 1 br apartment, only $30 pw. Fully furnished & equipped, spacious kitchen with stove & fridge, bathroom, shower & tub. 10-15 min bus or bike ride to Uni along River Torrens. Available early Feb. Ph 8337 0312 or 8348 0409.

TRAMERE: 3 br unfurnished house, 1 shape lounging, huge garage, close to transport & shops. $135 pw + bond. Ph 8303 5167 or 8332 4211 nh.

WANTED: Furn flat/townhouse unit close to city for 6 week period early Jan-mid Feb 1997, for single professional. Ph Australian String Quartet 3003 3745.


GOODWOOD: Share house. 2rms avail, fully furnished. Room has own toilet & wardrobe. Ph 8377 0432.

BENGALOON STYLE: 2 br, 3 bt, fully furnished, 5 mins walk to Port Adelaide, near shops. Newly carpeted, freshly painted, unfurnished, ground level. Off street car parking. Avail $90 pw + bond. Ph 8237 8389.


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