

Adelaidean

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News from the University of Adelaide

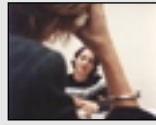
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Meet our new Vice-Chancellor

Professor James McWha joins University of Adelaide from New Zealand

PROFESSOR James McWha is to become the University of Adelaide's 19th Vice-Chancellor in the institution's 128-year history.

Professor McWha is currently Vice-Chancellor and President of Massey University in New Zealand and Chairman of the New Zealand Vice-Chancellors' Committee.

In June this year he will take up the position of Secretary-General of the International Association of University Presidents. His appointment to the University of Adelaide will take effect from August 5.

Massey University is one of New Zealand's leading universities, with 19,000 students based on three campuses and another 18,000 studying by distance education.

Before his appointment at Massey in 1996, Professor McWha had extensive experience in the management of biological research institutes. He has since played a formative role in the development of the New Zealand universities' quality assurance system, a system similar to that currently being introduced in Australia.

The Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny, said Professor McWha had an outstanding record as an academic administrator and communicator.

"He has the leadership qualities required to keep the University of Adelaide moving forward and ensure that the process of development and change within the institution is maintained," Mr de Crespigny said.

"It is essential that the University's drive to build on its research strengths, secure its funding base, and support the provision of quality services to students is underpinned by effective management. Professor McWha is committed to strengthening the University's key leadership role in South Australia by developing more partnerships with industry, other research and education institutions, and the wider community.

"He will give fresh impetus to the University as it works to enhance its contribution to the wealth and well-being of South Australia through high-quality education, research and community service.

"I also particularly want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the outgoing

Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cliff Blake AO, for his contribution to the University over the past nine months. He took on the role of Vice-Chancellor at short notice pending the appointment of a permanent Vice-Chancellor and has steered the University successfully through a critically important transition period."

Professor McWha said he was looking forward to taking up his appointment.

"The University of Adelaide is renowned internationally as one of Australia's great universities," he said. "In my own days as an agricultural student I was very aware of the Waite's reputation for research and teaching, and it is exciting for me to be joining a University with such proud traditions.

"Two of the University of Adelaide's greatest strengths are the quality of its staff and the standard of its facilities. My priority will be to continue the staff renewal presently underway and to ensure that the institution has a secure financial resource base so that it can continue to build on its teaching and research activities. I will be looking, also, to increase the number of international students by broadening the countries from which they are drawn and the disciplines within which they study.

"Community involvement is another area which I am keen to develop. I believe very strongly in drawing communities into universities, and the sort of resources and facilities which the University of Adelaide has should certainly provide more opportunities to do that."

The Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, the Hon. Dr Jane Lomax Smith, said the appointment of a person of Professor McWha's undoubted credentials was a boost for the University.

"The University of Adelaide is now even better placed to help meet the State's need for a well-educated and highly skilled workforce. The University can look forward to the future with confidence under Professor McWha's stewardship.

"The appointment will support the Government's vision for excellence in education and innovation," Dr Lomax Smith said.

The *Adelaidean* was able to speak to Professor McWha about his appointment.

For the full interview, turn to page 2.



Professor James McWha. Image: David Ellis.

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INTERVIEW

PROFESSOR JAMES McWHA

WHO IS Professor James McWha, and what are his thoughts about becoming the latest Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide?

Aged 54, Professor McWha is married with three adult children. A native of Northern Ireland, he graduated from the Queen's University, Belfast, with a BSc and BAg (Honours in Agricultural Botany) and obtained a PhD from Glasgow University.

From 1973 to 1985 he worked at the University of Canterbury, New Zealand, where he lectured in the Department of Botany and headed the Department of Plant and Microbial Sciences.

From 1985-1989 he was Professor and Head of Agricultural Botany at the Queen's University, Belfast, and Deputy Scientific Officer in the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture.

He returned to New Zealand in 1989 to take up an appointment as Director of DSIR Fruit and Trees. From 1992-1995 he was Chief Executive Officer of HortResearch (the Horticulture and Food Research Institute of New Zealand Ltd).

Professor McWha is currently Vice-Chancellor of one of New Zealand's leading tertiary institutions, Massey University. Spread over three campuses—Palmerston North, Wellington and Auckland—Massey has around 37,000 students, 18,000 of which study by distance education.



Professor James McWha with his wife Lindsay at the University of Adelaide. Photo: John Drislane.

The *Adelaidean* caught up with Professor McWha during his recent visit to Adelaide.

He began by talking about why he wanted to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

"Essentially it's because Adelaide is a leading university, not just in Australia but it's a leading university in world terms," Professor McWha said.

"From a personal point of view, it's also got

the Waite Institute. As somebody who's got an agricultural background, the Waite has always been one of those places that you hear about right from your first days as a student. So that's quite exciting."

Professor McWha comes to the University of Adelaide with a great deal of experience in dealing with a multi-campus environment. However, unlike Adelaide, Massey's campuses are spread right across the country.

"What we've done at Massey is to try and ensure that there are substantial activities that run across campus. Each campus is multi-faculty, so we can have faculty activities that run across all the campuses. For example, Accountancy is a single department that exists on three separate campuses, so they teach in that way and support each other. Our MBA programs are offered in five centres throughout the country, but they're all taught in a coordinated way from the one Graduate School of Business. So in that way you get some sense of community between the different campuses.

"I think the campuses here [Adelaide] are a bit different in that they tend to have more of a discipline focus by campus rather than being multi-discipline on each campus. So from that point of view it is a little different and clearly what I need to do is to learn about the model that's being used here and see just how happy I am with it.

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LETTERS

Mitchell gone, not forgotten



I was glad to see the article about Sir William Mitchell in the latest *Adelaidean* [March 2002]. But I wish to correct a statement which

while true could be misleading.

The article says that he "was the first (and only) philosopher working within Australia to give the Gifford Lectures at the University of Aberdeen". (I would have left out the 'the' as Gifford lectures are given on a regular basis.)

The misleading thing is to say "at the University of Aberdeen". Gifford lectures are given at all four of the ancient Scottish universities (St Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, all founded by Pape Bull in the fifteenth century, and Edinburgh founded as a civic university at the time of the Reformation.) Mitchell was the only philosopher or other academic to give Gifford lectures at any of the four ancient Scottish universities.

The headline with 'Forgotten Academic' may well be true. Nevertheless it sounds condescending.

He is certainly not forgotten as a great Vice-Chancellor, Chancellor and university leader. Nevertheless he liked to think of himself primarily as a philosopher.

I knew him well between the ages of 89 and 101, and used to go to talk to him and have tea and buns once or twice a week. His chair when he arrived was still called 'English Language and Literature and Mental and Mind Philosophy' (as far as I remember) but I am extremely doubtful whether he lectured much on literature, if at all.

He told me that when he went to meet the Council soon after he arrived as a young professor, one council member tried to talk to him about literature, but fortunately another more philosophical one broke in with "Have you read Stirling's *Secret of Hege!*"

He was a great and kindly man for whom I had the greatest admiration and affection. He was a great university leader, and would have been horrified if he had known what would happen to our universities during the last thirty years or so.

Emeritus Professor J.J.C. Smart
Whealers Hill, Victoria

Major library appeal begins



THE FIRST annual appeal for funds to buy books and other resources for the Barr Smith Library is being launched among University alumni this month.

Donors will have the opportunity to specify which area of the Library should benefit from their gift, and those donating \$50 or more (tax deductible) will be acknowledged with a named bookplate.

The Barr Smith Library is South Australia's premier research library, with holdings of more than two million items. Each year, it buys more than 10,000 volumes—as well as resources in electronic and other formats—merely to keep up with current requirements.

University Librarian Ray Choate said donations would help to further enrich the range of material available to Library members.

"The Barr Smith Library has about 500,000 loans annually," Mr Choate said.

"It lends some 20,000 items to other Australian libraries each year and borrows some 6200 items for its own members from other libraries.

"The aim of the annual appeal is to ensure

that we can continue to offer the kind of service that members expect from one of Australia's major research libraries.

"This year, for example, the University has introduced new courses in Fine Arts and Gastronomy, so we need to be able to provide additional resources in these areas.

"The original Barr Smith Library building was constructed with funds gifted by Tom Elder Barr Smith in 1927. The current collection has been built up to its present strength through many bequests and donations, and we hope that this new annual appeal will maintain that tradition.

"Alumni who support the appeal will be doing more than making a financial contribution to the library; they will also be investing in the intellectual capital of the University of Adelaide and South Australia," Mr Choate said.

University of Adelaide alumni are eligible for special alumni community borrowing membership at half the non-alumni rate.

More details about membership and the appeal are available from the Barr Smith Library, phone (08) 8303 5372, or Alumni, Community Relations and Development, phone (08) 8303 5800.

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Foetal origins of adult disease: our latest Premier's scholar delves further

AN outstanding graduate from the University of Adelaide has been awarded the prestigious 2002 Premier's Scholarship in Bioscience.

Sarah Williams, who graduated from the University with a Bachelor of Science degree (First Class Honours) last year, will use the scholarship to support her continuing research into the foetal origins of adult disease. The Scholarship is worth \$27,600 a year over three years.

In June, Ms Williams will begin a PhD in developmental physiology at the University of Adelaide under the supervision of Professor Caroline McMillen, Head of the Department of Physiology.

"With the support of the Scholarship I would like to be able to continue to collaborate with the University of Alberta in Edmonton for part of my research," she said.

"Last year I spent five months there for my Honours research."

Research into the foetal origins of adult disease is important because of a worldwide series of epidemiological studies showing that babies who are small at birth grow up to have an increased risk of developing several diseases in adult life, including heart disease, diabetes and obesity.

It is thought that when the nutrient supply in the womb is poor, the foetus has to make several neural and hormonal adaptations to enable it to survive. Although these adaptations allow the baby to continue growing, the changes in the development of several key organ systems may 'program' their function in the future, and result in poor health in adult life.

Ms Williams's previous research has investigated changes that occur in the kidney when the foetus does not grow well in the womb. Poor kidney growth may contribute to raising blood pressure, and ultimately to increasing the likelihood of developing heart disease in the adult.

Her future research, also within the 'foetal origins of adult disease' field, will look at how the development of the sympathetic nervous system is affected when the foetus does not grow well, as it is thought that changes in this system may also contribute to



Premier's scholar Sarah Williams. Photo: John Drislane.

the development of heart disease in later life.

Ms Williams is a former pupil of Riverton and District High School, having completed her Year 12 studies in 1996.

—John Drislane

Sir Thomas is wrapped in Harmony Day

ONE of Adelaide's best-known statues—the sculpture of University of Adelaide benefactor Sir Thomas Elder at North Terrace—recently took on a colourful new look to celebrate Harmony Day.

Harmony Day, held on March 21, is aimed at promoting inclusiveness, productive diversity and community harmony.

The day is coordinated by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.

This year it coincided with the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

To celebrate Harmony Day, staff used an orange wrap bearing the Harmony Day slogan, draping it around the pedestal of the Sir Thomas Elder statue on the University's Goodman Crescent Lawns.

The University of Adelaide's International Student Centre was behind the "wrap".

The centre chose the statue of Sir Thomas Elder because of his early support for the University's vision of advancing knowledge, understanding and culture through scholarship, research, teaching and community service.

Elder made a gift of 20,000 pounds to the University on the passage of the Act of Incorporation in November 1874.

The theme of Harmony Day 2002 was 'You + Me = Us,' which reinforces the fact that Australian multiculturalism includes everybody.

In addition to many programmed events throughout the country, the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs supplied bolts of orange plastic wrap with the Harmony Day logo to a range of community groups and



ABOVE: Jane Copeland (left) from the International Student Centre and Esther Tobin, Manager of Examinations and Graduations, were two of the many staff helping to wrap the statue of Sir Thomas Elder.

RIGHT: Some of the many helpers on Harmony Day, looked over by Sir Thomas Elder.

Photos: David Ellis.

organisations for wrapping around many public structures.

The wrap around the pedestal of Sir Thomas Elder's statue coincided with large numbers of students on campus for this year's Careers Fair. See story on page 10.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Engineer is new IEAust president

South Australia's peak engineering industry body—the Institution of Engineers, Australia—has appointed the University of Adelaide's Dr Martin Lambert as its President.

A senior lecturer in hydraulics and water engineering at the University of Adelaide's Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering, Dr Lambert has 14 years of research and practical engineering experience in Australia and the United Kingdom.

He is a past recipient of the prestigious George Stephenson Medal, awarded by the Institute of Civil Engineers in the United Kingdom.

Dr Lambert is currently undertaking collaborative research projects with engineers in the United Kingdom, South Africa and Canada.

Fringe over for another two years

After a massive 422 events across 23 days, Adelaide Fringe 2002 has concluded with organisers heralding it a spectacular success.

Artistic director Katrina Sedgwick said record attendances coupled with a diverse range of performers and shows meant Adelaide at Fringe time was one of the best places in the world to be.

She also thanked the University of Adelaide and the University of Adelaide Union for their help in acting as "the Hub" of the Fringe.

"Our inaugural partnership with the University of Adelaide and the University of Adelaide Union has enabled 50 companies to have access to 12 new venues of a professional standard, and for us to present a special range of events," she said.

Gastronomy encounter

The Research Centre for the History of Food and Drink will host a symposium on *French and Australian Encounters: Gastronomy*, from April 26-28.

The event is part of the Encounter 2002 celebrations marking the meeting of Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin 200 years ago.

Postgrad conference in Adelaide

Quality in Postgraduate Research: Integrating Perspectives will be held at the Stamford Grand hotel, Glenelg, from April 18-19.

This is the fifth international conference dealing with issues of quality in postgraduate research, with speakers from around Australia and overseas.

The opening address is by Professor Howard Green, Chair of the UK Council for Graduate Education.

For more information contact SAPMEA Conventions: (08) 8274 6060.

Maths review: call for submissions

The University of Adelaide is undertaking a review of its departments of Pure Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

The primary term of reference is to evaluate the quality and possible future directions of the departments and their academic programs, in the context of both the strategic plans and educational principles of the University, and the place of mathematics in the community.

The Review Committee is calling for written submissions, from both the University and external communities, on matters relevant to the terms of reference. These can be obtained at: www.adelaide.edu.au/DVCE/reviews/dept_maths_review.html

The deadline for submissions is Friday, May 17. For more information contact Tim Scroop: (08) 8303 5902.

Consumer buying habits just the taste for nation's very first master of wine business

ANOTHER first has occurred at the University of Adelaide, this time in the field of wine marketing.

Mr Trent Johnson, a student in the Department of Horticulture, Viticulture and Oenology at the Waite campus, has become the first person in Australia to fulfil the requirements for the award of Master of Wine Business degree.

For his degree Mr Johnson investigated lifestyle characteristics of wine consumers, exploring a new view of the South Australian wine market.

"Using lifestyle as the basis for such a study is a relatively new phenomenon," Mr Johnson said.

"The technique gives a more lifelike portrait of the consumer which helps to meet the needs of wine industry management for detailed information. It helps the industry develop strategies to reach specific groups in what is an increasingly sophisticated market."

The Wine Business Masters Program is managed by the University's Wine Business Group. Dr Johan Bruwer, Senior Lecturer in Wine Marketing, said the program was initiated in 2001 and filled a gap in postgraduate education for the wine industry. The program enhances the University's reputation as a centre of excellence for all aspects of wine business-related tertiary education.

"Trent's research has added considerably to the volume of knowledge about the Australian wine market and shows that lifestyle is a valid and realistic segmentation variable," Dr Bruwer said.



Trent Johnson.

"The Australian wine business tertiary education providers are already the world leaders, particularly in the area of market segmentation research, and this work will help build on that lead."

The award also gives Mr Johnson an edge in the job market.

"I feel this qualification will improve my chances of employment in the wine industry, especially in areas related to market research and wine brand and wine business development," he says.

"The industry is increasingly competitive and it is important to have an advantage." He said he was considering both Australian and overseas possibilities for his next job.

What kind of wine drinker are you?

FOR Trent Johnson's Masters degree, 363 wine consumers shopping at eight wine retail stores in metropolitan Adelaide were extensively surveyed about their activities, interests and opinions about wine and their wine purchasing behaviour.

The study identified five distinct types of wine consumer, each with their own characteristics and behaviours. These were:

1. The Conservative, Wine Knowledgeable Wine Drinker (20.9% of the total market)

"These consumers are generally well educated, knowledgeable and predominantly male," Mr Johnson says, "whose buying habits are reasonably predictable from year to year. They are the consumers who may previously have been stereotyped as 'connoisseurs'."

2. The Image Oriented, Knowledge Seeking Wine Consumer (22.3%)

"These are likely to be tertiary educated, professional consumers whose purchases are dictated by opinion leaders. They have some wine knowledge and are actively seeking to increase that knowledge. They are concerned with the image associated with drinking wine," he says.

3. The Basic Wine Drinker (16.8%)

"This consumer is not concerned with any of the 'airs and graces' associated with drinking wine. They drink wine because they enjoy it and they are likely to make their wine purchases from a number of safe brands that have previously met their needs."

4. The Experimenter, Highly Knowledgeable Wine Drinker (19.0%)

"These consumers have become somewhat 'bored' with what they perceive as the run-of-the-mill wines on offer and are seeking new and different wines to excite their palates. They are very wine knowledgeable and seek out other people with knowledge to assist in their quest for different wines, and as a result they tend to experiment when purchasing wine."

5. The Enjoyment Oriented, Social Wine Drinker (20.9%)

"These consumers are predominantly female and enjoy a glass of wine with their friends on a weekend. Their purchasing behaviour can be spontaneous and the packaging and labelling of the wine plays a part in their decisions, indicating that they might be attracted to the so-called 'concept' brand category on the market."

From a wine industry perspective, Mr Johnson says this view of the market is important, as consumer types 1, 2 and 4 all spend more than \$20 per bottle (on average). This indicates that they purchase wine in the "super premium category" and above, the categories in which many of the boutique and smaller producers have positioned their products.

"The knowledge that about 60% of the market are potential customers may prove comforting to these producers," Mr Johnson says.

The second part of his study revealed that the two most preferred strategies were that consumers sought information about their purchases prior to buying, and that they sought reassurance through tasting prior to buying.

"The incidence of the use of these strategies increased as the price of the wine increased," he says.

The data also revealed that each different type of consumer relied on the assortment of wines on offer, and found a relationship between a consumer's level of wine knowledge and the quality of the wine they consumed. It concluded that a consumer with a greater level of wine knowledge is likely to spend (on average) more per bottle of wine than a consumer with less wine knowledge.

"The underlying assumption was that retailers could manipulate their retail mix to encompass the preferred strategies of their target market, thus providing the basis for a potential competitive advantage," Mr Johnson says.

PUBLIC LECTURE

GROVES or GRAVES? The Fate of Inquiry in the "Reformed" University
by Professor Tony Coady
Director, Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Affairs, Melbourne

Some years ago, Tony Coady's book *Why Universities Matter*, which was critical of the trends in contemporary universities toward managerialism and away from free speech and collegiality, was initially accepted by Melbourne University Press, then subsequently rejected. It has since been published by Allen and Unwin. In this public lecture, Tony will discuss the matter of free speech, and the important role which universities must play in it, but increasingly often do not.

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Drug crash link revealed in major new study

A MAJOR new study at the University of Adelaide, believed to be the biggest of its type published in the world, has examined the way four major types of drugs impact on the culpability of drivers involved in car crashes.

PhD graduate Dr Marie Longo, from the University's Department of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology analysed the blood sample results from 2500 South Australian drivers injured in road crashes for alcohol, marijuana, stimulants and tranquillisers.

She also apportioned fault for crashes by using a consistent scoring method based on police accident reports and taking into account road, vehicle and environmental factors

Her major finding regarded tranquillisers, with a significant relationship emerging between having tranquillisers either at the prescribed levels or above and being culpable in crashes.

Dr Longo, who now works as a Project Officer for the Drug and Alcohol Services Council, also found:

- Alcohol still overwhelmingly plays the greatest role in road crashes—it is the most frequently detected drug, and produces the greatest effects;
- Conversely, and perhaps controversially, marijuana has a negligible impact on culpability;
- Stimulants also have little effect on culpability.

"The most interesting result for me was the tranquillisers, because of the ramifications it could have," she said.

"What I found was that if a person took tranquillisers like Valium or Serapax at or above prescribed levels, the chance of being

culpable in a road crash would increase from the 53 percent chance if you had no drugs to 70 percent if you had the tranquillisers.

"The really important thing to emerge from this is that this increase in culpability was not only for having above the prescribed levels of tranquillisers in someone's system, but also at the prescribed levels.

"I believe this has disturbing implications, with people driving around with prescribed amounts of tranquillisers in their system thinking they are still alright to drive when quite possibly they are not."

However, the number of people in Dr Longo's study who tested positive to tranquillisers was still quite small compared to alcohol, which is still the dominant factor for road crashes in which drugs were involved.

"More than three-quarters of the drivers in crashes I analysed were drug-free. Of the remaining quarter, 55% had alcohol in their system, either by itself or as a combination with the other three drugs I tested for," Dr Longo said.

"For the alcohol-alone crashes, the culpability rate was 90 percent – compared with the culpability rate for drug-free crashes of 53 percent.

"These figures confirm past research in highlighting the overwhelming prevalence of alcohol in injured drivers compared with other drugs, as well as its dominant role in road crashes.

"I would argue very strongly that while any potential problems with tranquillisers do need to be further examined and strategies put in place to minimise the impact they have, reducing alcohol-related crashes should still be the main focus as they are by far the biggest road crash issue."



Dr Marie Longo. Photo: Ben Osborne

Another interesting finding from Dr Longo's study was that by itself, marijuana had little or no effect on culpability in crashes—although when combined with alcohol or other drugs, culpability rates began to soar.

"There's been some anecdotal evidence over the years that marijuana causes little impairment to drivers, but it's not my place to say whether the results from my study prove anything in this regard," Dr Longo said.

"All I've looked at is the prevalence and role

of marijuana in non-fatal road crashes, and not whether in general it makes you a better or worse driver."

Dr Longo said stimulants such as methamphetamine (also known as "speed") were detected at comparatively low rates to the other three drugs. There had been an increase in culpability among drivers who tested positive to stimulants, but due to the small number of cases it could not be considered statistically significant.

—Ben Osborne

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Interview with Professor James McWha

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"Presuming the model is working reasonably well—and it would be, otherwise I would have heard about it—it's a case then of looking at how we would refine it so that any odd little glitches in the system get ironed out."

What are the main challenges Professor McWha will be facing when he takes up Adelaide's Vice-Chancellorship in August?

"I guess the major one is to ensure that we establish a secure and ongoing financial resource base to allow us to do the academic activities, the teaching and research, that we would want to do. Because what you want, obviously, is excellence in your research and teaching, but that excellence is only ever built on having sound foundations in terms of resourcing it.

"So it's a case of securing the resource, securing the resource allocation mechanism, and then moving to build excellent research teams and excellent teaching units. I say 'build' them, but really they already exist. It's a case of reinforcing what's there and perhaps encouraging some new ones to come along.

"I guess there are a number of things that the university will be keen to do. One of them, as I understand it, is to look towards increasing its numbers of international students. [Adelaide has a] good solid number; the thing will be to continue to build those international students, to look to broaden the base of countries from which they're drawn, to look to broaden the base of disciplines within which they study."

Distance education is a big part of what Massey University does, with some 18,000 students studying by distance education.

But Professor McWha said the Massey model would not necessarily translate to Adelaide.

"I think it's something we should look at, but I suspect that Adelaide probably won't want to get into traditional distance education because there are quite large barriers to entry and there are a number of players

in the field already," he said.

"What would be more appropriate would be to start looking for niche opportunities, delivering programs to niche groups, whether they're from the business community or some other community grouping that has a particular need for a particular type of course. If we could get in there and use the particular expertise that the university has to deliver to them, that then would allow you to start building a base that would also promote interaction with the external community.

"One of the greatest fallacies is the belief that all you have to do today to provide distance teaching is to put all your courses on the web, and hey presto you've got distance education. But all you have is a bunch of lecture notes on the web, you don't actually have distance education. If we're going to use that as a means of delivery you have to look at what sort of niches programs would occupy, and what sort of pedagogy you would use to support the web in delivering them. You do actually need a variety of delivery systems, and I'll bet you've got experts sitting within the university who know all about how that works; I'd be amazed if you don't."

Professor McWha admits that his experience on campus at the University of Adelaide has so far been very limited. Nevertheless he has some initial reactions to what he's seen.

"I think the university here is incredibly fortunate, and that's built on the history of the place. You have some absolutely outstanding buildings, some absolutely outstanding facilities that can be used not only to support the teaching and research but also to support community involvement with the university.

"One of the things I believe in very strongly is drawing the community, or the communities that the university relates to, drawing them in and having them work in and with the university. The sort of resources and facilities Adelaide has certainly encourages that opportunity."

—David Ellis

Nash lectures illuminate theories from a beautiful mind

AN OSCAR-award-winning film has helped raise public awareness of one of the most "beautiful minds" in history, John Forbes Nash, Jr.

Meanwhile, two public lectures held recently at the University of Adelaide have also raised public awareness of Nash's brilliant mind and his impact on different fields: mathematics and economics.

The lectures were given by Professor Michael Eastwood from the Department of Pure Mathematics and Dr Richard Damania from the School of Economics.

The following is an edited version of Dr Damania's talk, which dealt with Nash's involvement in the development of Game Theory.

In recent decades game theory has transformed the language of economics: the Nash equilibrium is one of the most commonly used analytical constructs in economics. In 1994 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the Nobel Prize to John Nash, Reinhard Selten and John Harsanyi for their contribution to non-cooperative game theory.

The Concise Oxford English Dictionary describes a game as "a contest played according to rules and decided by skill, strength or luck". The games we might think of, such as cricket, soccer, tennis, chess or backgammon, share most of these defining features. First, they are played according to rules that define the set of permissible actions. Second, there is strategic interaction among the players, in that the outcome of one player's action depends on the actions of other players.

These general characteristics of games typify numerous real-life situations that have nothing to do with sport or entertainment. Examples include election campaigns, war strategies, legal disputes, committee decision making, wage bargaining between unions and managers and market competition. Game theory systematises the general principles that are common in these interactions.

John Nash is famous for having defined the likely outcome of such interactions, and this has been termed the "Nash equilibrium". The Nash equilibrium defines a situation where a participant plays the best strategy available, when all other participants also play their best strategies. Stated differently, if there is an incentive for a player to alter their strategy, then that player cannot have chosen the best available strategy. Hence, the outcome is not a Nash equilibrium.

The Nash equilibrium is a natural and perhaps even trivial solution concept.

Indeed, it would seem perverse to suggest that participants would not play their best strategies in a competitive environment. More than a century earlier the French mathematician Antoine-Augustine Cournot identified this equilibrium, as have numerous other economists and mathematicians. Why then was John Nash awarded the Nobel Prize?

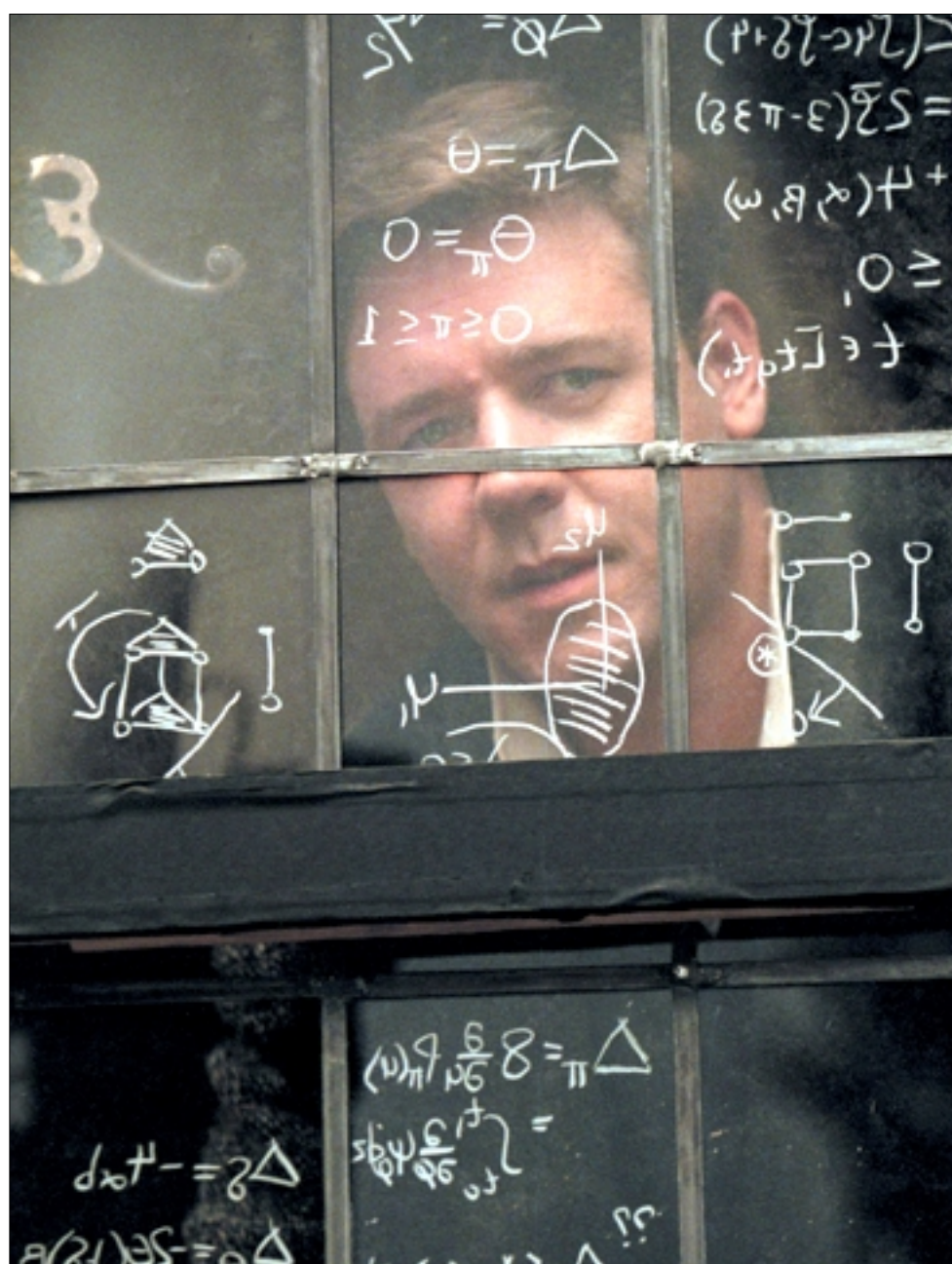
Much of game theory rests on two key theorems. The first termed the "minimax theorem" deals with zero-sum games, which describe situations of absolute conflict. In these games one player's loss exactly equals the rival's gain. However, such games have very limited applications in the real world. Nash's theorem allowed a wider range of interactions to be analysed, thus paving the way for the application of game theory to problems in economics, biology, politics and war strategies.

Reinhard Selten, who shared the Nobel Prize with John Nash, extended the framework to cases where players interact repeatedly over long periods of time. It was observed that in situations with ongoing relationships, the actual outcomes often differed sharply from those predicted by Nash's theorem.

Repeated interactions between players allow opportunities to build reputations, punish undesirable behaviour and learn about each other. It facilitates greater cooperation between players since participants need to consider the long-term consequences of short-term aggressive behaviour. For instance, long-distance cyclists often cooperate in early phases of a race by taking turns to follow in each other's slipstream. Towards the end of the race, when no retaliation is feasible, cooperation collapses, culminating in a final sprint to the finish line.

Lack of information about a rival's motives, abilities or strategies will also affect the outcome of any interaction. In such situations each player would selectively reveal "good" information and conceal "undesirable" information. The most recent developments in game theory have attempted to provide the theoretical edifice to analyse such situations. The theory suggests that a rational player will recognise that an opponent might provide misleading information. Hence, only information that is accompanied by credible evidence will be believed.

The solution of these imperfect information games are often extremely complex and subtle. Despite this, real-life examples of such equilibria abound. For instance, buyers often find it difficult to evaluate the quality of mechanical goods such as computers and dishwashers. However, the manufacturer of a high-quality product will find it less costly to offer an extended warranty than a



Russell Crowe as Nobel Prize-winner John Forbes Nash, Jr. Photo courtesy of United International Pictures.

manufacturer of a lower quality product. Thus the length of a warranty may serve as a credible signal for the unobservable attribute: quality.

Another example may be drawn from biology. In some bird species, such as peacocks, males with the most colourful and elaborate plumages breed more successfully. However, the cumbersome plumages also make them more vulnerable to predation. Why then do females appear to choose the most handicapped members of their species? Game theory provides a plausible explanation. A male who survives despite the heavy plumage provides a credible signal of

greater survival skills, which thus induces an evolutionary stable equilibrium.

While game theory is now widely used in the social and biological sciences, it is not without its deficiencies. When players are inexperienced, or there are severe informational problems, it is often difficult to predict the outcome. Moreover, numerous theoretical problems remain unsolved.

Much work remains to be done to further refine and develop the theory. However, when used with caution and prudence, game theory provides a powerful analytical paradigm.

Chinese language on increase as business opportunities rise

STUDY of the Chinese language Mandarin is seeing renewed interest at the University of Adelaide thanks to a growing potential for business links with China.

The University's Centre for Professional & Continuing Education (PCE), which offers a range of language courses to the general public and business communities, says more business people are becoming interested in Mandarin as a means to improve their ties with China.

Mandarin is the most widely spoken form of the Chinese language in mainland China. An estimated two-thirds of the population (more than 800 million people) speak Mandarin.

"With China's accession to the World Trade Organization and the awarding of the 2008 Olympic Games to Beijing, more and more businesses are focusing their attention on China," said Ms Sonya Perkins, manager of language programs at PCE.

"Our links with the business community suggest that there are many South Australian

companies willing to develop or expand their business links with China. As a result, they see studying Mandarin as an investment in the future of their business."

Ms Perkins said some business people who already had a passing acquaintance with the Chinese language were enrolling in the PCE courses, because they also needed to learn how to read and write Chinese.

"For many students, speaking the language is not enough—they need to be able to recognise the characters and, in some cases, write them too."

The language courses offered by PCE also contain many useful tips about the culture surrounding the language, which can be beneficial to people seeking to travel to those countries for business or pleasure, she said.

PCE offers classes in 12 languages, with more to be added later in the year. The languages currently on offer are: French, German, Greek, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Thai and Vietnamese.

Enrolments in PCE's language programs



have doubled in the last two years -- from 500 students in 1999 to more than 1000 last year. Enrolments in Mandarin have also jumped, from just 12 in 1999 to 42 last year.

For more information about any of PCE's language programs, call (08) 8303 4777 or visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/pce/

—David Ellis

Gamblers sought for new psychology study

PROBLEM gamblers who have sought help for their addiction are needed for a new University of Adelaide study.

The study is being conducted by Department of Psychology Masters student Ms Lyn Evans, who says it aims to examine why problem gamblers seek help, with a view to possibly decreasing the large percentage of problem gamblers who do not request assistance.

Currently, 21% of South Australians who have a gambling problem think about seeking help, and only one-third of those actually go ahead and request it.

"Problem gamblers only usually seek help at the time of a crisis, like a family or relationship breakdown, financial ruin, and health problems including contemplating suicide," Ms Evans said.

"With this study, I'm hoping to talk to as many problem gamblers as I can who have sought help, and with the findings, possibly make it easier for others to seek help before they reach the crisis stage.

"I am interested in finding out what motivated people to overcome their gambling problems. What made it hard for them to seek help? Were they able to deal with the problem without formal counselling and treatment?"

"Recent studies have shown that compared to the general population, problem gamblers are in significantly poorer physical and mental health, have higher rates of smoking and alcohol use, a higher incidence of

psychological distress and were more than three times as likely to have contemplated suicide.

"Quite clearly it would be of enormous benefit to not only the people involved, but also society in general if we were able to decrease the number of problem gamblers because it was easier for them to seek help."

Ms Evans would like to talk to people who have previously or are presently seeking help for a gambling problem through counselling, self-help groups, or using a self-help method by themselves (such as self-help books, manuals or tapes). People who have stopped, or attempted to stop gambling without any assistance are also welcome to participate in the study.

Participants will be compensated for their time, with all information given being completely confidential (names or any other possible identifying information will not be required).

"I'm really keen to talk to as many people as I can, because obviously the more people I can get information from, the more representative it will be and the more use it will be," Ms Evans said.

To participate, or to pass on information about someone you know who may qualify, please contact Ms Evans on 8270 6571, or 0413 792 465, or via email on <lynevans@dingoblue.net.au>.

—Ben Osborne



Psychology Masters student Ms Lyn Evans. Photo: Ben Osborne.

From Art Gallery to Arts: Peter's on a "road to somewhere"



AFTER 10 years as a security guard at the Art Gallery of South Australia, Peter Myers was ready for a change.

So when he lost his job in a round of outsourcing at the Gallery, he decided to devote himself to full-time study.

Three and a half years later, equipped with a BA and a Graduate Diploma in Applied Linguistics from the University of Adelaide, Mr Myers is embarking on a new career as an English language teacher in New Caledonia. He takes up a job in Noumea this month, teaching English at two senior high schools.

"There's a perception among some people that an Arts degree is a road to nowhere," Mr Myers said. "A lot of people used to ask me where an Arts degree was going to get me, so maybe this is a just one small example of the kinds of opportunities that exist."

"I've re-directed my life and headed off on a new path. I'd been studying part-time while I was at the Art Gallery but I began to think more seriously about a career as a language teacher when I started full-time study."

Although his contract in New Caledonia is short-term, Mr Myers is hoping the experience will open up further opportunities for him. He is especially keen to establish links between educational institutions in Noumea and the University of Adelaide's Centre for European Studies, where he majored in French language and literature.

Medal honours memory of outstanding student

IT'S almost a year since University of Adelaide graduate Ben Heinsohn-Deer was killed in a tragic accident in Indonesia.

An outstanding student who achieved an almost perfect Year 12 score, Ben graduated from the University of Adelaide in 2000 with a Bachelor degree in Health Sciences. In 2001 he joined the University's BIG (Business Initiatives from Graduates) program.

Ben's business idea related to the development of an educational program based on insights into the learning process he had developed during his own secondary schooling, university studies and tutoring activities. He considered that his significant academic achievements had been, in part, an outcome of his understanding of the learning process, and he wished to share this with others.

In his application Ben expressed his strong desire to develop entrepreneurial skills and to gain experience through the production and marketing of this initial product.

In January 2001, as a participant in the BIG program, he enrolled in the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise and commenced his business development activities at the Adelaide University Research Park (Thebarton campus).

Just a couple of months later Ben was offered an opportunity to travel to Indonesia to assist in the development and marketing of a new product, an experience which he believed would directly benefit his own business.

The University agreed to defer his participation in the BIG program until the beginning of 2002 to allow him to take advantage of this opportunity.

Tragically, he was killed in a fatal accident soon after his arrival in Indonesia, a sad loss experienced by everyone who knew him.

To commemorate Ben's involvement in the BIG program, and with the support of his family, the University's Graduate Entrepreneurial Board named a medal in his honour, to be presented to the highest ranking applicant in the program each year for seven years.

The Board felt that through his significant academic achievements, personal qualities



Ms Elizabeth Heinsohn-Deer (centre) holds the medal named in her son's honour. Also present at the medal-giving ceremony were Professor Edwina Cornish, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Mr Rex Hunter, Director Industry Liaison, Adelaide University Research Park (Thebarton campus), medal winners Mark Hergott and Jeremy Glaros, and medal designer Yvonne Nelson.

and entrepreneurial spirit, Ben epitomised the type of graduate the program was intended to support.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Edwina Cornish, strongly supported the recommendation, stating that although outside the usual practice for establishing prizes and awards, the special circumstances surrounding the proposal warranted a degree of flexibility by the University.

Professor Cornish believed the establishment of the medal to be a compassionate gesture by the University and a worthy tribute to an outstanding student.

The Ben Heinsohn-Deer Commemorative Medal has now been presented to its first recipients, two outstanding candidates who are taking part in the BIG program this year: Mark Hergott and Jeremy Glaros.

They are both graduates from the University's Department of Mechanical Engineering.

In addition to the medal itself, Mark and Jeremy have received a cheque for \$100.

The design and casting of the medal was undertaken by Jewellery Design students at Adelaide TAFE Arts.

The TAFE student who developed the winning design was Yvonne Nelson, who received a cheque for \$250.

A copy of the medal was also presented to Ben's mother, Elizabeth, who said she was very grateful to the University of Adelaide for acknowledging her son in this way.

"The University has greatly honoured my son and honoured me as a proud and loving mum through these medals," Ms Heinsohn-Deer said.

"Those graduates who win the medals will be well aware of who Ben was and what he managed to achieve, and they will be living up to Ben's example through their own special achievements."

Dental school awarded top marks

THE ADELAIDE Dental School has been awarded full accreditation for a maximum period of seven years by the Australian Dental Council during the recent round of accreditation of Australian dental schools.

It is now the only dental school in Australia to hold this level of accreditation.

Adelaide's Bachelor of Dental Surgery curriculum is centred on a problem-based learning philosophy with early exposure of students to clinical practice.

"The visiting team from the Dental Council was particularly impressed by the support for the Adelaide curriculum among staff, students and allied organisations," said Professor of Dental Science and Associate Dean (Academic) Grant Townsend.

"The team noted that the curriculum was providing students with a broad dental education that encouraged continual professional development. It commented that the graduates were well-rounded, thinking and mature clinicians."

Professor Townsend said Adelaide was one of the first dental schools in the world to move to a problem-based curriculum, and the approach it had adopted was now serving as a



Photo: Brenton Edwards.

model for dental schools in other countries. There are around 40-50 students in each of the five years of the Adelaide BDS program, comprising Australians and international fee-paying students from around the world.

"The standard of dentistry and dental education in Australia is considered to be very high by international standards—and Adelaide is leading the way," Professor Townsend said.

Adelaidean 2002

publication date (Monday)	deadline (Thursday)
MAY April 29	April 18
JUNE June 3	May 23
JULY July 1	June 20
AUGUST August 5	July 25
SEPTEMBER September 2	August 22
OCTOBER September 30	Sept 19
NOVEMBER November 4	October 24
DECEMBER December 2	November 21

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

3.10pm Electrical and Electronic Engineering/CHIPTec Seminar: "Recent Developments in Theory and Implementation of Parallel Prefix Adders" by Professor Neil Burgess (Cardiff University). EM 212, Engineering and Maths Building.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

12.30pm Clinical Nursing Seminar: "Information empowers but who is empowered?" by Ms Jill Kealley (Registered Nurse, RAH). Room 36, Level 3, Eleanor Harrald Building.

1pm Environmental Biology Seminar: "An Investigation into the Factors Influencing the Distribution of Exotic Willows along the Lower Murray River" by Sue Gehrig (Environmental Biology). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Geology and Geophysics Seminar: "Gravity and seismic studies of the Eden-Burnside and Para Faults, Adelaide" by Matt Hutchens. Mawson Lecture Theatre.

4pm Physiology Seminar: "SYNCH'ing of motoneurons in rat brain slices" by Dr Kemal Türker (Department of Physiology). Numico Seminar Room, Level 5, Medical School South, Frome Road.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4

12.05pm Psychology Seminar: "A discussion about the 'C' word" by Ms Meredith Strain. Departmental Library, Room 526, Hughes Building.

4pm Applied and Molecular Ecology Seminar: "Early Diagnosis of Eutypa dieback in grapevines" by Mr Richard Lardner (PhD student, CRCV). McLeod Theatre.

7.30pm Public Lecture: "Groves or Graves? The Fate of Inquiry in the 'Reformed' University" by Tony Coady (Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Affairs, Melbourne). Napier Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building.

FRIDAY, APRIL 5

1pm Environmental Biology Seminar: "Ecology of the Diamond Firetail" by Lysbeth Muirhead (Environmental Biology). Lecture Room G03, Napier Building.

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert: with Margaret Blades (violin) and David Lockett (piano), works by Schubert. Admission \$4 at the door.

SUNDAY, APRIL 7

11.30am Don Dunstan Foundation Event: "Democratising Public Policy: The Purple Sage Experience" by Mary Crooks (Victorian Women's Trust). Governor Hindmarsh Hotel, 59 Port Road, Hindmarsh. Tickets \$22, bookings necessary on (08) 8303 3364.

COMING EVENTS

April 2002

5.30pm Florey Medical Research Fund Event: Sunday Sunset Soiree – Dancing in the Cloisters. Leigh Warren Dance Company, Amicus String Quartet and maestro Timothy Sexton. The Cloisters, North Terrace campus. Tickets \$50, bookings: (08) 8303 5211 or (08) 8303 6386. Money raised to assist medical research at the University's Medical School.

MONDAY, APRIL 8

1pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Seminar: "Secondary injury mechanisms in traumatic brain injury: potential for pharmacological intervention" by Associate Professor Robert Vink (Pathology). Seminar Room, Level 6, Medical School North.

1pm Environmental Biology Seminar: "Ecology and Conservation of a Nomad: The Australian Bustard in Northern Australia" by Mark Ziembecki (Environmental Biology). Lecture Room G03, Napier Building.

1.10pm Anatomical Sciences seminar: "TNF-like" molecules and their receptors in bone and vascular pathologies, by Dr David Haynes (Pathology). Stirling Lecture Theatre, Medical School.

1.10pm Law School Seminar: "H.L.A. Hart, Legal Philosophy and the Social Good: A Biographical Perspective" by Professor Nicola Lacey (London School of Economics). Room 216, Ligertwood Building.

8pm Classical Association of South Australia meeting: "What the Butler Saw: Alleged Female Authorship of The Odyssey and the Homeric Hymn to Demeter" by David Hester (Department of Classics). Council Room 7th Floor, Hughes Building.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

1.10pm Student Workshop: Meditation and Deep Relaxation. Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Building.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10

10.10am Electrical and Electronic Engineering Seminar: "4D T-Ray Imaging" by Brad Ferguson. S112, Engineering and Maths Building.

1pm Environmental Biology Seminar: "Monogenean (flatworm) Ectoparasites: A Day in the Life of a Worm on a Fish!" by Dr Ian D. Whittington (South Australian Museum). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Geology and Geophysics Seminar: Title to be advised, by Liza Kramer. Mawson Lecture Theatre.

3.10pm Joint Electrical & Electronic Engineering and IEEE AP/MTT Joint Research Seminar: "Generation of Broadband Electromagnetic Response from DC to Daylight on your PC" by Professor Tapan Sarkar (Syracuse University). EM212, Engineering and Maths Building.

THURSDAY, APRIL 11

12.05pm Psychology Seminar: "The impact of trauma on the attachment between mother and child" by Dr Clara Bookless. Departmental Library, Room 526, Hughes Building.

4pm Applied and Molecular Ecology Seminar: "What role do pigments play in pollen?" by Dr Angela Wakelin (Postdoctoral Research Fellow). McLeod Theatre.

7.45pm Field Geology Club of South Australia Lecture: "Matthew Flinders and the First Science in South Australia" by Dr Lance McCarthy, and "Health Problems of the Early Explorers" by Dr Geoff Hasenohr. Mawson Lecture Theatre.

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert: with Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra (conductor Keith Crellin). Admission \$4 at the door.

2.10pm Asian Studies Seminar: "The Linguistic Gains Across Seven Grade Levels" by Ms Kazuyo Taguchi. Room 518, Ligertwood Building.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

1pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Seminar: "The PBS – the past, present and future" by Emeritus Professor Lloyd Sansom (UniSA, Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee). Seminar Room, Level 6, Medical School North.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

12.30pm Clinical Nursing Seminar: "A descriptive study of discharge planning practices of nurses on medical wards of an acute care facility" by Ms Kristina Judd (acting project manager, IMS, RAH). Room 36, Level 3, Eleanor Harrald Building.

1.10pm HVO Seminar: "Sexual compatibility of some olive cultivars, and development of a linkage map" by Mr Shubiao Wu (HVO). Plant Research Centre Auditorium, Waite Campus.

6pm Cornell Chapter annual film night: "Dark Blue World" (Rated R 18+), Trak Cinema. Tickets \$10 available from Alumni,

Community Relations and Development: (08) 8303 5800.

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

4pm Applied and Molecular Ecology Seminar: "Snails in Navels – not just a bit of fluff" by Ms Angela Lush, "Molecular characterisation of hemomucin-like molecules in plants" by Mr Mehdi Sohani (both PhD students). McLeod Theatre.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

1pm Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development Seminar: "Towards genome-based explanations of behavioural development in the honeybee (*Apis mellifera*)" by Dr Ryszard Maleszka (Australian National University). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert: with Pei-Jee Ng (cello), Pei-Sian Ng (cello) and Isabelle Trub (piano), works by Handel, Valentini, Schumann and Bartok. Admission \$4 at the door.

2.10pm Asian Studies Seminar: "Australia's Asian Anxiety: Cultural Politics and Foreign Policy" by Dr Anthony Burke. Room 518, Ligertwood Building.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24

1pm Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity Seminar: "Influential Passengers: *Wolbachia* Infections and Arthropod Reproduction" by Professor Scott O'Neill (Queensland University). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm HVO Seminar: "Biosynthesis and Trafficking of Phytochemicals" by Associate Professor Erich Grotewold (Ohio State University). Plant Research Centre Auditorium, Waite Campus.

2pm Applied and Molecular Ecology Seminar: Honours final seminars (details to be advised). McLeod Theatre.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26

1.10pm Elder School of Music Lunch Hour Concert: "A Century of Jazz Pt 1 - the Early Years" with John Aue (double bass), Bruce Hancock (piano), Laurie Kennedy (drums), Bob Jeffrey (saxophones), Duncan Hemstock (clarinet), Warren Heading (trumpet), Anita Wardell (voice) and Keith Hempton (narrator). Admission \$4 at the door.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

Field Geology Club of South Australia Excursion: Grey Spur and the Inman Valley, with Dr Bryan Forbes.

MONDAY, APRIL 29

1:10pm Anatomical Sciences seminar: "Pterosaurs: Aeronauts of the Mesozoic" by Dr Adam Lockett (Anatomical Sciences). Florey Lecture Theatre, Medical School.

Cholesterol proves healthy for medal winner

CHOLESTEROL has developed a bad reputation in recent years, but ongoing research at the University of Adelaide shows that cholesterol plays a pivotal role in the healthy performance of our lungs.

The research could lead to new and better methods of treating respiratory diseases, as well as preserving lungs needed for life-saving transplants.

Conducted over 10 years by Dr Sandra Orgeig in the University's Department of Environmental Biology, the research has now earned her the prestigious Fenner Medal awarded by the Australian Academy of Science.

To be presented next month, the national award recognises distinguished research in plants and non-mammalian animals by Australian scientists under the age of 40.

Dr Orgeig's work centres on pulmonary surfactant and its role in animal and human respiration. Her research has involved a wide range of vertebrate species, including lungfish, salamanders, reptiles, marsupials and humans.

Pulmonary surfactant is a complex substance that controls the surface tension of the fluid lining the inner lung. Secreted by the alveoli in the lungs, surfactant is a key ingredient in helping the lung to inflate, transfer oxygen and carbon dioxide to and from the blood, and defend against bacteria and other invaders.

If the pulmonary surfactant system fails (as in Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome) or not develop at birth (as in Neonatal Respiratory Distress Syndrome) then the patient suffers a restrictive type of lung disease with a reduced ability to inspire, lung collapse, oedema and often death.

Failure of the surfactant system causes the death of thousands of Australians each year.

To date, the only treatment is the administration of an artificial surfactant via the airways, and external lung ventilation until the natural surfactant system repairs itself. The perfect artificial surfactant is the focus of intense interest and research around the world.

Dr Orgeig has made a number of key discoveries about pulmonary surfactant over the years.

In the early '90s she and her colleagues first discovered the function of cholesterol in pulmonary surfactant. For her PhD at Flinders University and in her subsequent research as an ARC Fellow at the University of Adelaide, Dr Orgeig observed that cholesterol is regulated precisely under different physiological conditions, such as changes in body temperature and exercise.

"Cholesterol has had some very bad press in the last 10 years or so," Dr Orgeig said.



Dr Sandra Orgeig with a bearded lizard, one of the many species that increases its cholesterol due to a drop in body temperature. Photo: David Ellis.

"The word conjures up terrible images of large fatty deposits in blood vessels and is generally associated with obesity. We're constantly told to lower our cholesterol intake and we're bombarded in supermarkets with 'low cholesterol' products.

"While this is all true, it is important to realise that cholesterol is a natural product, is produced by our bodies and has some very important physiological functions."

These functions include: being a major constituent of our cell membranes, enabling them to be flexible; being a major building block for many of our hormones which regulate our bodily functions; and being a crucial component of the pulmonary surfactant system.

The advantage of the cholesterol molecule over other lipids or fats is that it operates even at low temperatures. In reptiles, amphibians or fish that have body temperatures of five or 10 degrees Celsius, the cholesterol prevents their surfactant from becoming hard like cold butter, thereby enabling healthy lung operation.

"In cell membranes, cholesterol is one of those molecules that can keep a membrane fluid—in other words, 'melted'—at a lower

temperature," Dr Orgeig said.

"This function is particularly important in non-mammalian animals, as they are ectothermic, and experience large changes in body temperature, unlike the constant body temperature that we experience."

Dr Orgeig's colleagues first made the discovery that the amount of cholesterol increases in the surfactant of lizards when they decrease their body temperature. She later found that the same occurred in other ectothermic animals, in "cold mammals" whose body temperature drops as they enter a dormant state, such as hibernation or torpor.

"We have now analysed the surfactant system of a large number of different species and have found that all animals that have a lung (including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals) have a pulmonary surfactant system, and cholesterol plays an important part in all of them."

The discovery that cholesterol acts to maintain fluidity of the surfactant lining in the lungs at low temperatures, and that more cholesterol is produced during changes in body temperature and other stresses, could lead to changes in the composition of artificial surfactants currently available.

"Commercial surfactants are not usually stable over an extended temperature range," Dr Orgeig said.

"This thermal stability is crucial during the cold preservation of lungs destined for transplantation, for hypothermic patients or patients undergoing hypothermic surgery, or in other situations when body temperature is below 37C.

However, much work remains to be done, such as figuring out how cholesterol works in surfactant, where the surfactant cholesterol is made, and how it ends up in the alveoli.

"There is still quite a lot to do in terms of working out how and why cholesterol does what it does, but it is clear that at least in surfactant, cholesterol really is very important and it is not at all 'bad'," Dr Orgeig said.

Of her Fenner Medal, Dr Orgeig said it was "a great thrill. I was dumbfounded when I found out".

"Mentorship is so important with these kinds of awards, and I'm lucky to have colleagues who are extremely supportive of my work. I'm sure there are many other scientists out there who are equally deserving or more deserving than me, and I feel very honoured to be chosen," she said.

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99 NOT OUT!

Haydn could certainly write a symphony or two - in fact his final 'score' was 104! His sublime Symphony No 99 is part of a concert that features music of the Napoleonic period and includes Cherubini's marvellous Requiem and a work by the fascinating French composer Chevalier de Saint Georges. Conductor Graham Abbott leads the ASO and the Adelaide Chamber Singers in the first of the Studio Series concerts at the Grainger Studio 91 Hindley Street at 8pm Saturday 13 April. Seats \$27. **Book at Bass on 131 246.**

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GRADUATIONS

SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA 2002

AROUND 150 students will graduate from the University of Adelaide at two ceremonies held overseas this month (April 6-7).

The offshore ceremonies have become an important part of the University's graduation timetable, with about 40 students graduating in Singapore and 110 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The University of Adelaide has a long history of accepting students from Singapore and Malaysia. The graduations held in both countries recognise the unique contributions made to the University by these students.

Both events attract a large number of VIPs, many of whom are University of Adelaide alumni and members of the educational institutions in Singapore and Malaysia with which the University has close ties.

SINGAPORE

In Singapore, the graduation ceremony will be held at 2pm on Saturday, April 6 at the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre auditorium in the Teochew Building. A Graduation High Tea will be held after the event.

Many of those graduating have studied for their degrees through the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre Pte Ltd (NAAEC), a joint venture partnership between the University of Adelaide and the Ngee Ann Kongsi that offers a range of University programs, including the MBA.

The speaker at the Singapore ceremony will be Professor Tony Travaglione, the newly appointed Dean of the University of Adelaide's Graduate School of Management.

Professor Travaglione was previously Professor of Management and Head of the Graduate School of Management at the University of Newcastle. He is also formerly from Curtin University and the University of Western Australia. [see story in last issue of the *Adelaidean*].

The Mace Bearer for the Singapore ceremony

The University of Adelaide acknowledges the generosity of Clipsal Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Clipsal Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd for their continued support of the annual offshore Graduation Ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

ICLIPSAL

is a highly accomplished music student who studied with the University's Elder Conservatorium, Adam Chin Loong Lee. Adam has received a Bachelor of Music degree with First Class Honours in Performance. He was also the recipient of an Adelaide Honours Scholarship last year.

The graduate chosen to thank the main speaker is Janna Lai Fong Lam, a top student who has graduated with a Master of Environmental Management.

MALAYSIA

The ceremony in Kuala Lumpur will again be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Hotel Nikko, at 2pm on Sunday, April 7. The ceremony will be followed by a High Tea.

The speaker for the Kuala Lumpur ceremony is one of the University of Adelaide's most distinguished Malaysian graduates, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud. [see story this page].

Among the other VIPs attending the ceremony is YB Dato Seri Hj Adenan Hj Satem, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, Sarawak, YB Jacob Dungau Sagan, a Member of Parliament in Malaysia, and Puan Mariam Rahimah binti Mukhtar, Vice President of the Education Division at Petronas.

Almost 600 Malaysian students studied at the University of Adelaide last year, comprising a large proportion of the University's international student population.

The University has two major education partners in Malaysia: the Sepang Institute of Technology and INTI College. Around 150 new students were expected to enter the University of Adelaide this year from INTI College, many of them from the Kuching Campus in Sarawak.

The Mace Bearer for the KL ceremony is a PhD graduate in Physics and Astronomy, Shao Chin Cindy Ng. She received a commendation for her thesis, which deals with Quintessence—a popular candidate for the "missing energy" of the Universe.

Thanking the speaker will be Noriata binti Daud, a graduate with a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery who studied at the University of Adelaide under the MATES scheme.

More coverage of both graduation ceremonies will be provided in next month's issue of the *Adelaidean*.

Chief Minister is KL ceremony speaker



Tan Sri Taib (left) at the official launch of the University's Malaysian Room, pictured here with Director of Alumni, Community Relations & Development Ms Rachael Oliphant and Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Ian Young. Photo: John Drislane.

THE speaker at this year's graduation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, was recently made an Honorary Officer in the Order of Australia by Australian High Commissioner Peter Varghese.

The award is the highest given to a non-Australian and recognised Taib's contribution towards enhancing education, trade, social links and other bilateral ties.

Tan Sri Taib was also the centre of attention at a very special ceremony held in Adelaide late last year—the opening of the University's new Malaysian Room.

Based in the Alumni, Community Relations & Development office on North Terrace, this "slice of Malaysia" is replete with Malaysian furniture and artefacts from Sarawak, the largest State in Malaysia of which Taib is Chief Minister.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide (Law degree 1960, Doctor of the University 1994), Tan Sri Taib studied in Adelaide under the Colombo Plan, a government-sponsored scholarship that helped educate many of Malaysia's best and brightest students.

He has long been a supporter of his alma

mater and is also the Chairman of the Malaysia-Australia Foundation.

Taib is a major benefactor, having donated \$300,000 over some years to the University. In 1987 his first gift to the University helped to refurbish the Law School and establish the Australian Centre for Environmental Law. The Chief Minister's commitment to the university has also been integral to the establishment of the University's links with South-East Asia.

The new Malaysian Room was established with a small part of Taib's donated monies. Director of Alumni, Community Relations & Development Ms Rachael Oliphant said the new room was dedicated to all of the University's graduates, and in particular owed much to Tan Sri Taib.

"For more than 50 years Malaysian students have played an important part in the life of the University of Adelaide," Ms Oliphant said.

"The Malaysian Room, which is part of our offices at 230 North Terrace, is an acknowledgment of the unique contribution Malaysian graduates have made to Australia, their own nation and the region. It is also a tribute to the generosity of the Chief Minister, who is one of our most distinguished alumni."

CAREERS FAIRS

DOZENS of local, national and international employers representing a broad spectrum of professions took part in the recent 2002 Careers Fairs at Bonython Hall.

The two-day event, held last month, gives students a chance to make the crucial first contact with prospective employers recruiting graduates in their field of study, according to the University of Adelaide's Careers Service Manager, Mr Brenton Schulze.

"The Fairs are an excellent opportunity for students to learn more about companies and various government agencies and what these employers are looking for in graduates," he said.

"They are designed to enable students to gather information, ask questions, and participate in interactive displays."

The Fairs are open to students from all years, not just those who are graduating this year, "because it's never too early to start planning ahead for life after university", Ms Schulze said.



Sponsored by the Institute of Chartered Accountants, the Careers Fairs focused on different disciplines each day.

The Thursday Fair encompassed Arts, Commerce, Economics and Finance, while the Friday Fair featured Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Engineering and Science.

The University also held two specialist careers fairs: one for Law and another for Agriculture and Environment careers.



"Students very rarely have the luxury of having so many potential employers in the same spot at the same time," Mr Schulze said.

Judging by the hundreds of students who packed into Bonython Hall, many of them took advantage of the opportunity.

The photos above are just two illustrations of the exhibitions put on by employers and the strong interest from students.

Don Dunstan Foundation

Democratising Public Policy: The Purple Sage Experience

by guest speaker Mary Crooks

Mary Crooks is a founding member, and currently convenor, of the Victorian Foundation, a think tank which seeks to promote justice in economic and social policy.

As the Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust, she has served as Project Director of The Purple Sage Project, a project that engages the community in democracy and enhances the accountability of government to the community.

Sunday, April 7
11.30 am to 2.30 pm

The Governor Hindmarsh Hotel
59 Port Road Hindmarsh

Price: \$22 includes a light lunch.
Prepayment is required.

Bookings: phone Alison on (08) 8303
3364.

Glimpses of Dame Roma's glorious life

ITS list of contributors is like a series of entries in *Who's Who*. Its subject is one of the most respected figures in recent Australian history.

A book celebrating the life of the late Dame Roma Mitchell was launched at Bonython Hall last month by the Minister for Family and Community Services (and University of Adelaide graduate) Senator Amanda Vanstone.

Dame Roma: Glimpses Of A Glorious Life is a social and legal history combining anecdotes and memories, and providing insights into the private, yet also very public, Dame Roma.

It traces her childhood and brilliant legal career and also recounts her tireless work on behalf of charities.

The former Governor-General, the Hon. Sir William Deane, has written the foreword, and individual chapters have been contributed by Sir Harry Gibbs, the Hon. Justice Ted Mullighan, the Hon. Marcus Einfeld, Senator Vanstone, Judge Geoff Muecke, the Hon. Clyde Cameron, Professor Kevin Majoribanks, Noni Farwell and Mr Peter Bassett.

The collection is edited by Associate Professor Susan Magarey with assistance from Ms Helena Jasinski.

The book launch, which was attended by about 250 guests, was organised by the John

Bray Law Chapter of the Alumni Association in conjunction with the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office. It was hosted by Chapter President the Hon. Justice Tom Gray.

Speakers included the Hon. Justice Mullighan, Mr Peter Bassett, and Ms Linda Mathews from the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Other distinguished guests included Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, the former Governor, Sir Eric Neal, and the former Catholic Archbishop of Adelaide, Archbishop Leonard Faulkner.

While the book might be titled *Glimpses Of A Glorious Life*, what it offers is much more than a glimpse. Over more than 350 pages, the book provides a unique combination of historical, legal, critical and at times very personal essays about Dame Roma, from her earliest days to her distinguished legal career and beyond. Invaluable insights into Dame Roma's character and Australian society are woven together with an amazing assortment of photographs.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will go towards a scholarship for the University of Adelaide Law School.

The book is available from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office. Phone (08) 8303 5800.



The cover of *Dame Roma: Glimpses of a Glorious Life*.

ALUMNI NEWS

Sarawak alumni form latest overseas chapter

A FIFTH international chapter has been added to the growing network of University of Adelaide alumni around the world.

The affiliation of the Sarawak Alumni of the University of Adelaide was recently approved by the Alumni Board and endorsed by the Vice-Chancellor on behalf of Council shortly after.

The Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, is the inaugural President of the Chapter, further demonstrating his commitment to the University and its alumni.

The existing Adelaide University Alumni Malaysia Bhd Chapter, located in Kuala Lumpur, has received the news of the affiliation with enthusiasm.

Alumni Association Chair and University Council Member, The Hon Greg Crafter, said he was excited about the future of alumni relations in Malaysia.

"Malaysia has long been a prolific source of students for the University. The addition of the Sarawak Chapter will add value to the service currently being offered to alumni in Malaysia. Now graduates in both east and west Malaysia are able to participate more fully in the activities of the international chapters."

Sarawak has not only been a source of students for the University of Adelaide over the years, it has proven to be a source of much pride as well.

The 60 or so registered alumni currently residing in Sarawak include prominent members of the community, in addition to the Chief Minister. Two such alumni are YB Datuk Haji Adenan Haji Satem, LLB, the Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry Sarawak, and YB Jacob Sagon, B.Ag.Sc., Member of Parliament Malaysia.

Anyone who would like to become involved with the Sarawak Alumni of the University of Adelaide should contact the Chapter's Secretary, Mr Rodger Chan Siong Boh, at: rodderc@tm.net.my

O-Week a winner for students

During Orientation Week 2002 the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office hosted an information booth for students on the Barr Smith Lawns and conducted a survey to discover the particular interest of our student community.

"It is heartening to witness the immense enthusiasm and goodwill shown by the many staff and students toward the aims and values of the Alumni Association," said the Director of Alumni, Community Relations and Development, Ms Rachael Oliphant.

"The positive community spirit is very much alive throughout the University—a strong level of interest continues to emerge in the willingness of staff and students to volunteer for Association activities," she said.

Thanks to all those who filled out the survey forms, and congratulations to all winners of the lucky draw, sponsored by Adelaide Comics Centre, Borders Books and Music, Coopers General Store, Jasmin Indian Restaurant, Prince Room Chinese Restaurant and The Coffee Club.

Hong Kong chapter brings joy to residents

MORE than 50 members and friends of the University of Adelaide's Hong Kong Alumni Chapter recently brought Chinese New Year festive spirits and joy to around 120 senior citizens at the Salvation Army's "Hoi Tai" Residence for Senior Citizens.

This event, which include a number of volunteers, performers and singers, exemplifies the community spirit and culture of giving the Association embodies. Special thanks to all for their unconditional dedication, generosity and kindness.

The visit was summed-up beautifully by an elderly lady who told one volunteer: "This is the happiest day for me. I have not had so much fun or been so happy in the last forty years!"



Hong Kong Chapter President Ms Yap Pei Kwun and one of the delighted 'Hoi Tai' residents.

Chan elected to alumni role

Congratulations to Nick Chan, Activities Director of the Hong Kong Chapter, who was recently elected to the position of Vice Chairman of the Federation of Australian Alumni Associations (FAAA) Hong Kong.

The FAAA is an umbrella organisation whose members include 23 Hong Kong Chapters of Australian universities. It works closely with the Australian Consulate General in Hong Kong, AusCham, CPA Australia, Support Australia Group and like interest groups.



Nick Chan.

Cornell chapter's annual film night

The Cornell Chapter (Arts & Performing Arts) is holding its annual film evening on Wednesday, April 17 at the Trak Cinema with the opening-night screening of "Dark Blue World" (Rated R, 18+). All tickets are \$10.00 and include a glass of complimentary wine served after 6.00pm prior to the screening. Tickets are available from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office, Level 1, 230 North Terrace. For more information phone (08) 8303 5800.



April
2002



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Participants will receive
an honorarium of \$11/hr.
Valid from March until October 2002

Zephyr CD is breath of fresh air

A STRING quartet formed by music graduates from the University of Adelaide has now launched its first CD.

The Zephyr Quartet comprises Vanessa Neagle (violin), Hilary Kleinig (cello), Imelda Baligod, (violin) and Anna Webb (viola). The quartet was formed three years ago when the musicians studied at the University's Elder Conservatorium.

Zephyr prides itself on being a string quartet with a difference. All the members are in their early 20s and bring a bright, breezy, refreshing air to their music. What they play can't be labelled as classical, popular, jazz or electronic, yet it draws on elements of each in a fusion which is brimming over with energy and emotion, making their music accessible to all tastes.

As one reviewer said of the quartet: "Zephyr has established itself as a contemporary string quartet with an edge. These girls have rhythm and are breaking new ground... the traditional notions of string quartet performances are no longer relevant."

The quartet is certainly diverse. The range of musical styles in their repertoire is dazzling, equally comfortable and enthusiastic performing modern jazz with Janet Seidel at the Glenelg Jazz Festival, or playing Shostakovich or Beethoven in a masterclass with the Takacs Quartet. In contrast, Zephyr has also appeared on the ABC's late-night/early-morning Rage program and in nightclubs and pubs.

Currently Zephyr has a regular Sunday gig at the trendy Oxford Hotel in Adelaide, and also appeared in My Life My Love as part of the 2002 Adelaide Festival of Arts.

Their new self-titled CD features original music by Zephyr members and other local musicians in a range of musical styles, performed by the quartet and guests Greg Osman (saxophone), Zoë Barry (cello, vocals), Lee Pfitzner (vocals) and Stefan Panczak (electronic sounds).

The CD will be available for sale at Big Star, the Muses and Uni Records.

—Sheila Bryce
Helmppann Academy



Zephyr Quartet (from left) Hilary Kleinig, Imelda Baligod, Vanessa Neagle and Anna Webb.

Win tickets to Amadeus!

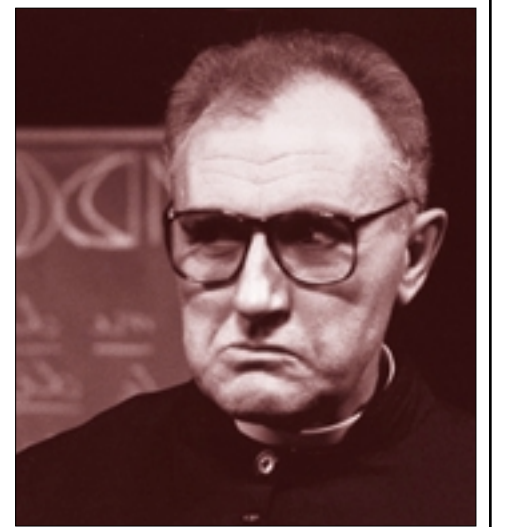
The actor pictured right is University of Adelaide staff member John Edge, current Chair of the University's Theatre Guild. He was appearing in a Guild production of a well-known Australian play for one actor by Ron Blair, for which he was named "Best Amateur Actor" in *The Advertiser's* annual round-up of the performing arts year in 1990.

John Edge takes the lead role of the composer Salieri in the Guild's next production, Peter Shaffer's *Amadeus*. This award-winning play about the rivalry between Mozart and Salieri was also a successful film starring F. Murray Abraham as Salieri. *Amadeus* opens in the Little Theatre on May 4 for a two-week season, and bookings are now available on (08) 8303 5999.

Adelaidean readers have the chance to win two tickets to the production and a copy of Kerrie Round's history of the Theatre Guild, *As Many Lives as a Cat?*, by answering these questions:

1. What is the name of the play by Ron Blair mentioned above?
2. Who played Mozart in the film version of *Amadeus*?

To win, be the first two callers to answer these questions on (08) 8303 5174.



NEWSMAKERS

Dr Rod Irvine (Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology) was kept busy by the media as he commented on his research into the link between ecstasy and brain damage. Among many others, he talked to the Chilean newspaper *El Mercurio*, *Triple J* radio (March 4), Melbourne's *Herald Sun* newspaper (March 5), and *Channel 9* and *10 News* (March 4).

The increasing prominence of women lawyers—as highlighted by the fact they comprise half of the lawyers involved in the massive Snowtown case—was the subject of an *Advertiser* feature story (March 9) quoting Law School Dean **Kath McEvoy**.

The story said that last year, 51 of the 80 graduates from the University of Adelaide's law course were women.

Honorary research fellow **Professor John Prescott's** survey into the number of physics teaching positions at Australian universities was highlighted in *The Australian's* Higher Education supplement (March 13). Professor Prescott found growth in electronics and nanotechnology meant vacancies around the country had almost doubled in the past year.

Dr Margaret O'Hea (Classics) appeared on the *ABC 891 Morning Show* (March 20) to

talk about the size and shape of the ancient city of Babylon, and how that compared to modern-day Adelaide.

The University's participation in the recent Harmony Day received a mention, most notably by *Channel 7 News* and *Triple M* (March 21). Spokesman **Hedley Reberger**, from the International Student Centre, explained why the statue of Sir Thomas Elder on the Goodman Lawns was draped in orange wrap.

Dr Barbara Pocock (Social Inquiry) told *Body and Soul*, News Limited's national Sunday newspaper health and lifestyle

liftout (March 17), that long working hours have started to play havoc with our notion of relaxation. She explained that hobbies can make workers' lives less narrow, and more enjoyable and fulfilling.

On *Channel 7 News* (March 7), **Dr Chris Colby** (Civil & Environmental Engineering) discussed possible options for Adelaide's drinking water supply. One of the many alternatives currently being researched at the University is desalinating seawater, which has already been introduced on a very low scale at various country locations in South Australia.