University life is much more than study

One of the great pleasures of being Vice-Chancellor is the opportunity to spend time on the campus grounds with students as they immerse themselves in all that university life has to offer.

After all, university is so much more than lectures and libraries. Think of your own experience of study. I am sure it is not just the recollection of Monday morning lectures or long exams that come to mind but the colourful memories of friendships made and experiences enjoyed that have helped to define both personal and professional growth.

We are fortunate at the University of Adelaide to offer our students a great learning experience complemented by an array of support services, special events, clubs and associations. Sporting and cultural participation at University helps to create an environment where students succeed academically and find their time at University personally rewarding.

Providing appropriate services to meet the needs of today’s students is expensive. In addition to cultural and sporting activities, support services including counselling, mentoring, healthcare, accommodation support and specialist tutoring all contribute to delivering a positive and productive student experience. This underpins sound learning outcomes – well-supported students are far more likely to succeed in their studies. Under the present arrangements, the University has had to divert funds from other core business activities to ensure services are available to support students throughout their studies. We know that students benefit enormously from a balanced experience at University and therefore we have continued to invest in this area since the abolition of compulsory up-front student union fees in 2005.

The Student Services and Amenities Fee Bill, which is currently working its way through the Senate in Canberra, would see students provide a modest annual contribution to their university experience. The proposed legislation is an attempt to reinvigorate much-needed funding to enable universities across Australia to offer important support services and infrastructure for students. This would essentially ‘de-politicise’ the provision of student services, making them more equitable and accessible for all students, domestic and international, undergraduate and postgraduate.

The new legislation will make a significant difference in assisting the University to offer broad and inclusive student services. We firmly believe this is integral to a vibrant and well-balanced University experience - and clearly in the best interests of all students.

My message to students is always to take advantage of every opportunity during their time at University. Embrace the broader aspects of life on campus and engage with services to ensure their experience is as fulfilling as possible.

A rich university experience is priceless and one that will stay with you throughout your life.
Sunset for ASQ members

This month’s national tour of the Australian String Quartet (ASQ) will be the final for two of the quartet’s members.

Violinist Sophie Rowell and violist Sally Boud will depart at the conclusion of the tour, which runs from 19-28 September. “This tour marks the end of an era for the ASQ and I’m looking forward to what is set to be a stunning musical farewell for Sophie and Sally,” said ASQ Executive Officer Alison Beare. “It’s been an incredible journey for all of us over the last five years.”

The ASQ was established in 1985 and is Quartet in Residence at the University of Adelaide’s Elder Conservatorium of Music. The ASQ has had a major impact on the musical life of Australia, touring widely both nationally and internationally and commissioning many works by leading Australian composers throughout its history.

The current membership of Sophie Rowell and Anne Horton (violins), Sally Boud (viola) and Rachel Johnston (cello) was established in 2006. In 2000, this combination of players originally came together as the Tankstream Quartet.

With a fitting title of Sunset, the September concert opens with Haydn’s first op.76 quartet in G Major. Well-loved Australian soprano Sara Macliver joins the ASQ for Respighi’s dramatic interpretation of Percy Bysshe Shelley’s poem Il tramonto (The Sunset).

Macliver described Respighi as a great storyteller: “His music is filled with contrasts. There’s a real sense of drama, with moments of great sadness, balanced by pure elation and ecstasy.”

The concert includes two songs by Argentinean composer Golijov, Lua Descolorida (Colourless Moon) and How Slow the Wind. Ravel has long been a favourite of the ASQ’s and his String Quartet in F Major will bring the concert to a virtuosic end.

The tour starts in Perth on Monday 19 September. The ASQ then performs in Adelaide on Wednesday 21 September, followed by Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney on 26, 27 and 28 September respectively.

ASQ is generously supported by the Government of South Australia and the Australia Council.

For more information go to: asq.com.au or phone 1800 040 444.

Tour Three: Sunset
7.00pm Wednesday 21 September
Adelaide Town Hall

Tickets: $57 adult, $43 concession, $22 student (service fees may apply)
Book at BASS: phone 131 246 or go to: bass.net.au

Above: The current members of the Australian String Quartet (from left): Sophie Rowell, Anne Horton, Sally Boud and Rachel Johnston

Photo by Jacqui Way Photography
For over 130 years the University of Adelaide has fostered an environment of learning, creativity and innovation.

From the thousands of eager faces graduating each year, to our pioneering research, we continue to make an impact on the lives of people around the world.

We invite you to share in these stories of Life Impact. Visit lifeimpact.com.au
Scholar rising to the challenge

The University of Adelaide’s new Dean of Aboriginal Education has won a national award for his work as an Indigenous scholar.

Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney has received the National Aboriginal Scholar of the Year in the 2011 NAIDOC (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) Awards. He was also runner up in the Aboriginal Person of the Year, South Australian Premier’s Award.

The awards recognise his achievements in Indigenous research, education, languages and knowledge transmission. Professor Rigney is one of the most influential Indigenous scholars in Australia. He has received national and international recognition for the quality of his teaching and research and is author, editor and co-editor of several books on Indigenous education, language and race relations.

He has held visiting research fellowships at various overseas universities, including Cambridge University and the University of British Columbia, and adjunct professorships at the Australian National University and the University of British Columbia.

Professor Rigney was Director of the Yunggorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research at Flinders University before joining the University of Adelaide in June as Dean of Aboriginal Education and Director of Wilto Yerlo, the Aboriginal programs unit.

A Narungga man, Professor Rigney has been strongly influenced by his childhood experiences of growing up at Point Pearce Mission on South Australia’s Yorke Peninsula.

“I’m the product of an Aboriginal community school,” Professor Rigney said. “We lived in the Point Pearce community until I was in Grade 7. My mother was a teacher’s aide; I grew up in schools since I could crawl.

“My dad found it really difficult to get work so we left the mission and came to Adelaide. When we moved to the city, my mother went on to study teaching. She eventually became the first Aboriginal female school principal in Australia and established the first urban Aboriginal school, the Kaurna Plains School.”

Professor Rigney’s mother is Dr Alice Rigney, who is highly respected for her work in Aboriginal education and languages. “That’s the sort of role-model I had growing up,” he said.

After working as a diesel mechanic in the 1980s, Professor Rigney saved up enough money to study teaching, which was his real passion. “I knew that teaching can make a difference to Aboriginal communities,” he said.

As well as earning a teaching degree, Professor Rigney holds a Masters and PhD by research in Education.

He said his key aims at the University of Adelaide are to grow the cohort of Aboriginal students, educators and researchers. “I want to build research capacity inside Wilto Yerlo to contribute to solving some of the 21st century challenges Indigenous communities will face,” he said.

“Providing greater access to and participation by Indigenous students in higher education, growing the number of Indigenous scholars, producing research that is responsive to the needs of Aboriginal communities, and producing good policy through our research and teaching – this is what we’re aiming to achieve,” he said.

At a national level, Professor Rigney is involved in a range of efforts to improve access and participation in Indigenous education at all levels, from schools through to universities.

“Aboriginal education across this country is in crisis,” he said. “We have poor attendance rates, Aboriginal numeracy and literacy is at its lowest.

“Early childhood is fundamental for participation in higher education, so reforms are needed even at that level. We know there are issues at secondary school that also need to be addressed for easier transition to university.

“Make no mistake, we’ve had some improvement – I’m a ‘glass half full’ man. In universities across Australia we’re seeing higher participation rates and higher retention rates of Aboriginal students.”

“We’re doing far better now than we were a decade ago, but we need to do more,” he said.

Professor Rigney will deliver the 2011 Kevin Marjoribanks Memorial Lecture at 6.00pm on Tuesday 27 September in Napier 102 Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus. This event is free and open to all but bookings are required – contact Janine Donnell on 08 8313 3731 or email: janine.donnell@adelaide.edu.au

Story by David Ellis

Below: Professor Lester-Irabinna Rigney with his NAIDOC award
Photo by Amanda James
Student takes seat at Lords

A University of Adelaide student has headed off to London this month to represent South Australia in the Commonwealth Youth Parliament.

Twenty-one-year-old Lucy Radowicz, who is in the fourth year of a double degree (Arts and Law), is among approximately 100 students from around the world who will take part in a mock parliament debating some of the world’s key issues, including climate change.

“Once I caught my breath, my first reaction was one of awe at the opportunity to debate in the House of Lords, where so many important legal cases have been heard, and laws which shaped Australia were debated,” Lucy said.

“I’ve spent the last four years studying these laws, so to stand in the House of Lords and speak there myself will be somewhat surreal.”

From 6-10 September, Lucy and the other students toured Parliament at the Palace of Westminster, view Question Time in the House of Commons and conduct a debate in the House of Lords Chamber as part of a fictional state known as ‘Commonwealthland’.

The main focus will be climate change, where students will debate the challenge of reducing emissions in Commonwealthland by 100% by 2050.

Given Australia’s current political focus on the carbon tax, Lucy said she hoped to bring her own unique perspective on the issue.

“I enjoy debating and public speaking and certainly won’t be afraid to voice my thoughts in a public forum,” she said.

In 2010 Lucy was part of the South Australian Parliamentary Internship Program. She created a report that detailed and highlighted the limits the State Parliament – specifically South Australia – has under the Federal Government.

Every year about 30 University of Adelaide students have the opportunity to participate in the SA Parliamentary Internship Program and it was Lucy’s outstanding work there that led to her Commonwealth Youth Parliament selection in England.

“I thought the learning experience would end along with the semester, and all I would take away were new skills and great experience. I never anticipated I would be participating in a Youth Parliament in London just one year later,” she said.

Regarding her future, Lucy is planning a career in public law, ultimately as a barrister.

“The knowledge and skills learned about the fundamental legislative process that I hope to gain at the Commonwealth Youth Parliament will be invaluable. I am also open to the possibility that this experience may lead me to explore other career options.”

Story by Carmine D’Amico
Above: Arts/Law student Lucy Radowicz
Photo by Carmine D’Amico

The Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide contains a treasure of agricultural tradition within the University – an agricultural museum.

It features a collection of agricultural artefacts with emphasis on the evolution of farming methods, as well as a focus on the Roseworthy Agricultural College and locally made machinery from the Gawler region.

The museum is operated by the Gawler Machinery Restorers Club, a group of dedicated volunteers who delight in running tractor engines – so in addition to a visual feast, you will hear the engines roar!

If you’re heading to Roseworthy Campus to see the agricultural museum, pick up a Roseworthy Campus Walking Tour pamphlet and take a self-guided walk – you will be amazed.

The museum is open to the public 10.00am-4.00pm each Wednesday and the third Sunday of the month or by appointment.
For more information call 0400 195 857.
Burning more than midnight oil

A group of engineering students are putting their skills to good use to potentially improve the health of Nepalese families and others across the developing world.

Working with Engineers Without Borders, the final-year School of Mechanical Engineering students are designing a safe, efficient and cheap dung-burning cooking stove that reduces levels of harmful pollution.

The stove is suitable for Nepalese conditions and adaptable for distribution throughout the developing world.

The work by students Matthew Higgins, Josh Wilkey, Greg MacFarlane, Matthew Read and Tom West is being featured by Engineers Australia as part of the organisation’s Make It So campaign for 2011, the Year of Humanitarian Engineering. They are supervised by Dr Paul Medwell and Dr Cristian Birzer.

“Almost half the world cooks on an open, unventilated fire in their living space and relies on fuel like dung, wood and crop residues,” Greg MacFarlane said.

“These materials are typically burnt in simple stoves that produce incomplete combustion and high levels of harmful pollution.

“Women and children particularly are exposed to high levels of smoke. According to the World Health Organization, poor combustion of cooking fires annually claims 1.5 million lives and claim the lives of more children under five than any other single cause, as well as 4% of the total global burden of disease.”

The students are using Top-Lit, Up-Draft (TLUD) technology for their stove prototypes, as opposed to the more conventional bottom-lit stove. The result, they believe, will be more efficient and complete combustion, with reduced emissions and stoves readily adaptable for dung and other waste fuel.

Their stove prototypes are made from simple materials such as used product tins – cheap and readily available materials and easily maintained.

“To date, the project has been challenging, rewarding and incredibly eye opening,” said Greg. “In Australia we don’t allow cigarette smoke in restaurants while almost half the world cooks on an open fire in their living room. Indoor air pollution produced by an unventilated fire can be up to 100 times higher than US legal limits.

“This is an exciting project because simple technology exists today that can reduce harmful emission from cooking fires and improve the lives of billions of people. Our challenge is to use the right mix of technology and to make it accessible to those who need it.”

The project is coordinated by Engineers Without Borders as part of an initiative that connects local students and universities to partner organisations in developing countries, with the aim of applying technology to improve quality of life in disadvantaged areas. It is also supported by the International Young Professionals Foundation.

For more information about studying Engineering, go to: ua.edu.au/degree-finder

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: Engineering students (from left) Greg MacFarlane, Matthew Read, Matthew Higgins, Tomas West and Josh Wilkey demonstrate their prototype cooking stove (made out of recycled materials) and samples of dung that can be burnt inside it

Photo by David Ellis
Images of Harrison Ford playing out every boy’s dream have no doubt planted the seeds of an archaeology career for thousands of people around the world since the best-selling 1981 film, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*.

And while the reality of an archaeologist’s life is far removed from this cinematic classic, the profession still offers one of the last “great adventure” careers, according to University of Adelaide Classics lecturer Dr Margaret O’Hea.

Dr O’Hea is also quick to point out that men do not have a stronghold on the profession.

“Women have a very strong tradition in archaeology – particularly in the Near East,” she said.

As one of the world’s most respected Late Antiquity glass specialists, Dr O’Hea has recently returned from a dig in Turkey where she joined a team of British archaeologists analysing material from the Roman Empire.

She was called in to examine glass excavated from the ruins of a Byzantine church to identify its age and thereby shed some light on when Islam ended Roman rule in Turkey.

Identification is usually possible through dating coins and pottery found at sites but, in this case, neither was useful.

“There are very few coins in the Islamic period and also very few pieces of pottery found in churches, so the glass – found in the windows and lamps – is the most useful dating tool in some cases,” she said.

“It is quite easy to date churches if you are a glass person because when you build the church that’s when you put the lamps in. If any have been replaced during the church’s lifetime they stand out like a sore thumb so you can also date their replacements.”

Dr O’Hea was on her second season at the Alahan and Kilise Tepe sites in Turkey with a team from the University of Cambridge and University of Newcastle, cataloguing glass as a part of a three-year, multi-million-dollar excavation project.

“She is one of only a handful of archaeological glass experts from the around the world – the majority located in Israel – and while she is based thousands of kilometres from most excavation sites, Dr O’Hea is living proof that it is possible to have a career in archaeology while based in Australia.

“It does require a lot of travel, patience and flexibility, however, so that is the advice I give to students interested in pursuing a career in this field.”

Dr O’Hea said Australians punch well above their weight when it comes to their archaeological contribution and knowledge.

“Since the 1930s, Australians have established a very strong reputation for archaeological expertise in Cyprus and the Near East, and continue to work on a number of high-profile projects.

“There is also a grand tradition of female archaeologists, the most notable being the late Dame Kathleen Kenyon, a British archaeologist best known for her excavations in Jericho in the 1950s.”

Dr O’Hea is confident the University will see a resurgence once the new national school curriculum is rolled out across all Australia.

This year, secondary schools in South Australia introduced a compulsory Ancient Studies subject for all Year 7 students. From 2012, Year 11 and 12 students will have the option of studying Ancient History.

“Once this filters through the pipeline, we can expect to see students enrolling in Classics at university who at least have a basic knowledge of Greek and Roman history.”

Apart from working in the field on digs, potential careers include curatorial work in a museum, working in heritage studies, cultural resource management, academia and even tourism.

“It’s a fascinating life and a career which offers some amazing experiences,” Dr O’Hea said.

For more information about studying Classics, go to: ua.edu.au/hss/classics

Story by Candy Gibson

Above left: University of Adelaide field school students excavating a 7th-8th century mosaic floor at the early Islamic town of Khirbet es-Sheikh Isa, in the Dead Sea region of Jordan
Above centre: A pilgrim church at Alahan, Turkey, approximately 5th-6th century. The pilgrim churches at Alahan have yet to be precisely dated. Glass analysis from the University of Adelaide may hold the answer.
Above right: An early Byzantine sculpture from the pilgrim churches at Alahan, Turkey
Right: Adelaide students excavating an 8th century water jar at Khirbet es-Sheikh Isa, Jordan

Photos courtesy of Dr Margaret O’Hea
Awards to medical staff

Two University of Adelaide staff members have been recognised nation-wide by the Australian Medical Students' Association (AMSA) for their achievements in medicine. Professor Peter Devitt (pictured above right), Head of Professorial Surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, has received the 2011 AMSA National Teaching Award.

The award promotes excellence in medical education and recognises an individual who makes a significant contribution to the education of students in Australia.

Professor Devitt has authored several textbooks and developed the groundbreaking online learning system eMedici, an electronic journal of patient-based cases used for student learning.

The President of the Adelaide Medical Students' Society (AMSS), Thomas Crowhurst, said many medical students “owe much to Professor Devitt”.

“Particularly through his innovation of the highly popular eMedici, Professor Devitt has shown his dedication to novel learning approaches which are now being expanded into other disciplines,” Mr Crowhurst said.

Dr Christopher Wong (pictured above left), a 2010 University of Adelaide medical graduate, has been awarded the AMSA National Student Award for his dedication and contribution to the medical school, other students and the wider community.

Dr Wong was considered a worthy recipient for the award because of his extensive list of personal and academic achievements.

He was the first undergraduate student in the country to win the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand's Affiliate Prize for Scientific Excellence. He has also been a Teaching on the Run tutor at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and former AMSS President, Treasurer, Historian and Education Representative.

Dr Wong is also the 2011 Rhodes Scholar for South Australia and is currently a clinical lecturer for the University of Adelaide.

AMSA President Robert Marshall said the National Council was particularly impressed with “the diversity of Christopher’s involvement in academic and community pursuits as a student”.

“He is an inspirational role model for students,” he said.

Students head north

The biggest contingent of medical students in the University of Adelaide’s history will head to the Spencer Gulf in late September for a week-long visit to explore the potential of a rural medical career.

About 160 third-year medical students will be based at a purpose-built camp site at Nuttibush Retreat on Pandurra Station, 40 kilometres west of Port Augusta, from 19-23 September.

The Rural Week 2011 will see students immersing themselves in rural life, conducting free community health checks in Port Pirie, Whyalla and Port Augusta as well as taking part in a range of cultural and practical workshops.

“By introducing medical students to rural life we are hoping they will see the opportunities and the lifestyle that is available to them on graduation,” said Dr Gillian Laven from the University of Adelaide’s Discipline of Rural Health.

“A rural medical career is an exciting, challenging and satisfying life. It can offer pathways not only in general practice, but also research and teaching.

“The rural communities in the Spencer Gulf will also have an opportunity to showcase their region to the medical students, promoting their lifestyle to potential future doctors who are critical to their communities.

“During the students’ week-long stay, residents in Port Augusta, Port Pirie and Whyalla will also be able to receive some basic health services at no cost, which will include blood pressure, body mass index and blood glucose checks. It’s a win-win situation for all concerned,” Dr Laven said.

The students will be housed in safari-style tents at Nuttibush Retreat, a working sheep station and tourist campsite, experiencing country life from both a medical and lifestyle perspective.

They will undertake workshops in rural driving, bush communication, handling emergency medical and dental situations, livestock management, farm safety and bush mechanics, among others.

Resident doctors in the Spencer Gulf region will also demonstrate the diversity of rural practice in short workshops.

“This practical placement forms an important part of the medical degree at the University of Adelaide, with all our students required to undertake at least four weeks of their medical education in a rural location,” Dr Laven said.

Addressing the shortage of doctors and allied health personnel in rural and regional South Australia has been identified as a key priority for the State and Federal Governments.

Story by Candy Gibson

Story by Sarah Bown

Above: University of Adelaide medical students
Photo by Adorni-Braconi
The request is in aid of a campaign, *Don’t Speak*, which is being launched by the University of Adelaide’s Peter Couche Foundation to raise funds and awareness for stroke research conducted within the Robinson Institute.

The foundation is named after University of Adelaide graduate Peter Couche, who suffered an irreversible brain-stem stroke in 1992, leaving him a quadriplegic with “locked-in syndrome”. He can’t speak and has little muscle control but an active and alert brain.

Peter has written an inspiring book called *Lifelines* about his 19 year journey and hope for a medical breakthrough with the help of non-embryonic stem cell therapy.

Peter has established the foundation to raise funds in support of stem cell research by the Robinson Institute to repair stroke-damaged brains.

“Imagine what it is like to have so much to say, but not be able to open your mouth to say a word,” said Robinson Institute Director Professor Rob Norman.

“For more information and to register for the *Don’t Speak* fundraising campaign, go to: dontspeak.org.au

**Facts about stroke**

- Stroke is the leading cause of disability in Australia and it can happen to anyone.
- Every 10 minutes someone in Australia has a stroke and there’s very little treatment we can give them. That is why it is so crucial to fund novel research using adult stem cells. This research offers a potential treatment to regenerate and repair the brain.”

- In Australia there are 60,000 strokes a year – one every 10 minutes;
- Stroke is Australia’s second single greatest killer after coronary heart disease;
- Stroke kills more women than breast cancer;
- Strokes cost Australia an estimated $2.14 billion a year;
- 20% of people having a first-ever stroke die within one month and more than 30% die within a year.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: University of Adelaide graduate Peter Couche

Photo by Randy Larcombe

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**RESEARCH WEEK 2011**

28 October – 4 November

The University of Adelaide’s inaugural Research Week celebrates the work of our world-class researchers. From hands-on workshops to free public seminars, it offers countless opportunities to learn more about our research and its impact on everyday life. For full details, look out for the free Research Week program in The Advertiser on Saturday 29 October.
Sport, industry boost from wind tunnel

Testing wind turbines for noise and efficiency, helping athletes enhance performance, assessing new designs for defence and aerospace industries...

These are just some of the benefits from the University of Adelaide’s new wind tunnel.

The $5 million Adelaide Wind Tunnel, with wind speeds up to 180km/h, will offer a unique research and testing facility for many industries including defence, energy, aerospace, construction, automotive and sports. Located at the University’s Thebarton Campus, the Adelaide Wind Tunnel is South Australia’s only industrial-scale wind tunnel and the second-largest wind tunnel in Australia, with both wind-engineering and aerodynamic test sections. It can be used to simulate objects in motion or varying wind conditions.

The Adelaide Wind Tunnel was officially launched last month by Commissioner for Renewable Energy Mr Tim O’Loughlin.

“Because local industry previously had to go interstate for such testing, the Adelaide Wind Tunnel will provide a significant boost to South Australia’s research and development capability. It will also draw further business from interstate and overseas to our State. The wind tunnel will support the University’s research activities in energy technology and defence, sports engineering, acoustics and aerospace engineering. It will help South Australia push ahead with its clean energy development, and support our athletes.”

The tunnel offers the ability to test different designs under repeatable conditions to measure drag and other performance factors, and to test structural performance under different wind conditions.

Examples of applications include:
• Measuring the drag of a cyclist to assess different helmet and bike designs and posture;
• Measuring how much energy wind turbines produce at different wind speeds, and how noise may be reduced by varying blade design and orientation;
• Assessing the potential impact of a new building or other structure through altered wind movement and speed;
• Testing the aerodynamics of various aircraft and aerospace structures;
• Environmental studies such as soil erosion through atmospheric flow simulation.

Features of the wind tunnel include multiple working sections; a turntable; flow visualisation and laser diagnostics capabilities; 3D vibration scanning; and the ability to measure noise and acoustics.

The Adelaide Wind Tunnel was funded with support from the Premier’s Science and Research Fund and the Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith Fund.

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: The University of Adelaide’s biodiesel bike inside the Adelaide Wind Tunnel
Planta1 cell walls play key role

Improved nutrition for billions of people around the world and the development of clean, green biofuels are two key aims of a major new research centre at the University of Adelaide.

The ARC Centre of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls is a $32 million biotechnology centre that looks at the fundamental role of cell walls (biomass) in plants – in particular grasses and cereal crops – and how they can be better utilised.

Barley, wheat, rice and model grasses will be the focal points of this research. The centre is hoping to discover ways of altering the macromolecules inside the cell walls to maximise their potential for reducing the risk of serious human diseases (through altering the soluble fibre levels in grain) and to benefit industry in diverse areas such as bioethanol production, malting processes for beer production, and pulp and paper manufacture.

Headquartered at the University of Adelaide’s Waite Campus, the centre involves collaboration with the universities of Melbourne and Queensland and has other major research and industry partners in Scotland, Sweden, Germany and the United States.

The centre has been established with $20.5 million in federal cash funding from the Australian Research Council (ARC) and an additional $12 million of support from partner institutions, and the State Government.

“This centre will play a critical role in defining the fundamental science that controls cell wall biology in plants, including important crop species,” said the Chief Executive Officer of the ARC, Professor Margaret Sheil, who launched the centre last month.

“The fundamental scientific discoveries will inevitably point the way towards new technologies that will underpin Australian crop industries, which are valued at more than $8 billion per year, associated food industries valued at $40 billion per year, and the rapidly growing biofuels and biomaterials industries.

“The centre brings together a team of internationally regarded scientists, with research and industry partners from around the globe. They will not only provide delivery pathways for the research outcomes but will also provide unique international training opportunities for early career researchers, such as postgraduate students and postdoctoral fellows, who represent the future of science and technology in this country,” she said.

The Director of the new centre is Professor Geoff Fincher, who has more than 37 years of experience in plant and agricultural science. Professor of Plant Science at the University of Adelaide, Professor Fincher is one of four chief investigators for the centre, which also include: Professor Tony Bacic (University of Melbourne), Professor Mike Gidley (University of Queensland) and Dr Rachel Burton (University of Adelaide).

For more information about the new centre, go to: ua.edu.au/plant-cell-walls

Story by David Ellis

Above: A section of a mature barley grain stained with calcofluor (fluorescent dye) to highlight the endosperm cell walls (blue) and seed coat (red)

Image by Dr Matthew Tucker

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The University of Adelaide Business School has been awarded accreditation from one of the world’s most respected accrediting bodies, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, based in the United States.

The Head of the Business School, Associate Professor Barry Burgan, said students and alumni would benefit greatly from AACSB accreditation. He said they can now be assured that their degree is of a recognised international standard.

“A key consideration for students is how marketable their qualifications will be, not just when they graduate but long into their future; AACSB accreditation guarantees international marketability,” Associate Professor Burgan said.

“While the University of Adelaide Business School has an excellent reputation locally and internationally for its quality students, AACSB accreditation adds a new layer of prestige to the qualifications of our graduates, particularly for those looking for work offshore.”

Founded in 1916, AACSB is a global accrediting body for business schools. AACSB accreditation is known worldwide as the longest standing, most internationally recognised form of specialised accreditation that an institution and its business programs can earn.

AACSB accreditation has been awarded to less than 5% of the world’s business schools and is the hallmark of excellence in business education.

AACSB’s accreditation standards demand a high-quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement, and programs that are responsive to the needs of businesses. John J. Fernandes, President and Chief Executive Officer of AACSB International, said: “AACSB congratulates the University of Adelaide and Associate Professor Barry Burgan on earning accreditation, and we welcome them into the family of AACSB accredited business schools. AACSB accreditation represents the highest achievement for an educational institution that awards business degrees.”

“This accreditation has enabled the University of Adelaide Business School to join the ranks of the world’s leading business schools,” said Associate Professor Burgan.

All universities accredited by the AACSB participate in a peer review process every five years to maintain their accreditation. This involves significant internal review, evaluation and change.

“Being accredited by the AACSB means that we have committed to the most rigorous accreditation possible by international standards. It has taken more than five years of hard work, self-evaluation and improvement, and this has led to great benefits for all of the business programs offered at our University,” Associate Professor Burgan said.

“The result is that our students will continue to receive the best possible educational experience; one that is committed to constant improvement, evaluation and relevance to industry.

“A perfect example of that is our Adelaide MBA (Master of Business Administration) program. We have used the accreditation process to ensure that the Adelaide MBA is one of the best in Australia. It is a high-quality, high-impact MBA, one that is internationally recognised, relevant to industry and has a global focus. Our entry standards to the MBA program also ensure that our students are of the highest quality.”

The University of Adelaide Business School currently has more than 4000 students from over 100 countries. It offers programs in business, international business, finance, corporate finance, accounting, marketing and management.

Programs are taught in Adelaide at the North Terrace Campus of the University, with the Bachelor of Commerce, Master of Commerce and Adelaide MBA also taught in Singapore at the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre.

For more information about studying at the University of Adelaide Business School, go to: business.adelaide.edu.au

Story by David Ellis
Above: Head of the Business School Associate Professor Barry Burgan at an event to celebrate the AACSB accreditation
Photo by Michael Mullan
A varied field of five extraordinary alumni, including a human rights lawyer and a wine scientist, have been honoured with a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide.

Awarded annually, the Distinguished Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have enhanced the reputation of the University and have given outstanding service to the community or made a significant contribution in their chosen fields.

The Hon. Catherine Branson QC
(BA 1977, LLB 1970)
In recognition of her outstanding contribution to Australian Law and Human Rights.

Catherine Branson’s career has enhanced the reputation of the Law School and the University. In her various judicial and executive roles, including President of the Australian Human Rights Commission and Human Rights Commissioner since 2009, she has demonstrated outstanding service to the community and made a significant contribution to the rule of law.

Mr Barry Grear AO (B Tech 1967)
In recognition of his leadership to the Australian and World Engineering Profession and his significant contribution to emergency services organisations in South Australia and nationally.

Barry’s work as Chairman of the State Emergency Relief Fund represented an enormous contribution to the wellbeing of South Australia. He is a leader of the engineering profession, having represented millions of engineers worldwide through his presidency of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations (WFEO). Serving in a variety of managerial roles and leading recovery efforts after natural disasters, Barry has been described as the ultimate engineer, one who is truly inspirational to others and who has had a huge influence on the profession both nationally and internationally.

Dr Arthur Ray Beckwith
(D Univ 2004 (Adel), RDA 1932)
In recognition of his highly significant contribution to the field of Oenology and to the wine industry in Australia and internationally.

Ray has had a long and distinguished career in Oenology. His research, in collaboration with Alan Hickinbotham, has had significant implications for oenology, changing winemaking practices across the world in response to their findings in the areas of wine microbiology, wine pH management and related wine stability issues.

Emeritus Professor Colin Matthews (MD (Adel) (ad eundem gradum) 1970)
In recognition of his leadership and outstanding contribution nationally and internationally in the field of Reproductive Medicine.

Colin has changed many lives and families in South Australia and has had an international influence. Through his generosity and foresight the University has reaped benefits which catalysed the spectacular growth in the area of Reproductive Medicine. Through his commitment to education and development many young people have completed PhDs and many doctors have completed Fellowships in Reproductive Medicine.

Mr Siong Guan Lim
(B E (Mech) (Hons) 1969)
In recognition of his outstanding visionary leadership and extensive contributions to Singapore and its Civil Service.

Siong Guan is a highly respected member of the Singapore community having served with distinction in the highest echelons of the Civil Service and chaired major Statutory Boards of the government. He currently holds the position of Group Managing Director of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation. Siong Guan’s life has been one of continuous service to the people of Singapore based upon the learned skills he attributes to the University of Adelaide, that of being a hard-working individual whose potential went beyond the attainment of a degree in one field.

Story by Connie Dutton

Above: Human Rights Commissioner The Hon. Catherine Branson QC is one of five alumni to receive a Distinguished Alumni Award in 2011

Photo by Roy van der Vegt
COMING EVENTS

RESEARCH TUESDAY FORUM

Australian Politics: The Gillard Government – one year on

The federal election of August 2010 delivered a hung parliament for the first time since the 1940s. Almost one year into the ‘new paradigm’, it is time to ask ‘how well is the minority government working for Australia?’

This forum – with contributions by Amanda Vanstone (former Howard Government Minister and former Australian Ambassador to Italy) and leading University of Adelaide academics – will explore some of the key policy debates that have dominated Australian politics over the past year.

Come ready with your own questions for the panelists, and join us in a discussion on how well the Gillard Government is performing and what might happen in Australian politics over the next 12-24 months.

Participants: Amanda Vanstone and University of Adelaide academics Carol Johnson, Wayne Errington and facilitator Clement Macintyre.

University of Adelaide Theatre Guild presents The Pillowman

Not all fairy tales have a happy ending… A writer of grisly short stories has been arrested because some of his stories resemble recent child murders. Where has this disturbed imagination come from, and why has his brother confessed to the murders?

(Note: contains adult themes and strong language)

ua.edu.au/theatreguild

When: 7.30pm starting Saturday 1 October, and from 4-8 and 11-15 October
Where: Little Theatre, near Cloisters, North Terrace Campus
Cost: Tickets $25 adult; $20 concession; on Tuesdays: current University of Adelaide staff/students $15/$10
To book: Phone 08 8303 5999 or go online. Tickets also through BASS on 131 246. Booking fees apply.

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library – John Emerson

Dr. John Emerson is Visiting Research Fellow in the University of Adelaide’s Law School and Director of the University of Adelaide Press.

He has been writing a biography of judge and author John Jefferson Bray for the past few years. Dr. Emerson will talk about who he thinks John Bray was, and what he hopes his biography will achieve.

When: 1.05pm Thursday 15 September
Where: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus
Cost: Free and open to the public.
RSVP: by Tuesday 13 September, phone 08 8303 4064 or email robina.wear@adelaide.edu.au

Evenings at Elder Hall – Concert 7: The Three Choirs In Concert

Featuring the talents of Adelaide Voices (conductor Christie Anderson), Bella Voce (conductor Timothy Marks) and the Elder Conservatorium Chorale (conductor Carl Crossin), and Karl Geiger on piano.

An uplifting evening of secular and sacred choral music from the 17th to the 21st centuries, with music by Leonard Bernstein, Eric Whitacre, New Zealand’s David Hamilton and Baroque master Claudio Monteverdi.

For details of all Elder Hall concerts, go to elderhall.adelaide.edu.au

When: 6.30pm Saturday 17 September
Where: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus
Cost: Tickets $25 adult, $20 concession, $15 student
To book: claire.oremland@adelaide.edu.au or call 08 8303 5925