A cut above the average surgeon
The impact of medical research is profound – even more so when it touches your own life. Last year, I was one of the more than 10,500 people across Australia diagnosed with melanoma. Being of fair-skinned northern hemisphere origins, it probably comes as no surprise that I have not responded well to the effects of the harsh southern hemisphere sun.

Now I am fortunate. My skin cancer has been resolved quickly and successfully thanks to the latest treatment and the expertise of skilled clinicians, and as a result of many decades of dedicated medical research.

As a scientist and leader of a research-intensive University, and now as a patient, I have the paradoxical experience of being an instigator and beneficiary of the research process. But I am not alone. There would not be one person in Australia who hasn’t been directly affected by medical research at some point.

At Adelaide, our research outcomes have a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the community. Our graduates are making a genuine impact every day, across all corners of the globe.

In this edition of Lumen you will read stories of extraordinary achievement and dedication – people like Assoc Professor Susan Neuhaus, a medical graduate and now decorated surgeon who has worked on the frontline in Afghanistan, Cambodia and Bougainville. Her courage and selflessness epitomise the University’s community spirit.

There are countless examples in the pages ahead, like the work undertaken by engineering graduates Lisa Moon and Peter McBean in the post-earthquake recovery effort in Christchurch.

Their contribution is another demonstration of the impact our graduates are making in the most challenging circumstances. And while research has led many of our graduates to their current roles – tedious, often frustrating and painstakingly slow work over many years – every small success reflects the depth of their tenacity and expertise.

Our researchers are unequivocally ranked among the best in the world. They deserve continuation of the resources and support that will enable them to pursue the most pressing challenges for the good of our community. And this is not restricted to medical research. It encompasses all areas of study.

Our world is a better, safer, more productive, engaged and healthy place in which to live thanks to the breadth of discovery.

The Federal Government’s decision to maintain research support in the recent budget was welcome news. It reflects the community’s strong support for research and the importance of striving to improve the quality of life in our own country and overseas.

I am immensely proud of our alumni community for their unwavering commitment to delivering real change for the greater good.

I invite you to share their unique journeys.
Winter 2011

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Front cover image: Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus
Photo: Maggie Elliott
www.maggieelliott.com
A CUT ABOVE
THE AVERAGE
SURGEON

From the battlefields of Cambodia and Afghanistan to cancer hospital wards in London and Adelaide, Dr Susan Neuhaus has more than earned her medical stripes. Lumen caught up with the Associate Professor of Surgery to discuss medicine and the military.

Q: As a former military surgeon who has performed tours of duty in hot spots around the world, what has changed in the last 100 years when it comes to treating those injured in war zones?

A: One of the big differences is that people are surviving injuries that in previous wars would have been fatal. Thanks to huge advances in medicine and also in battlefield resuscitation, soldiers are able to perform very simple, life-saving manoeuvres on the battlefield. This, combined with improvements in body armour mean that soldiers are surviving blast amputations, head and chest injuries that in earlier wars were fatal. We also have the surgical capability now to stabilise and evacuate the injured to highly sophisticated facilities within 48–72 hours.

Q: You have written a paper in the Medical Journal of Australia recently which addresses the complex issues of medical ethics in the battlefield. What are the different judgements that come into play for doctors in war zones?

A: Doctors in the military are in a unique position as they have dual obligations – to the defence force and also to the individual. Some of these are enshrined in law; some are enshrined in the Geneva Conventions and others in the Hippocratic Oath. The judgements a soldier makes are not the same judgements that a doctor makes. There’s a whole grey zone that we have to address.

Doctors need to make a whole range of ethical decisions under tremendous pressure in a war zone. For example, how far do you pursue aggressive treatment with individuals when faced with limited resources and their post-war standard of care available in their own communities?

If you go back to WW1 or WW2, if you were injured on the battlefield the treatment pathways were equal for all – civilians and military, regardless of race or nationality. Arguably, it is no longer that simple. Unlike in previous conflicts, military health facilities now treat more civilians than combatants, and a large number of these are children. Military personnel have access to sophisticated evacuation and retrieval, to highly sophisticated health facilities, usually many thousands of kilometres from the battlefield. Clearly this option does not exist for locals and this does impact on their treatment options. I’m not saying it is right or wrong, but it’s the world in which we live. ▶

Colonel Susan Neuhaus (left) pictured with an Afghan patient during her tour of duty in the Oruzgan Province in 2009.

Photo by Captain Lachlan Simond.
Q: Where do you draw the line with treating civilians then, given many of these people may not have access to sophisticated medical facilities after being discharged?

A: If you look at a reconstruction effort in a foreign country, it is vital to understand the health environment in which you work. It is no use providing incredibly sophisticated First-World services if this level of treatment cannot be continued when you pull out of that country. You are better off promoting medical resources that support the local community and the local doctors.

Also, you need to take into account the cultural sensitivities of each country you are deployed to. For example, amputations and colostomies have different implications in developing countries because after-care is not always available in these communities. You may be saving someone’s life, but then again you may be creating a more difficult situation for them.

Q: How far have women come in the military in Australia in terms of equality and ability to perform similar jobs to men?

A: If you go back to the Crimean War (1853–1856), women's roles were clearly defined. Florence Nightingale argued passionately for nurses to be allowed to go to war and she won that argument, although that was the only capacity in which they could serve. Fast forward to WW1 (1914–1918) and there were very strict rules in the army: only women could be nurses (not men) and only men could be doctors. Despite this, a remarkable group of Australian female doctors formed their own quasi military hospital units during the war. Over half of these women were actually decorated for their service, including Dr Phoebe Chapple, who was awarded a medal for gallantry for her efforts in France.

By WW2, professional women were allowed to step into uniform but there were still some caveats. They were allowed to have the same rank, promotional opportunities and pay but were often denied the chance to be awarded honours. A lot of men still thought it was scandalous that women were allowed to join the military.

By the Vietnam War, it became more acceptable for women to take on more diverse roles and today we don’t blink at the roles that women are performing, from doctors to nurses, drivers, signallers, physiotherapists, engineers, helicopter pilots and even commanders.

Q: How has the nature of conflict changed?

A: The days when armies lined up in distinct uniforms against their enemy, facing each other on either side of the battlefield, are long gone. We now live in a world where conflict is among the people, where the threats are invisible and come in the form of suicide bombs and improvised explosive devices. There is no discrimination between men, women, children, civilians or soldiers.

The battlefield is far more complex now because it is no longer obvious who your enemy is. The need to be constantly vigilant, of having to be hyper alert and dealing with the reality of war is all contributing to the mental and emotional costs of war that people bring home with them. Also, for the first time in our history we are not just deploying women, we are deploying mothers, and I don’t think we really understand the long-term consequence of this on them or their families. That in itself should make us hit the pause button in the whole discussion about women serving on the front line.

A: My surgical practice deals with a lot of complex cancers, especially soft tissue tumours, which requires constant ethical judgements about when to operate or not and the impact on an individual’s quality of life. Some of these things are incredibly hard and emotional to navigate. I suspect that my military experiences have been very helpful in providing decision making frameworks and focusing on what is important. You have to be resilient and develop your own coping strategies because the decisions you make always have consequences.

Story by Candy Gibson

A road less travelled

Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus graduated with an MBBS from the University of Adelaide in 1989.

She joined the Australian Defence Force in her 5th year of Medical School. After completing her internship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital she worked in London for 18 months doing surgical rotations before returning to Australia as a full-time general duties army medical officer.

In 1993, Assoc Prof Neuhaus was Australia’s first female doctor to be posted overseas as a regimental medical officer, serving in Cambodia for nine months with the United Nations Transitional Authority, working out of a 6-bed hospital ward with minimal telecommunications access.

Four years later, she spent several months in Bougainville as Officer Commanding – this time as a member of the Army Reserve – providing surgical support to members of the Peace Monitoring Group.

In between these tours of duty, Assoc Prof Neuhaus worked in Queensland for a couple of years, completing her aviation medicine training at the Oakey Army Aviation Centre and her PhD in Laparoscopic Tumour Surgery at the University of Adelaide.

After completing a Lumen Surgical Fellowship in London in 2004, she was appointed Commanding Officer of the Thirteenth Health Support Battalion in Adelaide, training and despatching staff to the Middle East.

In January 2009 – by now a mother and a Colonel in the Army Reserve – Assoc Prof Neuhaus went to Afghanistan as Clinical Director of the Dutch-led multinational NATO hospital in Uruzgan.

Later that year she was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List.

Assoc Prof Neuhaus now practises both as a general surgeon and a surgical oncologist, specialising in melanoma and sarcoma surgery.
Two University of Adelaide alumni have been putting their civil and structural engineering skills towards helping Christchurch rebuild following the devastating earthquake of 22 February.

Robyn Mills reports
University graduate and PhD student Lisa Moon arrived in Christchurch the day after the February earthquake, and still tenses up every time she passes through the cordons around the city’s damaged CBD.

Lisa is leading an international team of researchers documenting the city’s brick and stone buildings and how they performed during the 6.3 magnitude quake.

She says it’s been a stressful and emotional time but an “amazing experience” and one she would not have missed.

“Entering the CBD for the first time was very eerie,” she says. “The only people about on the first few days were Urban Search and Rescue – sometimes with sniffer dogs, the police, the army and a few engineers on inspections, or VIPs who were touring the destruction.

“Were helicopters flying overhead, alarms going off everywhere, lights still on in buildings, and even a radio playing in one shop. It was obvious that many people had just dropped everything and ran.

“There were jackets and handbags in restaurants, food and glasses of wine on the tables, shops’ doors open with merchandise thrown everywhere. Where there should have been cars and buses driving down the street there were tanks. Where the people should have been walking there were piles of rubble. This is not something I’ll ever forget.”

Lisa graduated in 2005 with a double degree in Civil and Structural Engineering and Science, majoring in Physics.

After graduating, she spent a year in Europe completing a Masters in Earthquake Engineering and then another two years in Auckland working for a consulting engineering company.

Her PhD topic, started last July with supervisor Professor Mike Griffith, is on seismic assessment of unreinforced masonry buildings with timber floor diaphragms (floor or roof). It was going to be a theoretical thesis but will now have a large fieldwork component.

“Christchurch has many beautiful historic brick and stone buildings, including the badly damaged Christchurch Cathedral,” Lisa says. “Unlike newer concrete and steel buildings, the behaviour of unreinforced masonry buildings under earthquake loads is less well understood. But being older they tend not to be built to today’s stringent building standards and many behave poorly in earthquakes.”

Lisa was in Christchurch last October to observe building damage from the September earthquake and again just before the February disaster to see additional damage from the Boxing Day aftershock. She was familiar with the buildings and believed she could help with the recovery effort.

“It’s important to collect as much data as possible before the city is cleaned up and to see what type of building or retrofit techniques worked well and what didn’t work so well,” she says.

“The goal is to work out how the buildings behaved, and how that fits in with our current design models.

“There are plenty of engineers out there ready to condemn brick buildings simply because they are brick, but this would result in the unnecessary destruction of much of our heritage.”

The global engineering community has its eye on Christchurch and lessons learned from this earthquake will be applicable not only in New Zealand and Australia, but throughout the world.

“There’s been a lot of discussion within the engineering community here regarding building codes and practices and what these earthquakes mean for the future. I’ve seen a number of international teams of engineers around Christchurch, including teams from the US and Europe. Actually being here and being part of the discussion has been fascinating,” Lisa says.

“So what does the future hold for Christchurch?

“It will be a huge job to fix Christchurch. Half the city’s roads need to be repaired, much of the water and sewerage systems likewise, and of course there are many buildings that will need to be demolished or repaired.

“There are a lot of decisions that will need to be made regarding which buildings to fix, how to rebuild, and what to do with the areas of the city worst hit by liquefaction.

“It will also take a long time for people to rebuild their lives. There has been so much disruption over the past six months with people losing businesses, homes and loved ones – no-one is unaffected. And all the uncertainty about the future makes it difficult for people to move on.

“But, saying that, Christchurch will recover. It will be a different place, but there are many dedicated people who are committed to rebuilding – it will just take a long time.”

“There were helicopters flying overhead, alarms going off everywhere, lights still on in buildings… it was obvious that many people had just dropped everything and run.”

Above: Civil and Structural Engineering PhD graduate Lisa Moon is assessing which buildings in Christchurch fared better when the earthquake struck.
Consulting Structural Engineer Peter McBean has spent much of his 25-year professional career designing new buildings that will not collapse during earthquakes.

In Christchurch at the start of March, he observed in person for the first time the destructive power of a major earthquake. Peter was in Christchurch as one of two structural engineers of the Australian Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Task Force, sent to assist in the disaster response. Their task force, arriving 10 days after the earthquake, relieved other USAR teams sent in the immediate aftermath.

“The huge extent of damage was a lot to take in,” says Peter. “Everywhere you looked — parapets, awnings, building facades and, in some cases, whole buildings — had fallen. Cars on the street were crushed flat by falling debris.

“Added to that was the complete absence of people and life in what should have been a vibrant city centre. Walking down an empty street became a surreal experience, like being on a post-apocalyptic Hollywood movie set.”

Peter graduated with an Honours Degree in Civil Engineering in 1984. Since 1989 he’s been a director of civil, structural and environmental consulting engineers Wallbridge & Gilbert.

“Early in my career I developed an interest in structural dynamics and in particular how structures respond to earthquakes,” says Peter. “About 10 years ago I became interested in our preparedness and response to earthquake events.”

Peter attended the first USAR course run for engineers in Australia in 2005. “USAR personnel are trained to find and rescue people trapped in collapsed and damaged structures,” he says. “When you design buildings to resist earthquakes you focus on how the structures fail and their likely collapse mechanisms.

“As an engineer with USAR, I assist in determining if the broken structure is safe to enter and, if not, what strategies may reduce the risk to rescuers. This often means entering the structure to undertake the structural assessment ahead of the rest of your team. The work can be dangerous and cramped, but training reduces that to an acceptable level.”

Christchurch, although smaller than Adelaide, has similar architecture and lifestyle, and its buildings are constructed using similar techniques and methods.

“I was therefore keen to go, not just to assist the people of Christchurch in whatever way I could, but also to observe and learn what had happened there to better prepare Adelaide for future earthquake events,” Peter says.

The February earthquake was very close to the city and resulted in severe ground motion throughout the CBD. “Modern buildings designed to current earthquake standards are believed to have experienced shaking more than twice that for which they were designed,” Peter says. “It was only perhaps the relatively short duration of the earthquake that saved many further structures from collapse.

“With the exception of a few notable examples, the majority of modern buildings performed quite well. What is encouraging is how well some of these buildings survived almost completely intact.

“Well-configured buildings with regular geometry and good structural detailing consistently demonstrated excellent resilience. This suggests that modern design techniques are starting to get it right.”

However, older buildings, with poor structural systems and detailing, in particular unreinforced masonry buildings didn’t fare so well. “These structures often suffered severe damage and many will require demolition,” says Peter.

“I also inspected a number of older structures that had in recent years been retrofitted with structural measures to improve their seismic performance,” he says. “A number of these retrofit strategies proved very successful and more building owners should be encouraged to undertake similar improvements.”

Over the next few years, Peter will lead the project team of structural engineers working on the design of the new Royal Adelaide Hospital.

“Walking down an empty street became a surreal experience, like being on a post-apocalyptic Hollywood movie set.”

Above: Peter McBean, pictured at far right, with fellow engineers Pat Slavich (left) and Professor John Wilson (centre).
WHITE HOUSE HONOUR

An enquiring mind and a desire to make a difference has led a University of Adelaide Science graduate all the way to the White House for a US Presidential award.

When Nathan Gianneschi found out he would be the recipient of an award from the President of the United States, he was naturally overjoyed.

A professor of chemistry and biochemistry at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), the 33-year-old was honoured in November 2010 with a Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. The awards are the highest honour bestowed by the US government on early career researchers, recognising outstanding work by those who show exceptional leadership potential in their fields.

For Dr Gianneschi, this was not only a chance to meet US President Barack Obama, but also to receive recognition from the highest office in the nation for the work he and his team had been undertaking.

Dr Gianneschi is developing advanced hybrid nanomaterials that combine naturally occurring molecules – such as DNA and protein – with man-made molecules. He was nominated for the award by the US Department of Defense, which will provide him with a chance to meet US President Barack Obama, but also to receive recognition from the highest office in the nation for the work he and his team had been undertaking.

It’s a significant milestone for the researcher who, since graduating from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in 1999, has worked in the field of nanoscience and materials, chemistry and biochemistry at Northwestern University (PhD, 2005) and the Scripps Research Institute (postdoctoral fellow, 2008) before joining UCSD in 2008 where he heads his own research team.

“I was ecstatic,” Dr Gianneschi says of the award, which saw him join more than 80 other recipients from across the nation to meet President Obama at the White House in Washington DC. “It’s a fantastic thing (to receive) and it makes you realise that there are a lot of good people out there doing a lot of good science.”

The experience is among a number of career highlights for Dr Gianneschi, who in 2005 also won an inorganic chemistry award for his research and received a Dow Foundation Fellowship through the American Australian Association, which was awarded to him by the Chairman and CEO of News Corporation, Rupert Murdoch.

Born in Canberra and raised in Melbourne, Singapore and Saudi Arabia, Nathan Gianneschi spent his childhood wherever his father’s career in the oil industry would take him. In 1994 the family moved to Adelaide, where he enrolled as a student at Rostervor College, and completed his Year 12.

Although originally planning to do medicine, his high school grades weren’t quite enough to earn him direct admission into the medical program at the University of Adelaide (his father’s alma mater). He decided instead to pursue a science degree, with hopes of undertaking a postgraduate medical degree elsewhere on completion.

By the time he reached the second year of his Bachelor of Science program, those plans were beginning to be replaced by a new sense of wonder and excitement for science – more specifically, for the potential for nanoscience (and inorganic chemistry in particular) to mimic biological systems.

“I thought: what if you could make something that had the kind of structural complexity that’s impossible in chemistry but is so readily available in biology? That really fascinated me,” he says.

“Of course, people at the time had already been getting into this, they had looked at the idea of mimicking biological systems using inorganic chemistry for many years, but I just didn’t know that at the time.

“Could we build synthetic systems with the complexity of biological ones? That naïve question has really led me to where I am now.”

Today, Dr Gianneschi sits at what he describes as the “interface of different fields within chemistry”.

“There’s a medical school at UC San Diego, a strong chemical–biology program here, a very strong inorganic chemistry division, and a lot of great organic chemists; and here’s me, sitting at the interface, wanting to make materials that could find their way from benchtop to clinic. This place really offers the opportunity to do that.”

He says nanoscience has a lot to learn from nature.

“Billions of years of evolution have given us very specific biological molecule interactions, and very precise but very complex biological systems. Can we use those components in synthetic systems? They could be used to build smart materials, for example, such as self-healing materials – like a paint that when scratched would reseal itself – or materials that change shape in response to their environment, so that they learn about their environment and adapt.

“We’re interested in applying this work in all sorts of different settings, such as in materials science, in nano-electronics and also in medical sciences. It’s not all about human health, but that’s certainly a big driver for us.”

Dr Gianneschi says he is grateful for his experience as an undergraduate student at the University of Adelaide.

“It was a great experience at Adelaide. The opportunities from that background and the interaction with so many different scientists set me up. I came to this illustrious American institution with a really solid background. You never stand up and say ‘thanks for educating me’, but I am thankful,” he says.

Story by David Ellis

Left: Dr Nathan Gianneschi
Photo by Kim McDonald, courtesy of the University of California, San Diego.
Medical graduate realises

HIS BOYHOOD DREAM

When quizzed about their career choice, most people cite family, friends or school results as a defining influence.
In Michael Findlay’s case, it was a best-selling bio-thriller called The Hot Zone, which his father gave him when he finished primary school.

Set in Kenya, Uganda and the Congo, the book is a dramatic and chilling true story of an Ebola virus outbreak originating from Africa and threatening the human race.

It was a strange book to give a 14-year-old boy, but it sparked a fascination with Africa and medicine that has played out into a real-life story many years later.

The now 28-year-old medical graduate from the University of Adelaide has embarked on a journey that could mirror some aspects of the 1994 Richard Preston novel.

“Earlier this year, Michael immigrated to Uganda with his wife Kim to set up a health and development project called Maranatha Health, in response to the needs of a region with 350,000 people and no doctor, and in order to treat life-threatening medical problems.

“This project started as a dream of mine when I was a medical student,” Michael said.

“I initially went to Uganda in the second year of my medical training. It was an amazing experience and I fell in love with the country and its people. I elected to do my 5th-year elective there and that sealed my fate. That’s when I decided that my future lay in Africa and helping its people.”

Turning his dream into reality, however, has required an enormous commitment over the past three years.

It has involved numerous trips to Uganda since 2008 to research the best healthcare model for that region, liaising with the Ugandan Government, seeking financial and in-kind support, and raising awareness in Adelaide for the project.

Michael and Kim need $200,000 a year to finance a sustainable healthcare clinic and other grassroots projects to improve health in the region, the majority of which will come from Australia, and an estimated $50,000 annually from the Ugandan Government.

“We have been blown away by people’s generosity to date,” Michael said. “Thanks to Rotary clubs, church groups, the University of Adelaide’s student medical organisation Insight, as well as individual donations, we have already raised about 75% of what is needed for 2011.”

An independent board of the organisation, called Maranatha Health, provides accountability to the project, with an impressive line-up of directors, including some members of the University of Adelaide’s health and business schools.

Chaired by Michael’s father, medical researcher Professor David Findlay, the board also includes the likes of world-renowned cardiologist Professor Prash Sanders and Professor Barry Burgan, Head of the Business School.

“The depth and breadth of experience on the board ensures we have a very sound strategy to improve the health of the community, which will work for Uganda and strengthen the health care system there.

“While some expertise will come from Adelaide initially to get the clinic off the ground, our long-term goal is to equip the locals with the skills, knowledge and resources to operate this clinic for decades to come,” Michael said.

Many of the existing health centres in rural Uganda are staffed by one nurse or a midwife, invariably with very rudimentary training and woefully inadequate medical equipment and supplies.

“Our plan is to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of the existing health system, making sure that all people have access to health care and proper medication from the village level up.”

Far from being daunted by the challenge ahead, Michael and Kim say they are driven by Africa’s appalling quality of health.

“Statistics show that 25% of children do not make it to their 5th birthday in Kamwenge district, where Maranatha Health is based. We have had the opportunity to walk alongside mothers who have lost children at that age. The grief is the same anywhere in the world and it is an horrific experience.

“It’s disgraceful that in this day and age where we have made so many advances in health, that preventable diseases such as malaria, measles, diarrhoea and pneumonia are killing millions of children in Africa each year.”

Unlike much of Africa, Uganda is one of the most politically stable and peaceful countries on the continent, giving the Adelaide graduate and his wife a real chance to make a difference.

“We could not do this in a war-torn country and we will not achieve miracles overnight,” Michael said.

“We estimate it will take 10 years to establish this health clinic, build its capacity and operate self sufficiently.”

Heading into unchartered waters has been made easier by their second “family” in Uganda that welcomes them with open arms after so many visits.

“We have an African mum, dad, brothers and sisters who have taken us in over the years and now treat us as one of their own. Despite their relative poverty, the Ugandans are an extremely generous, gentle, happy and welcoming people. There’s something about their nature that is incredibly appealing and obviously a big factor in our commitment to the project.”

Story by Candy Gibson

To learn more about the Findlay’s Ugandan health project, go to www.maranathahealth.org

Left: Dr Michael Findlay treats a young Ugandan boy
Above: Michael and his wife Kim – living their dream in Africa
Looks good, sounds

When the world’s most famed classical guitarists approach you to create guitars for them, you know you have struck the right chord.

Elder Conservatorium of Music graduate Jim Redgate makes around 15 classical guitars a year for some of the most well-known performers in the industry, including Slava and Leonard Grigorian, Ana Vidovic, Ralph Towner, Bertrand Thomas, Karin Schaupp and Gareth Koch just to name a few — and he maintains a long waiting list.

“When a top player becomes interested in one of your instruments, it’s usually because they have seen another artist performing with one,” he said.

It’s a stark contrast to the days when Redgate used to frequent concerts with his home-made guitars, keen for a professional opinion on his work.

“I would turn up at concerts with my guitars and ask people to try them. Their feedback helped me to develop an instrument that is not only beautiful to look at but also sounds right. “Now that I have developed a reputation and my guitars are out there, people usually come looking for me” he said.

Redgate now works out of a custom-built workshop at his home in Port Noarlunga, a suburb on Adelaide’s picturesque southern coastline.

Music was not a natural choice for Redgate. He didn’t grow up in a musical family or have any major influences, apart from a keen interest in rock and pop.

He left school aged 15 to begin a plumbing apprenticeship. After four years in the trade, he decided to further his education and go back to study.

“The Conservatorium was a great place to study. I remember there were always students practising and the music would flow out from the back of Elder Hall.

“It was also a great time to be around the University as a lot of electronic music was starting to be created. This interested me as it was something unusual and experimental,” he said.

While completing his Bachelor of Music (Performance), Redgate was exposed to some high-quality instruments from overseas, giving him a great insight into their characteristics. With the fresh skills from his recent trade, Redgate combined his newfound passion for music with his trade background and began building his very first classical guitars. A luthier was born.

“I got to know what a really good classical guitar should sound like, how it should feel and how it should play. I think a solid understanding of the background of the instrument goes a long way in helping to build a guitar that is at the top end of the classical guitar market.”

Developing his playing ability through his studies at the Elder Conservatorium helped Redgate to evaluate his own instruments and also assisted him in communicating with players on a performance level.

“Guitars are a unique instrument in the classical world. They are a solo instrument which is not often played in orchestral or chamber music. There is something very appealing about being in control of a fragile sound in a large environment. ”

While gaining inspiration from modern luthiers, Redgate has added his own innovations to the art of classical guitar making. He is part of a movement using man-made materials such as carbon fibre, kevlar, and a honeycomb-structured material called nomex.

This method, known as the double-top construction, consists of two thin skins of timber separated by an air-filled kevlar honeycomb core so that the soundboard is halved in weight but still maintains its strength. The string can move the soundboard with greater ease and the instrument is more efficient at producing sound.

Redgate guitars are world-renowned for their ability to produce a traditional tone from a modern guitar construction. The evolution of the modern classical guitar has been no accident, and has come about from years of experimentation and practice. And the innovation is not over.

“Guitar making is similar in some ways to winemaking. It is not an exact science, you may use the same ingredients, but there is always a chance element in the end result.”

One of the challenges is to create a guitar that not only looks beautiful, but optimises the volume and response without sacrificing balance or the traditional tone of the instrument.

“Each guitar has its own individual characteristics and there is a certain personality which each instrument has that is still a mystery. No two instruments can ever be made to sound identical.”

Although Redgate maintains an impressive list of overseas clients, Adelaide has provided the perfect base to hone his craft and develop his guitars through his own experimentation.

“I grew up in Adelaide and all of my family and friends are here. It’s such an easy place to live. I enjoy the slow pace and there is also a lot less competition here for guitar makers.”

Creating a custom-made classical guitar is a lengthy and involved process. It begins with consulting with the performer and researching their needs.

“Making a guitar for a world-renowned performer may take some time, as often I may build several guitars and pick the correct one for their needs.

“Top players will generally give me a list of what they would like, including design, dimensions and other technicalities such as volume and tone. I then need to factor in aspects like string tension, size, length and appearance. Other times, performers will grab a ready-made guitar and say ‘that’s the one.’

“The joy of guitar making comes from hearing one of the top guitar players using one of your instruments in performance or sending you their new recording of one of your guitars.”

Story by Connie Dutton

Right: Jim Redgate in his Port Noarlunga workshop  
Photo by John Laurie
perfect
Anatomist Frank Rühli spends his days sorting through ancient mummies packed away in cardboard boxes. It's all part of his quest to chart how the human body has changed over thousands of years.

As Head of the newly-established Centre for Evolutionary Medicine at the University of Zurich, Dr Rühli is looking at how our modern lifestyle is resculpting the human shape in every way – height, weight, muscles, bones, blood vessels and hormones.

Dr Rühli says if you lined up a Stone Age body and compared it with the modern equivalent, it would reveal some stark differences, due to both genetic and environmental factors.

The former most likely would have a more muscular physique, courtesy of the hunter gatherer lifestyle, with stronger bones and may be even less prone to fractures than today’s human body.

Evidence from Dr Rühli’s lab suggests that over the last several thousand years our body morphology shows clinically relevant alterations.

Changes in our body shape and structure are making humans sometimes more vulnerable to medical conditions – including diabetes, lactose intolerance and osteoporosis – and less so to others.

“This is an important facet of evolutionary medicine,” says Dr Rühli.

The Swiss scientist studied Medicine at the University of Zurich before being awarded an International Postgraduate Research Scholarship to undertake his PhD at the University of Adelaide in 2000, studying under anatomist Professor Maciej Henneberg.

Dr Rühli’s thesis was on the microevolution of the human spine.

He also lectured at Adelaide for 12 months during his last year of his PhD and returned to Zurich in 2003, resuming his research in ancient mummy studies.

As Head of the Centre for Evolutionary Medicine, Dr Rühli’s collection of body parts involve mummies, skeletal samples and also modern data to explore the interaction between humans and their environment.

“ Basically, the Centre analyses why humans become ill.

“Evolutionary medicine is an emerging field but it is not opposing conventional medicine,” he says. “Rather, it is adding to our body of knowledge about evolving patterns of health.”

One of Dr Rühli’s next projects may shed light on the origin of malaria, one of the most serious and debilitating diseases affecting the Third World.

Dr Rühli says his time at the University of Adelaide was “one of the best in my life”.

“I enjoyed the intellectual discussion with Professor Henneberg and his colleagues and particularly enjoyed my stay at Kathleen Lumley College,” he said.

The University of Zurich is now offering a Certificate in Evolutionary Medicine at St Mark’s College in North Adelaide.

With so many alumni working in diverse fields around the world, we want to know whom you’d like to see profiled for Global Impact. Tell us by emailing alumni@adelaide.edu.au
Key to the future for paediatric surgery

PROFESSOR HOCK LIM TAN
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery 1972, Doctor of Medicine 2000

A pioneer in paediatric keyhole surgery, Professor Tan has helped Malaysia become a centre of excellence in laparoscopy.

The Distinguished Professor in the Department of Surgery at the National University of Malaysia fondly recalls his days at the University of Adelaide where he enjoyed making new friends and absorbing the culture.

“Those were the halcyon days. I wasn’t the ‘quietest’ overseas student in Adelaide and even engaged in student politics,” said Professor Tan.

This passion and determination has stayed with him throughout his career.

In 1991, he made headlines after developing the keyhole method to treat newborn infants with pyloric stenosis, a condition that causes stomach blockage. Despite much resistance from sceptics, he went on to prove the advantages of keyhole surgery in children through the continued development of surgical techniques and specialised instruments.

Being asked to train surgeons in laparoscopic surgery at Great Ormond Street Children’s Hospital London (1999–2000) was a turning point in his endeavours. As a consultant specialist for the leading paediatric hospital in the world, the appointment by invitation has been a career highlight.

“Any surgeon worth his salt would consider it a feather in his cap to be trained in Great Ormond Street. I felt that I was finally recognised for my work” he said.

From 2001–2007, Professor Tan was Inaugural Professor of Paediatric Surgery at the University of Adelaide and headed up the Department of Paediatric Surgery at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, overseeing the opening of a high-tech endoscopic theatre suite – the only one of its kind in a children’s hospital in the Asia-Pacific region.

After more than 40 years abroad, Professor Tan was invited to return to Malaysia in 2007 not only to assist with the development of paediatric surgery but also to help boost the reputation of paediatrics at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

“If you had asked me five to six years ago if I would consider leaving my position in Adelaide, I would have thought you were mad,” he said.

“However, there is a desperate need for more paediatric surgeons in Malaysia and I saw this as a great opportunity to make a difference, especially for the children in this region.”

Professor Tan is responsible for the laparoscopic surgery training of every paediatric surgeon in Malaysia. One of his greatest achievements has been to develop his unit in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia into the foremost centre in the region.

He has also developed a new Masters of Paediatric Surgery course which is due to have its first intake by the end of the year.

“My life’s work in developing advanced paediatric laparoscopic surgery is now acknowledged internationally, and many of the operations which I developed and promoted are now routine surgical procedure in many institutions.”

Story by Genevieve Sanchez

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Economics graduate accepts top China posting

FRANCES ADAMSON
Bachelor of Economics 1985

University of Adelaide Economics graduate Frances Adamson has been appointed as Australia’s next Ambassador to China.

The Mandarin-speaking career diplomat, a senior officer in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, previously served in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Britain, the last as Deputy High Commissioner.

Ms Adamson’s most recent role was Chief of Staff to former Foreign Affairs Minister and now Defence Minister, the Hon. Stephen Smith.

It is the first time the Federal Government has appointed a woman to an Asian ambassadorship, cementing the reputation Ms Adamson has earned as a “thorough professional and outstanding diplomat,” according to colleagues.

A report in The Australian said Ms Adamson proved “an astute analyst of Taiwan’s often complex political scene”, also quoting a Canberra insider who described her as “extremely efficient and knowledgeable and a DFAT high-flyer”.

Foreign Affairs Minister Kevin Rudd said Ms Adamson would take up the post in August 2011, replacing Dr Geoff Raby, who has been Ambassador since 2007.

China is now Australia’s largest trading partner, with annual two-way trade totalling close to $90 billion in 2009–10.

Professor of Economics at the University of Adelaide, Kym Anderson, said: “Given the importance of China to Australia’s trade, this is one of the most critical ambassadorial appointments the Government has to make from the viewpoint of our economy.”

“Frances Adamson has excellent credentials for that post: a Mandarin speaker, a degree in economics, and experience as a First Assistant Secretary in DFAT, as Chief of Staff for the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and via senior postings to the UK, Hong Kong and Taiwan.”

Story by Candy Gibson
THE LAW AND WAR: STRIKING THE RIGHT BALANCE

In a time of war, what is the balance between military needs and human rights?

University of Adelaide Law (Honours) graduate Captain Dale Stephens of the Royal Australian Navy has made it his career to examine this highly-charged and emotional question on behalf of the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

It has permitted him to play a role in advising on ADF operations in Cambodia, Bougainville, Arabian Gulf sanctions enforcement and Afghanistan.

He was also deployed to East Timor as part of the International Force for East Timor (INTERFET) operation in 1999, and again in 2000 as part of the United Nations’ Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) operation as the chief legal adviser to the Peacekeeping Force Commander.

In addition, it is a role which has seen him act as an adviser to renowned US Army General David Petraeus during the Iraq War, and most recently as a senior adviser to the Australian Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

"War is a very serious endeavour, not least of all because of the impact it has on the human beings who are involved, whether they’re fighting or citizens in a country who are caught up in conflict, and it’s something I’ve always been interested in," Captain Stephens said.

"Whether I am involved in a war, peacekeeping or peace enforcement operation, I have always thought that my role as a legal practitioner was a key one.

"In such circumstances, where people are at their most vulnerable and where decisions are being made that will result in people being hurt or detained and property being destroyed, it is the law that provides a non-negotiable, external standard of conduct that acts to constrain the application of lawful force and to ensure the preservation of personal dignity.

"The ADF takes these responsibilities very seriously and legal officers are a critical part of any commander’s team. I feel a great sense of personal achievement in having this role on operations."

In 2008, Captain Stephens was the ADF’s chief legal adviser within Iraq, and spent considerable time in the heavily fortified surrounds of Baghdad’s ‘Green Zone’ as part of the Multi-National Force Staff Judge Advocate’s Office.

"I was part of the team that dealt with the transfer of Iraqi provinces from Coalition-led security to Iraqi-led security responsibility," he said.

"Of course, the Iraqis rightfully saw each transfer as a significant step in their growing military capacity and were very engaged in this process."

"My briefing of General Petraeus involved an outline of legal issues associated with one of these transfers. As one might expect, he asked insightful and comprehensive questions after my part of the brief."

"It is my personal view that his approach and perspective on counter-insurgency operations was a decisive factor in the Coalition’s success in Iraq."

A decorated military career has seen him receive the Conspicuous Service Medal as well as the US Bronze Star and numerous other US, UN and Australian service honours, but Captain Stephens has also found time to further both his education and that of others.

He has completed a Master of Laws at Harvard University and is now part way through a PhD at the same institution – while co-supervising PhD students and teaching a graduate subject at the University of Adelaide.

"I grew up in Whyalla and I intend to return there – I love that part of South Australia and try to get back there when I can," he said.

"The University of Adelaide helped me get to where I am today and I enjoy coming back and helping where I can."

"Whether I am involved in a war, peacekeeping or peace enforcement, I have always thought that my role as a legal practitioner was a key one."

Right: Captain Dale Stephens in Baghdad, 2008

Story by Ben Osborne
Established by the Thyne Reid Foundation, a new fund will provide scholarships of $10,000 each for five Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students for one year.

With financial hardship being a main contributing factor in students dropping out of their courses, these scholarships aim to provide assistance with the cost of housing, study materials, text books and the high cost of city living.

The five recipients of the 2011 Thyne Reid scholarships met with Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha, Thyne Reid Foundation representative Fiona McLachlan and Wilto Yerlo Acting Dean Jenni Caruso at a ‘thank you’ morning tea.

“Wildo Yerlo is very proud of each of the recipients who come from a diverse range of language backgrounds and who are studying across a range of discipline areas in the University,” said Jenni Caruso.

“Each of the recipients’ academic records show that they are individually dedicated to and focused on their studies and the directions that academic achievement will open for them.

“These scholarships will strongly underpin the students’ continuation of study through to completion and graduation,” Jenni said.

Rebecca Richards

Rebecca Richards made history this year by becoming Australia’s first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar in 108-years and will further her passion for Indigenous history and culture when she enrols at Oxford University in September 2011. She was also named the Channel 9 2011 Young Achiever of the Year for South Australia.

Rebecca, who completed a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) at the University of Adelaide, was raised in South Australia’s Riverland and is a member of the Adnyamathanha and Barngarla peoples of the Flinders Ranges. The daughter of a Leigh Creek stockman and a primary school teacher, she grew up on her family’s fruit block, riding horses and dirt motorbikes, and swimming in the Murray River.

“A university education was something I always aspired to, but I was unsure of which direction I would take.

“I became interested in the University of Adelaide due to the vast amount of student support services available and the variety of subjects to choose from in the Bachelor of Arts,” she said.

This year Rebecca undertook an internship at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, working in its National Museum of Natural History to help digitise the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition.

“My university degree has directed me towards my chosen profession, and will assist me significantly in my work in museums and in the field of anthropology.”

Rebecca describes the support services provided by Wilto Yerlo at the University as “amazing”.

“The Indigenous Student Common Room provides students with the opportunity to socialise and meet with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and students,” she said.

Fiona MacLachlan – Thyne Reid Foundation

The Thyne Reid Foundation was created by the late businessman Andrew Thyne Reid prior to his death, and his estate was left to the Foundation for charitable use.

Fiona MacLachlan, Thyne Reid Foundation Representative, said the scholarships would provide much needed financial assistance to Indigenous students so that they could focus more attention on their studies.

“This financial assistance, coupled with the guidance and mentoring received from Wilto Yerlo throughout their student life is aimed at helping the students continue their studies through to graduation. We hope these graduates will become leaders and mentors among their community and peers.

“I hear that conversations begin to change in an Aboriginal community when a young person goes on to university. The success of that person becomes a community success and allows the community to see that there are more opportunities. It is a family extension as well as leadership and a way out of poverty,” Fiona said.

Indigenous students now have a new incentive to undertake tertiary study.
“You can support each other and still maintain a connection to your community. I believe the Thyne Reid Indigenous Scholarships will greatly encourage Indigenous students to take up university studies and feel confident that they can meet the expenses, particularly those relocating from rural or remote areas,” she said.

Rebecca is currently employed as an Indigenous Cadet Project Officer with the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Story by Connie Dutton

Above left: back row, from left: Mr Kaithule Williams (B Design Studies), Mr Phillip Noel (B Music), Mrs Fiona MacLachlan OAM and Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha. Front row, from left: Ms Sueryka Coulthard (B Dental Surgery), Ms Kate Richards (B Arts), Ms Amy Murray (B Agriculture).

Right: Rhodes Scholar Rebecca Richards  
Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Australia.
Final chapter for literary star

Hazel Rowley’s life was driven by her gift for story-telling, her passion for languages, and her determination to take as her models public intellectuals who cared deeply about the world and the issues that affected it.

Born at St Mary’s Hospital, London, she immigrated to Australia with her family at the age of eight, a move to which she subsequently attributed her fascination with languages and with the forces that shape individuals.

That fascination also determined her course of study at the University of Adelaide, where her main focus was on French and German.

After graduating with honours in 1973, Hazel went on to complete a PhD in 1982.

While still an undergraduate she had been greatly enthused by lectures on the existentialists, particularly Simone de Beauvoir, to whose work she devoted her doctoral thesis.

Peter Hambly, who directed her graduate work, remembers “her intellectual curiosity and her enthusiasm for exploring what caught her attention,” while French Professor John Davies notes that she was “an exceptionally gifted student, with a delightful personality.”

Davies continues: “A free, independent spirit, she was no dry academic, but a first-rate and absorbing writer, whose work was a pleasure to read.”

Brian Coghlan, Professor of German, warmly recalls his first meeting with her, at the instigation of her father, Derrick, who held the Chair of Microbiology and who himself enjoyed a world-wide reputation in his field.

“Hazel, just before Matric, school uniform, quiet, respectful, spoke only when spoken to, the imminent emergence of scholarly distinction came over loud and clear, though she would never have raised her voice.”

For Brian, Hazel’s hallmark was her “talent for total absorption, while never losing sight of the world at large.”

It was a talent that ensured her success when she left academe to earn her living from her writing, a career that was beginning to be imposed on Australian academics in the 1990s.

While lecturing at Deakin University, she had already published her Banjo Award-winning biography of Christina Stead, a work that undeniably raised the standards for biographies in this country.

Her determination to speak for those who stood outside their communities and who struggled to make the world a better place, combined with her realisation of how fraught and complex the issue of race continued to be in the United States, led her to take the daring step of deciding to devote her next biography to an African-American, the novelist Richard Wright.

For her third, widely-acclaimed book Hazel returned to her earlier interest in the existentialists. This time she analysed the intellectual and physical passions that brought together two of the 20th century’s greatest thinkers, Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir. Tête-à-Tête, published in 2005, was a Washington Post Best Book, selected as BBC Book of the Week and voted as France’s Life magazine’s best literary biography of the year.

Her fourth book took her back to the United States. She had become fascinated by the complex relationship between one of the country’s most powerful presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and his wife Eleanor, the country’s most outspoken, controversial, and influential First Lady.

While much has been written on these two charismatic figures, Franklin and Eleanor: An Extraordinary Marriage is seen by many as the most lucid, convincing and perceptive exploration of their complex open marriage. It is perhaps the work that most clearly exhibits Hazel’s rapacious appetite for research, her constant questioning of received opinions, and her wonderful gift for story-telling.

When she died suddenly on 1 March, she left behind plans for an ambitious new biography based on the lives and works of the Hollywood Ten, those who were blacklisted during the McCarthy era. She also left an extraordinary number of people who had been touched by her speaking abilities, by her powerful essays, by her warmth and wit, and by her great capacity for friendship.

I first met Hazel at fresher’s camp, a willowy, articulate, funny young woman, who combined daring ambitions with a high degree of unpredictability. On one unforgettable occasion as we walked out of Elder Hall after a recital by David Galliver which included Schubert’s “The Erl King”, she burst out singing “Mein Vater, mein Vater” at the top of her voice.

Over the years, in Australia, France and the US, I would find Hazel increasingly elegant, more sophisticated but still the same untamed spirit.

“Hazel’s hallmark was her talent for total absorption, while never losing sight of the world at large.”

Hazel’s family and friends intend to establish an endowment in her name. For more information, please contact her sister Della at dellarowley@bigpond.com or by phone at +61 8 8270 5130.

Left: Hazel Rowley in the Hudson Valley in New York State.

Photo by Lucia Guimaraes.
Master of Environmental Policy and Management (Coursework)
The Master of Environmental Policy and Management at the University of Adelaide is tapping into demand for new skills to tackle emerging environmental challenges for Australia and the globe.
The program (1.5 years full-time or part-time equivalent) addresses how the signature environmental issues of our time – climate change, water shortages, deforestation, biodiversity loss and the like – are to be managed, now and in the future.
The Masters program is targeted at three distinct audiences: recent graduates seeking a career in environmental management; mid-career professionals looking to update their knowledge; and those wishing to undertake further research in this field.
These new environmental challenges are leading directly to employment opportunities, with more than 100 job positions currently available in the environmental management field around Australia and overseas.
The program provides a grounding of environmental policy, planning and governance, equipping graduates with the skills to negotiate complex policies, public–private partnerships, economic issues, risk management and engaging community.
Program convenor Dr Douglas Bardsley says responding effectively to environmental problems will be critical to the future wellbeing of our society – in South Australia, nationally and on a global scale.

Master of Science and Technology Commercialisation
The Master of Science and Technology Commercialisation (STC) is a unique program that delivers practical techniques to bring ideas to life.
Offered in a flexible mode over 18 months, the program equips graduates to make informed technology management and planning decisions – whether starting or developing high technology ventures or creating spin-off companies.
STC programs are ideally suited to those interested in understanding the process of bringing new knowledge to fruition in the marketplace, or through social avenues.
All disciplines, all functional roles and all ages have been represented in these programs.
Participants exchange life experiences and often bring the benefits of years of hard work developing the very science or technology that leads to better lives. They share, create and disseminate knowledge and then use it to improve their careers, add value to their organisations and also to their communities.
Past graduates have risen to senior positions in various arenas including: IT, investment banking, biosciences, agri-and-aqua science, digital services, venture capital, varying technology transfer initiatives, and many more.

Master of Clinical Psychology (Defence)
The University of Adelaide’s School of Psychology, in conjunction with Joint Health Command, Australian Defence Force (ADF), and the Centre for Military and Veterans’ Health (CMVH) is offering a new university program to enhance professional skills for Defence psychologists.
The Master of Clinical Psychology (Defence) is available to university graduates with an accredited Honours degree in Psychology (or equivalent) working in the ADF.
This specialised course will provide Defence psychologists with the necessary clinical skills required for providing health care and organisational support to ADF personnel.
Successful graduates will gain a broad understanding of ADF Health Services as well as develop the relevant skills and training relating to mental health promotion and clinical practice. A recent review by the Australian Psychology Accreditation Council (APAC) described the program as “both very innovative and extremely practical” in an important area of professional practice.
This course is only available to those who are currently employed by the ADF.

For more information please visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/programfinder/2011

The University is holding a Postgraduate Information Night on Thursday 28 July in Bonython Hall from 5pm–7.30pm. General information of postgraduate programs will be discussed, along with sessions from all the five faculties. For more information go to www.adelaide.edu.au/pgnight
DiaLogue with the King

Lionel Logue’s legacy as a pioneer in the field of speech pathology is now being realised due to the worldwide success of the award-winning movie The King’s Speech.

In 1924, Logue took his family to London where he set up a practice in Harley Street. At the time, not much was known about speech defects or their causes − a stutter was considered a disability and many unusual treatments were used in attempts to cure the problem. Although he had no medical qualifications, Logue’s training in elocution and his understanding of the mechanics of sound and the importance of breathing gave him a unique viewpoint on treating speech disorders.

Causing immense frustration and distress to the sufferer, an excruciating stammer was made all the worse for the Duke of York − the future King George VI − who was about to be thrust onto the world stage on his first solo journey to Australia.

In 1925, after being unsuccessfully treated by several therapists, the Duke had his first appointment with Logue who was virtually his last hope if he were to improve his speech and overcome his stutter in time for him to travel to Australia. He visited Logue every day for two-and-half months and was prescribed a schedule of daily exercises, which the Duke continued on his trip to Australia, even writing to Logue about the efforts he was putting in while away from London.

His speech at the opening of Parliament in Canberra was reported to have been delivered “resonantly and without stuttering”, as were his numerous other public speaking engagements while in Australia, including an address at a ceremony held in Elder Hall at the University of Adelaide in 1927 where a Doctor of Laws was conferred on the Duke.

Logue’s skills in “voice doctoring” as he called it were brought to the fore when he helped many returned WWI servicemen who were suffering speech disorders as a result of shell shock and gas attacks.

The University of Adelaide Alumni Magazine

Above: Lionel Logue and fiancée Myrtle on their engagement day.
Below: A portrait of Lionel Logue as a young man.
Images courtesy of Mark Logue.

Story by Genevieve Sanchez
The 2011 Alumni Forum will focus on the University’s connection to the wider community through its research partnerships, innovations in teaching and learning, social media, and our volunteer program. The theme for this year’s Alumni Forum is ‘Create, Connect, Collaborate’.

Held over two mornings, the forum will feature sessions from the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha, senior managers and key industry and community partners. Alumni groups from within Australia and overseas will also have the chance to socialise and network on Friday 2 September during an informal dinner.

“This is a great opportunity for alumni to be a part of the strategic planning process for the University’s alumni relations,” said Professor McWha. “We will be encouraging alumni to provide feedback on the current program and share ideas and suggestions for future developments and improvements.”

An inaugural Distinguished Alumni Dinner is planned for Saturday 3 September, where recipients of the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented with their awards before an audience of University staff, family and friends.

The Alumni Forum is open to all students, staff, graduates and members of the wider community who are interested in learning more about the University of Adelaide’s Strategic Plan.

Story by Kim Harvey

More information, including the full program and registration details, can be downloaded at www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au or contact Development and Alumni at +61 8 8303 5800.

Above: Community engagement is a big part of the University’s Strategic Plan. Photo by Michael Mullan
More than 150 students from 12 countries graduated from the University of Adelaide in Singapore on Saturday 26 March, presided over by the University’s new chancellor, the Honourable Robert Hill.

Mr Hill, formerly a long-standing Federal cabinet minister and United Nations representative for Australia, also gave the graduation address at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic Convention Centre.

It was the first graduation address delivered by Mr Hill since becoming Chancellor in July 2010.

The Singapore ceremony included five PhD students and 16 prize winners from the University’s programs offered in Singapore at the Ngee Ann–Adelaide Education Centre.

Apart from the graduation ceremony, a Singapore Alumni Reunion was also held at Raffles Hotel.

1. Bachelor of Health Sciences graduates Maryam Suhaimi, Nurul Iza Abdul Rahman, Nor Izzati Sharuddin, Ahlami Wan Muhammad and Ibtisam Ismail.

2. Norasyikin Hassan (Master of Nursing Science).

3. Ngee Ann–Adelaide prizewinners: Sim Poh Koon Adrian (Most Outstanding Master of Applied Finance Student), Ronald Ruly Atmadja (mace bearer), Ng Mei-Yin Mary-Ann (Most Outstanding Master of Business Administration Student), Bharath Ramesh (Most Outstanding Master of Project Management Student), Han Jia (Most Outstanding Bachelor of Computer Science Student). Bottom row - Mr Teoh Eng Hong, Professor Iain Reid, Professor Fred McDougall and Mr Chu Tee Seng.

4. Asanthi Perera (B Science) and her mother.

5. Professor Noel Lindsay and Dr Hock-Tee Koh (PhD in Graduate School of Management)

6. Bachelor of Computer Science Graduates Hui Xuan, Ho Shi Hao, Lee Yu Min.

Photos by Esther Chua, Joyous Asia.
Father and daughter, Peter and Anna Goldsworthy, weren’t happy to pursue just one career. They each followed two, and that’s leaving out all the extras that frantically busy successful people do.

Dr Peter Goldsworthy AM, who graduated from the University of Adelaide with a medical degree in 1975, continues his medical practice today – despite being a celebrated author with a string of award-winning works to his name and more in the pipeline. He has just been appointed Adjunct Professor in Creative Writing at the University.

Daughter Anna (Bachelor of Music with Honours, 1996) is an acclaimed classical pianist and highly successful writer. Her musical biography Piano Lessons won ‘Newcomer of the Year’ in the 2010 Australian Book Industry Awards and was shortlisted in the recent 2011 National Biography Award.

Anna is a founding member of Seraphim Trio. She has performed as a soloist and with Seraphim Trio around the world. She is also Artistic Director of the Port Fairy Spring Music Festival. Board Member of the Australian Book Review and Artist in Residence at Janet Clarke Hall at the University of Melbourne where she teaches piano.

But that’s not nearly the end of the Goldsworthy/University of Adelaide connection – or the family’s significant contribution to the world at large.

Peter’s “smarter, younger brother” Jeffrey Goldsworthy, graduated in Law with Honours in 1977 and obtained his Doctorate in 2002, and, according to Peter, “won all the prizes”. Jeffrey has a host of other degrees and is currently Professor of Law (Personal Chair) at Monash University and President of the Australian Society of Legal Philosophy, having previously taught here at Adelaide.

There are two other Goldsworthy children, besides Anna.

Daniel studied Music (1998) – he plays classical clarinet and jazz sax – and also has a Graduate Diploma in Education (2003). He is Digital Director at The Kingdom Advertising, back in Adelaide after more than five years working as a Flash developer with many of London’s top digital agencies. There he was involved in a BAFTA-winning project in 2009.

Alexandra Goldsworthy graduated in Medicine in 2006 and is training in psychiatry. She is also a talented artist. Their mother, Helen Goldsworthy, is another medical graduate from the University of Adelaide.

University of Adelaide graduates make their mark all around the world. One talented South Australian family of graduates has also brought considerable pleasure to the reading, theatre and concert-going public – and good health.
BARR SMITH LIBRARY APPEAL

The Barr Smith Library now provides more than 150,000 electronic journals and approximately 80,000 E-Book titles thanks to the continued generosity of University of Adelaide alumni.

University Librarian Ray Choate said the expansion of virtual content in the Library for educational and research purposes did not come at the expense of printed material however, with the Barr Smith Library recording more than 400,000 loans per annum in the past year.

In order to maintain such a wide range of collections for academic study and general interest, the Library relies on generous donations from alumni and the public.

“Your donation to the annual Library Appeal adds value to the collection and one of the University’s greatest assets,” Mr Choate said.

“Making a donation to the Barr Smith Library Appeal is a way to help enrich both the collections and reputation of the Library for the benefit of students and staff, both now and in the future.

“Collection development includes more traditional resources, such as the thousands of books on our shelves, our rare books and special collections, as well as our virtual presence through online presence and research databases.”

Since its establishment in 2002, the Appeal has contributed more than $780,000 in funds, helping the Library to maintain relevant collections and expand its online access to resources.

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, the Friends of the University of Adelaide Library, or to make a donation, please contact Development and Alumni on 08 8303 5800, email: development@adelaide.edu.au or go to www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl_appeal

GOLDSWORTHY GRADUATES LEAVE THEIR MARK

In pursuing university education, the younger Goldsworthys were following in the footsteps of their father Peter and their grandfather Reuben.

“Dad came out of the Depression,” says Peter. “He was brought up by a widowed mother. Being able to go to teachers’ college was of priceless benefit for him, and us.”

Reuben Goldsworthy has a string of qualifications from the University of Adelaide – he graduated with a Science degree in 1948, followed by a Diploma in Secondary Education in 1954, a Bachelor of Arts in 1962 and an Advanced Diploma in Education in 1978.

His career as secondary school teacher took him and wife Jannette to the first of a series of country postings which helped shape the young Peter and sowed the seeds for his writing.

“Both my parents were accomplished musicians and they used to perform as a duo at country fêtes when they were first married – Dad singing, Mum on the piano,” says Peter.

“They put on Gilbert and Sullivan operettas in almost every town we lived in when I was a boy.”

Peter’s mother Jannette was a primary school teacher but gave up teaching when she married, as required in those days.

Minlaton, where Peter was born, Penola and Kadina all figure largely in his evolution as, first, an avid reader, and then author. So did the many stories his parents read to him while he convalesced from frequent asthma attacks, along with their strong educational ethic and the reverence they felt for books and their “magical improving qualities”.

“In the strict weekly calendar, every night was Reading Night,” says Peter.

“My father taught me to read when I was three, mainly by reciting a book called Ant and Bee. I loved the sharp, sticky look of words, even before they accumulated meaning.”

In small country towns where readers relied on the Country Lending Library in Adelaide, books were precious to story lovers – as was the Penola town dump where young boys discovered tatty discarded sci-fi paperbacks and ‘pre-porn’ Magazines.

Ever since his early days as a doctor, Peter has divided his time equally between medicine and writing.

“Studying medicine was the best thing I could do as a writer – for me they are perfectly complementary,” he says.

“Without medicine providing its own literary fellowship, it would have been much more difficult. Also, my patients are real character studies and it’s high stakes – stories made for a writer.”

Peter wrote his first novel Maestro in 1989, voted later as one of the Top 40 Australian books of all time. He has since written another six novels plus poetry, short stories, plays and opera libretti, with many major literary awards across the genres.

Three Dog Night won the FAW Christina Stead Award in 2003. He wrote the libretti for the Richard Mills operas Summer of the Seventeenth Doll and Batavia, the last winning the 2002 Robert Helpmann Award for Best New Australian Work and a Green Room Award for Special Creative Achievement.

Three Dog Night and Honk If You Are Jesus have been adapted for the stage, as has Maestro, co-written with his daughter Anna. Five of his novels are in development as films and two more for the stage.

His 1996 novel Wish was brought to the stage in Perth in April and his short story The Kiss is just finishing a run at the Belvoir Street Theatre in Sydney. The short film, based on The Kiss, has just won five awards at the South Australian Screen Awards.

In 2010 Peter became a Member of the Order of Australia for services to literature as an author and poet, through arts administration, and to the community.

Story by Robyn Mills
Above: Reuben Goldsworthy with sons Jeff and Peter.

winter 2011
The rich history of the BA over the last 135 years is closely interwoven with the traditions of the University of Adelaide and the development of its international reputation.

Many subjects such as Geography and German have been taught here for over 100 years but there are more recent subjects such as Film and Media Studies and Spanish, which reflect a changing world.

One constant over the past century has been the fundamental value of the liberal arts education provided through the BA. The degree provides flexibility and a rich choice of subjects, enabling students to tailor their studies to their career goals.

Professor Harvey said many employers placed a high value on BA graduates from the University of Adelaide.

“The strong vocational linkages and introduction of work-oriented internships as a credited part of the BA degree have also proved extremely popular with both students and employers.”

The 135th anniversary of the BA degree also coincides with the 175th anniversary of the first European settlement in South Australia.

To commemorate the milestone the University’s School of History and Politics will host a weekly 175th anniversary lecture series from the end of July, featuring high-profile guest speakers.

Above: A Bachelor of Arts was conferred on Thomas Ainslee Caterer in 1879, the first graduate of the University of Adelaide and also South Australia.

Information provided by Felicity Prance and Clive Brooks.
ALUMNI on the move

WHAT’S NEW WITH YOU?

If you’ve recently celebrated a promotion or career achievement, a change of jobs or won a major prize, we want to hear about it! Share your good news with your fellow alumni by emailing us 50 words or less, including your name, degree and graduation year.

Send it to alumni@adelaide.edu.au or call +61 8 8303 5800.

Emeritus Professor Geoff Harcourt (School of Economics) has been awarded a Veblen–Commons Award, the highest academic honour given by the Association of Evolutionary Economics. The award is presented annually to scholars who have substantially advanced an understanding of how economies actually work, in addition to insights that advance economic theory.

Professor Harcourt has had a long association with the University of Adelaide. He first joined the University of Adelaide as an economics lecturer in 1958 after graduating from the University of Melbourne (BCom (Hons) 1954, MCom (1956)) and the University of Cambridge (PhD 1960, Litt. D 1988).

During the 1960s, he lectured at Cambridge and was a Fellow of Trinity Hall, returning to Adelaide in 1967 to take up a chair in economics. He was again on leave in Cambridge in 1972–73 and 1980, before going back to Cambridge to a university lectureship and College Fellowship (at Jesus College) in 1982. He was made Professor Emeritus at the University of Adelaide in 1988.

Professor Harcourt has authored or edited 25 books and published about 240 papers in journals and edited volumes. His books include Some Cambridge Controversies in the Theory of Capital (1972), The Structure of Post-Keynesian Economics (2006) and (with Prue Kerr) Joan Robinson (2009), as well as seven volumes of selected essays.

As well as receiving numerous awards, he was admitted as an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1994, made a Distinguished Fellow of the Economic Society of Australia in 1996 and a Distinguished Fellow of the History of Economics Society in 2004.

The University of Adelaide’s School of Economics has a Geoff Harcourt Visiting Professorship, funded by alumni, which annually invites a global leader in a field of economics to share their knowledge and experience with students, staff and the business community.

2000s

Edward Yapp [B E (Chem) 2010, B Fin 2010] is one of 60 of the world’s most brilliant students to be awarded a prestigious Gates scholarship to the University of Cambridge. Edward will be studying for a PhD in Chemical Engineering.

Trevor Worthy [PhD BioSc 2008] was awarded a Doctor of Science at Waikato University, one of only 10 such degrees conferred in that University’s 50-year history.

Anita Buckle [B Wine Mkt 2007] was awarded the 2010 Young Meetings & Events Australia (YMEA) Future Leader of the Year Award at the South Australian MEA State Awards.

Kelly Menhennett [BAgSc 2002] recently released a debut album entitled World of Mine featuring original tracks that traverse folk, roots and gypsy/jazz styles.

Acclaimed Jazz singer Jo Lawry, [B Mus (Hons) 2002, B Mus 2000] returned to her home town of Adelaide as part of Sting’s ensemble at the 2011 Barossa Under the Stars concert held in Tanunda on Australia Day.

Dr Amanda Rischbieth [Grad Dip Int Care Nurs 1997, MNSc 2001, PhD Med 2007], Nicole Graham [MBA 2009] and Loretta Reynolds [LLB 1992] were awarded 2011 Australian Institute of Company Directors’ (AICD / Federal Government Office for Women) Board Diversity Scholarships as part of a new scholarship program aimed at helping to lift the representation of women on Australian boards.

Tom Cundy [MBBS 2009, B Med Sc (Hons) 2010] has been awarded a $150,000 Federal Government scholarship to study for his PhD in robotic surgery in London later this year. Tom is the only South Australian to be awarded a General Sir John Monash Scholarship in 2011.
1990s
Dr Edward N. Eadie [PhD (Economics and Commerce 1998) M Com 2003] is undertaking research with the Centre for Animal Welfare and Ethics (CAWE) in the School of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland. His new book, Education for Animal Welfare, has recently been published by Springer of Heidelberg, Germany.

David Hill [B Com 1995, MBA 2003] has been named among the World Economic Forum’s 200 young global leaders for 2011. Mr Hill, corporate finance partner at Deloitte, is one of only six Australians commended by the WEF for professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world.

Dr Kibuta Ongwamuhana [LL M 1991] has been appointed a director of Peak Resources Tanzania Limited, and as Principal Adviser to the Board of Peak Resources on Tanzanian matters.

1980s
Alex Ward [LLB 1985] has been appointed President of the Law Council of Australia. Alex, who is a barrister with Adelaide firm Edmund Barton Chambers, specialises in insurance and personal injury and has also been a legal officer in the Royal Australian Navy Reserves since 1999.

Professor Peter Rathjen [B Sc 1984, B Sc 1985 (Hons)] has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the University of Tasmania. Professor Rathjen, a world-renowned stem-cell scientist, has moved from Melbourne to accept the position with his wife, Dr Joy Rathjen, also a University of Adelaide graduate and fellow stem-cell researcher.

1970s
David Batchelor [B Ec 1979] has been appointed Managing Director of The Peninsula, Shanghai, tasked with overseeing the management of the hotel complex including the shopping arcade, Peninsula Residences and Waitanyuan.

Professor Christopher R. Fuller [BE (Hons) 1974, PhD 1979] has been appointed Samuel P. Langley Professor of Engineering at the National Institute of Aerospace (NIA). Professor Fuller is currently the Roanoke Electric Steel Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Virginia Tech. He is an expert in acoustics and works on interior noise and vibration control for aerospace applications, launch vehicle payload noise, and other related concerns in the automotive and marine industries.

Sydney Tilmouth [LLB 1972, B A 1985] was awarded an Australian Institute of Judicial Administration Award for Excellence in 2010 for his work at the Nunga Court (SA) and in particular his work in relation to Aboriginal Sentencing Conferences.

Wayne Hein [RDA 1970] has been appointed Head of the School of Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences at James Cook University.

1960s
Professor Kym Francis Faull [B Ag Sc, 1968; B Ag Sc Hons, 1969; Ph D (Plant Physiology) 1974] has been written up in the Journal of Archaeological Science for his study on the oldest complete award is due to his time as a student in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Adelaide from 1964 to 1967. David’s eyesight deteriorated suddenly at the end of 2004 as a result of macular degeneration.

David Walker [BA (Hons) 1968], a distinguished social historian, has written a memoir titled Not Dark Yet: a personal history. The book is set in South Australia and contains references to his time as a student in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Adelaide from 1964 to 1967. David’s eyesight deteriorated suddenly at the end of 2004 as a result of macular degeneration.

Staff members
Professor Sarah Robertson [PhD (Sc) 1993] an NHMRC Principal Research Fellow and member of the University’s Robinson Institute, has partnered with a Danish company to develop a product which improves IVF embryo implantation rates for some women by up to 40%.

University of Adelaide researchers, Professor Mathai Varghese and Dr George Ellis Williams have been elected to the Australian Academy of Science, joining the ranks of Australia’s leading scientists.

Dr Tim Kleining [MBBS 1999, B A 2004, PhD (Med) 2010] has been awarded the Elizabeth Penfold Simpson Award. The award is given to the author of a piece of research in any of the neurosciences, published in the past two years. A consultant neurologist at the University of Adelaide, Dr Kleining’s findings, looking specifically at how to treat brain damage after a haemorrhage, were included as part of his PhD thesis.

Professor PJ Wormald has led the development of a wound dressing which prevents scarring after sinus surgery. The gel, derived from a polymer named chitosan and extracted from crab shell and squid, is the brainchild of medical researchers from the University of Adelaide, University of Otago and Wellington-based Robinson Squidgel.

Dr Eva Hornung [B A 1985, B A (Hons) 1987, M A (1991), PhD (Arts) 1997] has been awarded the $100,000 Prime Minister’s Literary Award in the fiction category for her sixth novel Dog Boy. Eva is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in the Discipline of English. She has received a string of awards for her creative writing, including the Australian/Vogel Literary Award, the Nita May Dobbs Award, the Asher Literary Award, and the Steele Rudd Literary Award.

Professor Mathai Varghese has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Australian Academy of Science (RAS) for his study of the oldest complete undated major fossil squid, discovered in the late 19th century. Dr Varghese has been appointed as a Commissioner of the ACIAR Commission of the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, a position that will contribute to the ACIAR and Australia’s overseas agricultural development program.

Professor Pascale Quester has been appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) at the University of Adelaide. Appointed in 1991 as a lecturer in the Graduate School of Management at the University of Adelaide, she became a Senior Lecturer in the School of Commerce in 1992, was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2002 and then Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of the Professions in 2004 before taking on her current role as Executive Dean in 2005.
For more products and prices please phone +61 8 8303 5800 or visit www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/merchandise
For Anne Hill and Associate Professor Jeremy Thompson, the decision to offer support in the wake of the Christchurch earthquake was an easy one.

The generosity of the University of Adelaide staff members illustrates how the university community came together quickly to offer a much needed assistance package to students from the University of Canterbury.

Within days of registering their interest in hosting a Canterbury student in their homes, they were meeting the young guests – Sophie Yanko, 18 and Jessica Neve, 20 – who would spend a semester with their respective families.

“We are really pleased we did put up our hand and consider ourselves lucky to be involved – we will get as much out of this as the students,” Anne said.

Away from their families and the difficulties faced by their fellow students back home, the girls, who were already friends in Christchurch, have been made to feel right at home.

“It was an emotional time when we arrived. The thought of leaving friends and family and the wider community at such a time of need was hard,” said Jessica.

The students have been impressed by the efforts put into the exchange program by the University and very grateful to Anne and Jeremy and their families for helping them settle into life in Adelaide.

“Sophie and Jess have made themselves right at home; it’s been a healthy initiative for all,” said Jeremy.

For more information about giving to the University of Adelaide, contact:
Development and Alumni,
+61 8 8303 5800 or email development@adelaide.edu.au
www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/giving

Back row from left: Jeremy Thompson, Brian Hill.
Front row from left: Sophie Yanko, Pip Thompson, Jessica Neve, Anne Hill.
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