

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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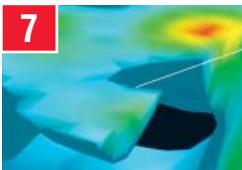
inside this issue

5



Felix rewarded for creative path

7



Leap towards Holy Grail of particle physics

9



Open Day 2006

11



Why are teenagers getting taller?

Ancient DNA unlocks secrets of the past



Professor Alan Cooper
Photo by Randy Larcombe

Science

A new, world-leading research unit, which traces genetic information from more than 100,000 years ago, has been opened at the University of Adelaide by the Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann.

The Australian Centre for Ancient DNA will train a new generation of Australian scientists, using revolutionary techniques to extract ancient genetic material from bones, plants and soils.

The Centre will help answer some of the most important questions about environmental and evolutionary change in the southern hemisphere.

Professor Alan Cooper, who was recruited from the University of Oxford in 2005 to head up the Centre at the University of Adelaide, said the facility

would put Australia on the international map for ancient DNA research.

"We will use ancient DNA to examine the environmental impacts of climate change and human migrations over the past 50,000 years," Professor Cooper said.

The Centre has just secured an international coup, signing a contract with the National Geographic Society to provide ancient DNA information for 'The Geographic Project'. The project is a major international five-year study to measure male and female genetic markers from human populations around the world to reveal our collective history of evolution, migration and dispersal.

"This exciting project places the Centre at the forefront of international ancient DNA research and the results will revolutionise our understanding of human evolution and diversity," Professor Cooper said. "Ancient DNA allows us to determine

exactly when and where ancient populations were at a given time."

Researchers at the Centre have also been working with Indonesian and Australian archaeologists to search for traces of DNA in the teeth of the recently discovered and controversial *Flores hominids*, or "hobbits," who lived on the Indonesian island of Flores until around 12,000 years ago. "DNA will definitively show whether these specimens were simply unusual modern humans, or a completely separate species," Professor Cooper said.

The Centre is expected to attract scientists to Adelaide to use the world's most up-to-date DNA testing equipment. For more details of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA, visit the website: www.ees.adelaide.edu.au/research/acad/

Story by Candy Gibson

Adelaidean

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Coming Events:

All coming events must be University of Adelaide related and of public interest. Please send details of events via email to: david.ellis@adelaide.edu.au

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CORRECTION

Our article about the new endowment fund for an annual Visiting Professorship named after leading economist Geoff Harcourt (page 16, August 2006 *Adelaidean*) requires some clarification.

Emeritus Professor Harcourt was a PhD student at Cambridge University from 1955-58. He joined the University of Adelaide as a lecturer in economics in 1958. During the 1960s he lectured at Cambridge and was a Fellow of Trinity Hall, returning to Adelaide in 1967. 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) in 1982. He was made Professor Emeritus at the University of Adelaide in 1988. In 1990 he was promoted to an *ad hominem* Readership in the History of Economic Theory, a post he held until he retired in 1998 when he became an Emeritus Reader in the History of Economic Theory and an Emeritus Fellow of Jesus.

For more information about the Geoff Harcourt Visiting Professorship please contact the School of Economics on (08) 8303 4768 or email: harcourt@adelaide.edu.au



From the Vice-Chancellor

Deciding to stay in Adelaide was one of the easiest decisions I've had to make in years.

As you may be aware, the University's Council has extended my contract for a further five years, until mid-2012. I'm very grateful to Council for doing so!

Becoming Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide has been a wonderful experience. It's been a lot of hard work, as any vice-chancellorship is, but I'm extremely proud of how the University has flourished over these past four years.

The University of Adelaide already had an excellent reputation when I first joined as Vice-Chancellor, especially for its research, but there were many areas that I hoped to build on or develop at the time.

I set out to ensure that the institution had a secure financial base so that it could continue to build on its teaching and research activities, and I'm pleased to say that this was achieved within a relatively short period of time, which bodes very well for the future.

I also set out to strengthen the University's engagement with the community, and to increase the number of international students, broadening the countries from which they are drawn and the disciplines that they study. This has been achieved – with remarkable results in some cases – and I hope to see more growth in these areas in the coming years.

Of course, all of this could not have been achieved without the collective efforts of a great many people, and I thank them all for their contributions. The quality of our academic and non-academic staff, as well as our students, never ceases to amaze me. It has been a pleasure to be the Vice-Chancellor of a University with such quality brimming from all quarters (and all campuses).

So what does the future hold?

The University will continue to respond to the needs of the community, business and government by delivering innovative programs that satisfy South Australia's strategic aims. We will continue to seek new markets abroad, and to grow the participation in higher education among South Australians. We will capitalise on our excellence in research and become more widely regarded for excellence in education. We will continue to seek new partnerships in Australia and overseas.

It's important to me that the University of Adelaide continues down a path of being widely recognised as an outward-looking university. In 2003, I set out to reposition the University to respond to the new challenges facing higher education in Australia and overseas. A key objective of this reform is to ensure the University plays an increasingly prominent role on the international stage.

Having a global outlook will greatly benefit our students and the South Australian community as a whole. We live in an internationalised society, which is why the University's outward-looking approach to education is so important to the future of our graduates and our community.

I'm looking forward to tackling the future and helping the University to grow. It's already been a very busy four years – but there's so much more to be done! I'm glad that I have been to be given the opportunity to stay here in Adelaide as your Vice-Chancellor, so that we can continue the good work together.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor

Deputy PM talks trade



The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, the Hon. Mark Vaile (second from left), was at the University of Adelaide recently to address a business forum on the major trade challenges facing Australian business.

He is pictured here with (left to right) the Institute for International Trade's Senior Program Manager, Jim Redden, Executive Director Andrew Stoler and University Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

The Institute for International Trade (until recently the Institute for International Business, Economics and Law) joined with Business SA to host Mr Vaile's address to business and industry representatives.

The Minister spoke on the ongoing need and significance of the World Trade Organization to Australia and global trade despite the current stalemate in trade negotiations.

The Institute for International Trade is a University of Adelaide centre of expertise on international trade issues. It provides trade research and advice to business and government, runs courses and workshops on trade for developing countries, and runs postgraduate courses on trade, business and development-related issues.

Artists at work

The University of Adelaide did something very different to promote its Open Day this year.

Three Adelaide-based artists were commissioned to bring their work out of the studio and into the community – at the same time bringing the University to the public in an eye-catching way.

The artists – John Hamilton, Rosemaree Hoffman and Ross Morgan – painted works that reflected the impact the University of Adelaide has on the community of Adelaide.

The large 1.8-metre by 1.2-metre canvases were all painted at busy locations in the Adelaide Railway Station and Rundle Mall.

“The aim is to help people know and understand a little bit more about what this University does and its value in society. But we also wanted the artists to help take that message out into the streets and engage with the community in the run up to Open Day,” said Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

Picture is artist Rosemaree Hoffman painting her canvas during peak hour in the Adelaide Railway Station. Rosemaree went to art school in Melbourne and has travelled extensively in Australia and Asia over the past 15 years. She now specialises in large canvas abstracts, for which she has become known. All three works of art were sold at silent auction on Open Day, with the proceeds going towards the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship Fund.

Open Day, held at the North Terrace Campus on Sunday 20 August, was hailed as another success this year. To see more photos from Open Day, turn to page 9.

Photo by Mark Trumble



Alumni award to Agent General

Alumni

University of Adelaide graduate and South Australia’s Agent General, Maurice de Rohan OBE, has been presented with a Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the University, the community and his field of work.

Agent General de Rohan received the award from Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha at a recent alumni event at Australia House in London.

After graduating from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Technology in 1960, Maurice de Rohan embarked on a spectacular career.

He was founding partner of Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young, which

became Kinhill Engineers, and later Brown and Root Asia. He was Managing Director in the mid 1970s before moving to the UK in 1976 and continuing his interests in architecture, management and planning in the UK, US and Australia.

He was appointed Agent General in January 1998, a London-based position with a role of encouraging investment, trade and tourism to South Australia.

“Maurice is an outstanding and distinguished graduate of the University who, over the past few years, has assisted the University to build its alumni chapter in London,” Professor McWha said.

“He is now Patron of the Combined UK Chapters of South Australian University Alumni Associations and regularly provides tangible assistance in supporting chapter activities.”



Agent General de Rohan is also Estates Committee Chair at Lords, Chairman of the Cutty Sark Trust and Supervisory Board Member of the Menzies Centre for Australian Studies at King’s College, London.

He has been chair of Disaster Action in the UK and remains a Trustee. He was awarded an Order of the British Empire in 1992 in recognition of his work as Founding Chairman of the Herald Families Association, for services to maritime safety.

Professor James McWha (left) presents Maurice de Rohan with his Distinguished Alumni Award in London

The University keeps in touch with almost 400 of its alumni in the United Kingdom through distribution of *Lumen* magazine and through alumni events organised by the Combined South Australian Universities Alumni Chapter.

Story by Robyn Mills



Engineering degree mines new territory



Engineering

The University of Adelaide has joined forces with industry and government to provide a new degree aimed at rectifying Australia's serious shortage of mining engineers.

The new Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) degree has received strong endorsement from the State Government, with the Minister for Mineral Resources Development, the Hon. Paul Holloway, officially launching the new degree last month.

Mr Holloway said South Australia was experiencing an exploration and mining boom, unprecedented in the State's history.

"More and more local, national and international mining companies are turning their attention to our State, and our rich mineral and resource deposits," Mr Holloway said

"The new mining degree at the University of Adelaide will play a significant role in ensuring that skilled workers are available to meet the increasing demand for our resources. The degree will also prepare young South Australians for rewarding careers in the State's mining industry."

Professor Ian Plimer, Professor of Mining Geology at the University of Adelaide, has spent the past couple of months on a statewide recruiting drive for the first cohort of mining engineering students.

Up to 30 students will be offered places in the inaugural intake in 2007. Professor Plimer has secured \$1.3 million in bursaries from mining companies to help subsidise the cost of the degree.

Professor Plimer said Australia was currently producing just 40% of the mining engineers required to satisfy industry needs.

"This University – in conjunction with the State Government – has been incredibly astute to realise that the world is undergoing a global restructuring of commodities and we can play a huge role in that."

At the launch of the new Mining Engineering degree (from left): the Hon. Paul Caica, Minister for Employment, Training & Further Education, Professor Ian Plimer, the Hon. Paul Holloway, Minister for Mineral Resources Development, and Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha

Photo by Mark Trumble

The University of Adelaide is one of only four universities in Australia offering Mining Engineering and the only one teaching it in South Australia.

Story by Candy Gibson

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Felix rewarded for creative path

Music

A passion for the performing arts has culminated in a major award for University of Adelaide music student Felix Kerry.

Twenty-five year old Felix, who is in his second year of an Associate Diploma in Aboriginal Studies in Music, has been named the 2006 South Australian NAIDOC Artist of the Year.

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in the first full week in July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The award recognises Felix's work with Aboriginal communities in the performing arts field, including a musical composition for the award-winning *Crossing Paths* dance spectacular at the 2006 Fringe Festival.

Felix wrote a 50-minute musical score for the production, which was performed by Kurruru,

Australia's only indigenous youth performing arts company.

His association with Kurruru also extends to giving regular performing arts workshops to Aboriginal youth in regional South Australia.

"Drama and music are great avenues to help build up self-esteem among Aboriginal kids," Felix said. "I think it's important to share your experience and give teenagers some motivation to reach their potential."

He owes his creative streak to an eclectic mix of cultures. Born on Thursday Island to a Papua New Guinean father and a mother of Torres Strait Island heritage, Felix grew up in a musical environment.

"Dancing and music are an integral part of both cultures so it's not surprising that I have followed a creative path," he said.

Felix spent his childhood on Thursday Island and then moved to Perth in his late teens to join a performing arts company called Artworks.

Above: Felix Kerry, South Australian NAIDOC Artist of the Year
Photo by Candy Gibson

He completed three years of a four-year Bachelor of Performing Arts degree in WA before heading east to Coober Pedy to work with Aboriginal teenagers for a year.

In 2004 Felix started his diploma at the University of Adelaide. The singer/songwriter plays the guitar and has a passion for folk, jazz and blues. He's also a regular performer in Adelaide with his band The Strange Breed.

As for the future, this talented young musician is keen to build his reputation as an artist in his own right.

"Winning this award has been a huge honour for me and I hope it gives other Aboriginal musicians some encouragement to follow their passion," he said.

Story by Candy Gibson

The business of producing a best seller

Books

The notion that the fate of a business may rest with one word – credibility – is both a scary and an exciting prospect.

For father and son team, Zbigniew and Matthew Michalewicz, it's pure common sense.

The fact that their book *Winning Credibility* topped the best sellers' list at Dymocks' Adelaide store in its second week of release provides solid proof of that belief system.

Winning Credibility is the result of a successful formula: mixing the magic ingredients of business nous with technological expertise and adding a dash of pure marketing genius.

Professor Zbigniew Michalewicz is Chair of Artificial Intelligence at the University of Adelaide's School of Computer Sciences. His son Matthew is a Visiting Fellow at the same School, teaching a Masters course in Commercialising IT Research.

The pair have pooled their talents to produce "a guide for building a business from rags to riches", as the book's subtitle claims.

Winning Credibility is a practical, "how-to" guide for turning a start-up business into a successful company, based on the premise that the real difference between failure and success is perception.

"Many companies have a wonderful product or idea, but they can't sell it. The reason? They don't have credibility," Matthew said. "This book shows how you achieve that."



Matthew (left) and Zbigniew Michalewicz
Story and photo by Candy Gibson

Matthew, described in the book's introductory notes as a "serial entrepreneur," comes from a business background – and proudly claims he has the scars to show for it.

The former Ernst & Young management consultant has more than a decade of experience in starting, running and selling high-growth companies. In 2005 he co-founded his fourth company, SolveIT Software, with his father and several other well-known computer scientists, including Dr Martin Schmidt and Constantin Chiriac.

Based in part on their joint experiences in the United States, the book follows the fortunes of two fictional entrepreneurs.

"We used the fictional characters – Diane and John – to create a common glue between the chapters.

They put into practice the tactics, strategies and principles that are necessary to achieve credibility."

Winning Credibility was released on July 26 and within a fortnight was No.1 on Dymocks' Adelaide book sales.

Matthew attributed its success to the fact that credibility is a subject that other business books have not addressed. "Lots of books explain the art of selling or raising capital, but none of them address the credibility factor."

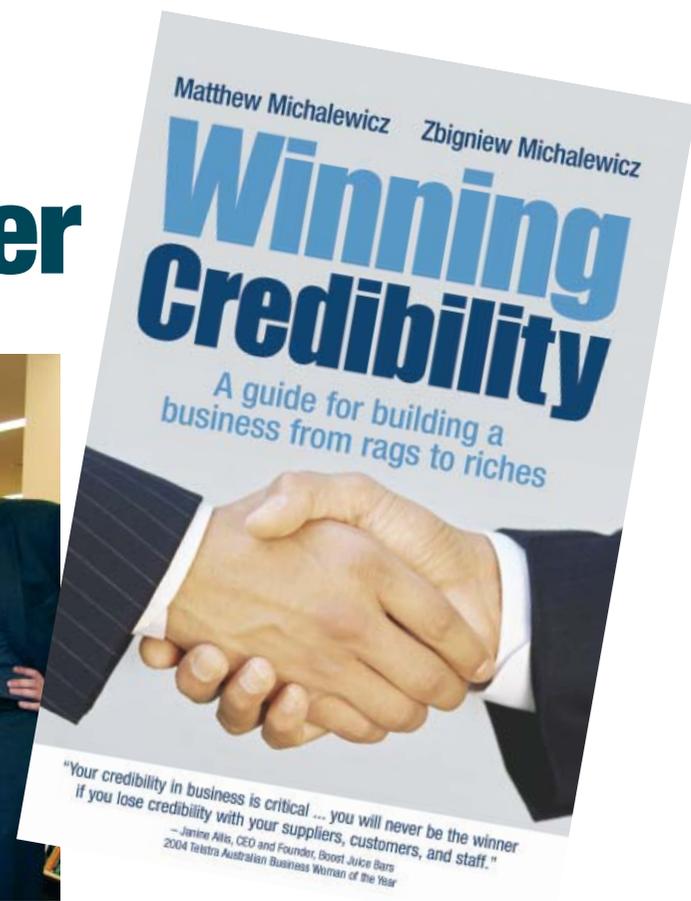
The pair's profile and reputation in the United States – where they both enjoyed successful careers before moving to Adelaide in 2004 – has also helped drive sales.

In his University teaching role – the first business course offered by the Computer Science Faculty – Matthew says he is filling a basic need. "You can get a degree but if you don't know anything about

business, you will find it difficult to succeed. The Masters course shows you how to combine your technical expertise with business nous."

Professor Michalewicz is regarded as one of the world's leading authorities in the field of evolutionary computation. His appointment to the University in 2004 was described by the Head of Computer Science, Professor Mike Brooks, as "a major coup for the IT industry in South Australia".

Winning Credibility is available at all leading bookstores.



The *Adelaidean* has a signed copy of *Winning Credibility* to give away to one lucky reader. To win, be the first caller on (08) 8303 5414 to answer this question: approximately how many people attended the University of Adelaide's Open Day on Sunday 20 August?

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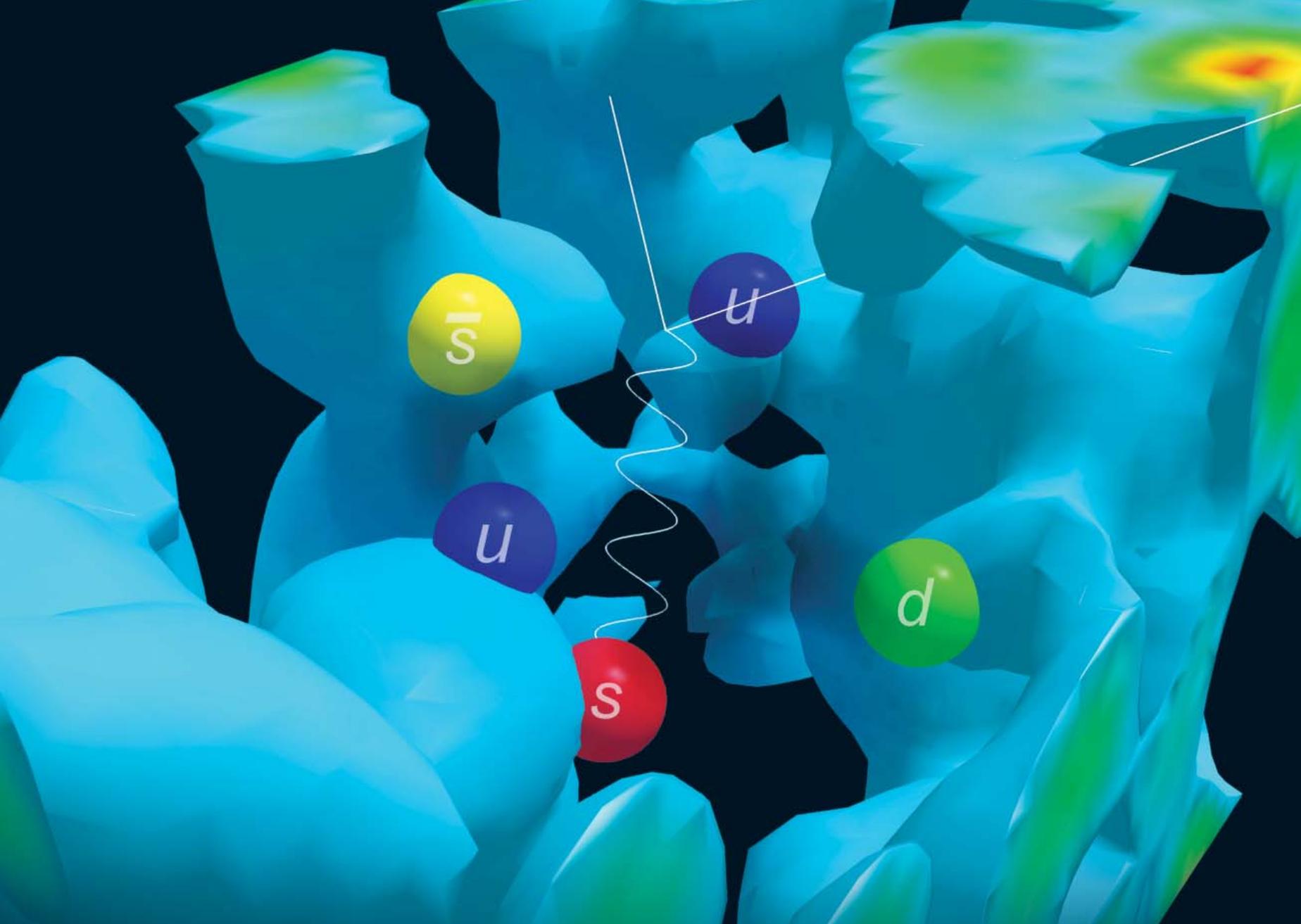
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Leap towards Holy Grail of particle physics

A representation of strange quarks within the proton. Up and down quarks composing the proton (uud) are complemented by a strange-antistrange pair created from the gluon field in which they reside.

Graphic by Associate Professor Derek Leinweber

■ Physics

Particle physicists around the world are designing the next generation of billion-dollar experiments following new findings from a University of Adelaide-led research team.

The Holy Grail of the world's particle physicists is to discover and describe new particles that make up the universe's tiniest building blocks.

The University of Adelaide's Associate Professor Derek Leinweber, leading a team of international theoretical physicists, has established a new approach to precision calculations, vital to establishing what is known and paving the way to revealing the unknown.

The proton, one of the three main components of an atom, is known to consist of elementary, point-

like particles called quarks, bound together by gluons. There are six different types of quarks and the most mysterious of these is the strange quark, which "boils up" inside the proton and then "simmers back out of existence".

The new finding, published recently in the prestigious international journal *Physical Review Letters*, is a precise calculation of the strange quark's distribution within the proton. The calculation predicts that the short-lived strange quarks display an unanticipated level of symmetry in their journey.

"Technically the strange quark contribution to the proton's charge distribution has proven elusive," said Dr Leinweber. "At the University of Adelaide, working with physicists at the University of Edinburgh and the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility in the United States, we've been able to calculate the strange contribution with

unprecedented accuracy by applying a unique combination of cutting-edge numerical and analytical approaches.

"We have combined expertise in fundamental Lattice Simulations on supercomputers together with breakthrough techniques in Effective Field Theory calculations. These are two separate areas of physics which have been used together in a way that no-one else has thought of. It gives particular strength to the University of Adelaide's research in this area.

"There is a huge industry in particle physics with groups of researchers around the world making new measurements that could reveal physics beyond the standard model of the universe. Our result presents a huge challenge to experimental physicists in planning the next generation of experiments. Billions of dollars are going to be spent, based on this result."

Dr Leinweber is Deputy Director of the University's Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter, based within the School of Chemistry and Physics. He is also Deputy Director (Visualization) of the South Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (SAPAC) which serves South Australia's e-research needs.

His research relies on the application of a complex theory called quantum chromodynamics and makes use of the massive computing power of the world's fastest supercomputers.

Last year the group produced a precise calculation of the strange quark's contribution to the proton's magnetism.

This latest theoretical result already has been supported by new experimental results recently announced by the Jefferson Laboratory's HAPPEX Collaboration.

Story by Robyn Mills

Nobel laureate has lesson for all graduates

■ Graduations

Nobel laureate and University of Adelaide graduate Dr J. Robin Warren has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University.

Dr Warren, who graduated in medicine from Adelaide in 1961, was last month awarded a Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*) at one of the four mid-year graduation ceremonies.

More than 900 students graduated at the four ceremonies over two days, with Dr Warren also the guest speaker at one of the ceremonies on 1 August.

Dr Warren, who received the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine with colleague Professor Barry Marshall, was awarded the honorary degree for his distinguished achievement as a scholar and his contribution to society in physiology and medicine.

His discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease revolutionised the treatment of this major medical problem.

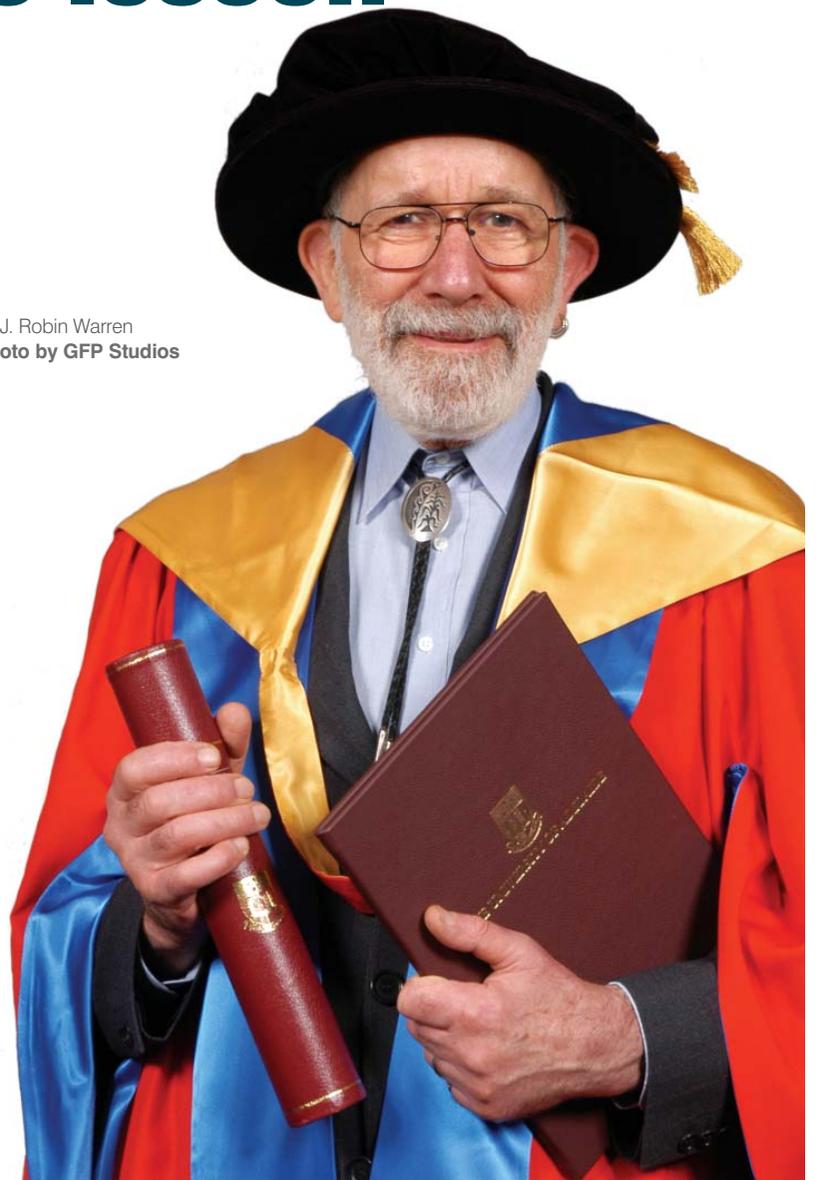
The research was for some time regarded with scepticism but was finally accepted by the medical community.

"Dr Warren's contribution to the world in the field of medicine is now widely recognised but his persistence and determination in achieving this distinction is a wonderful lesson for our graduates who are just starting their own careers," said University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

"The University of Adelaide is extremely proud of our graduate, Dr Warren, and pleased we are able to show our appreciation and respect by awarding him an honorary doctorate."

The other prominent speakers at the July-August graduation ceremonies were: Coles Myer Chairman Rick Allert, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education the Hon. Paul Caica, and Port Adelaide Football Club Chief Executive Officer John James.

Dr J. Robin Warren
Photo by GFP Studios



Clockwise (from far left): Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) graduate Alexa Jones celebrating with her grandmother, Jacqueline Schwarz; guest speaker Rick Allert with Bachelor of Science (Honours) graduate Thomas Madison and supervisor Dr Connor Thomas from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science; Li Bo graduated with a Bachelor of Economics, pictured with friend Jing Shi; and 13 lecturers donned student hats to obtain their Graduate Certificate in Higher Education. The program, offered by the Centre for Learning and Professional Development, is the only one of its kind in South Australia.

Photos by Robyn Mills, Candy Gibson and Peter Murdoch

Living Life Impact 2006

Open Day

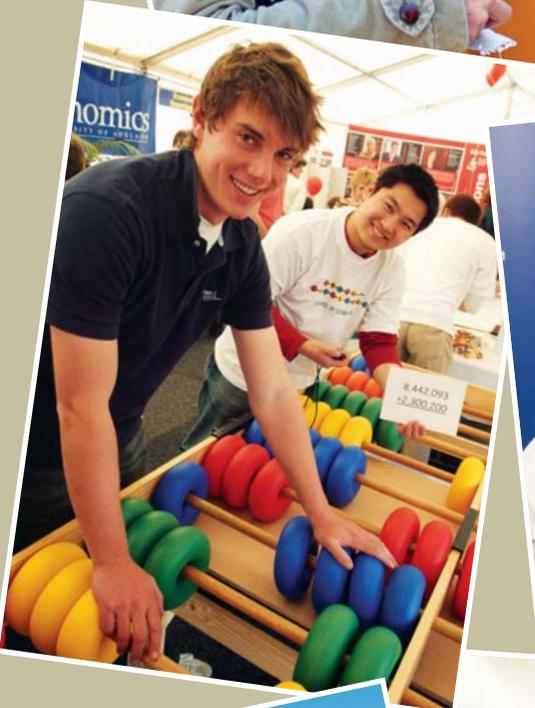
Thousands of people spent a good part of their Sunday enjoying the many sights, sounds and tastes of the University of Adelaide's Open Day on 20 August.

On a magnificent sunny day, the University's North Terrace Campus put on a good show for potential students, their friends, families, and other members of the community.

About 10,000 people attended Open Day, with some of the main drawcards being the Information Talks, the Bonython Hall Expo, The Forum, and the Battle of the Bands.

These are just some of the sights that greeted those who visited the University.

Photos by Mark Trumble and David Ellis



Israeli scholar to deliver lecture



Israeli scholar and world-renowned linguist, author and media commentator, Professor Tanya Reinhart, will deliver the Edward Said Memorial Lecture at the University of Adelaide on Saturday 7 October.

Professor Reinhart is an Emeritus Professor of Linguistics and Media Studies at Tel Aviv University in Israel. Her second book, *A Road Map to Nowhere: Israel/Palestine since 2003*, is due for release this year.

Reinhart's timely book has been described as a "searing exposé of the peace process", giving readers an insight into the Israel-Palestinian crisis and the propaganda that affects its coverage.

It argues that the current situation has brought no real progress and that, under cover of diplomatic successes, Israel is using the road map to strengthen its grip on the remaining occupied territories.

Sponsored by the Australian Friends of Palestine Association, the lecture honours the memory of Palestinian Edward Said, one of the most widely known intellectuals in the world until his death in 2003.

The University of Adelaide hosted the highly regarded Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk at last year's inaugural Edward Said Memorial Lecture, which attracted a capacity crowd in Elder Hall.

Tickets for this year's lecture are \$10. To book, visit the website www.adelaide.edu.au/esml



Unibooks honours student excellence

Scholarships

Unibooks Chairman Brian Nadilo at the store's new University of Adelaide location in the Union Building

Photo by Candy Gibson

Unibooks is providing University of Adelaide students with more than just textbooks.

The bookseller, whose on-campus stores have been filling students' reading lists for more than 75 years, has launched an annual scholarship for Honours students.

"Unibooks has a long tradition of involvement with the University of Adelaide," said Unibooks' Chairman Brian Nadilo. "This scholarship is just the next step in our continual support to students."

Unibooks is a not-for-profit organisation, meaning that any surplus funds are put back into supporting student activities and academic excellence. The Unibooks Scholarship for Honours Students provides financial support to an undergraduate student who wishes to study Honours in their chosen field, and is open to students from any of the faculties.

Mr Nadilo said the scholarship was a vital way for Unibooks to invest in the future of the University and

enable a deserving student to continue their postgraduate studies without the financial burden.

The scholarship is geared towards Honours students because of the importance, and relative shortage, of scholarships specifically for Honours-level study, Mr Nadilo said.

"We believe that Honours is the first step in the foundations of an academic career and being able to help increase the knowledge base at the University of Adelaide is something Unibooks is proud to be associated with."

The inaugural scholarship, valued at \$15,000, will be divided equally between the University of Adelaide, Flinders and UniSA in 2007. It will be awarded to one student from each of the universities on the basis of academic merit and financial need. Once the scholarship is open for application, further information will be available on the scholarships website: www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships/honours/

Story by Lana Guineay

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Why are teenagers getting taller?



■ Dentistry

A University of Adelaide PhD student has uncovered some startling research results – today’s teenagers are one to two centimetres taller on average than children of the same age a little over a decade ago.

The research by dental graduate and PhD student Sarbin Ranjitkar, recently published in the *Australian Orthodontic Journal*, compares the heights of about 5000 children aged between nine and 18 over two different time periods, 1987 to 1994 and 1995 to 2005.

The measurements, along with hand and wrist x-rays to assess skeletal maturation, came from data collected by Adelaide specialist oral and maxillofacial radiologist Dr Ross Macdonald during orthodontic treatment referral over the 18 years.

Dr Ranjitkar did his research with Professor Grant Townsend, who heads the University’s Craniofacial Biology Research Group within the School of Dentistry.

The group’s research centres on the growth and development of teeth and faces, and it is involved in two major studies on genetic influences in dental development using twins.

“This study is important to our work because orthodontists need to understand how children grow in order to predict when they go into their growth spurts,” Professor Townsend said. “Generally the best time to intervene with orthodontic treatment is during the growth spurt – that’s when there is most response to treatment.”

Dr Ranjitkar found the children from the more recent group were on average taller than the earlier group, with the difference more pronounced in boys.

Although there was some trend towards earlier skeletal development in boys, this didn’t account for the height difference.

The results have placed the use of standard growth charts – set in the 1970s – in question. These charts predict children will be 3-5cm shorter than Dr Ranjitkar found.

They have also provoked comment and questioning. Although past upwards growth

trends have been put down to improved nutrition and less disease, differences since the late 1980s are less clear-cut.

“It is a controversial area,” said Professor Townsend. “These patterns of secular trends in growth are not the same everywhere in the world.”

Dr Ranjitkar added: “In many countries there were clear positive trends in height after the Second World War but that has slowed down in developed countries in recent years. In some developing countries, it is believed the trends could be negative because of war and famine.”

“We have no real answers as to why it’s still happening,” said Professor Townsend. “When you look at variations in stature there is a strong genetic component, and some influence from environmental factors. Just how genetic and environmental factors interact for an individual is difficult to assess. There could be dietary factors involved in this trend, but that is still speculation.

“What’s causing them and how long these trends can continue – that’s the fascinating question.”

Story by Robyn Mills



Andrew McCredie

(1930-2006)

■ Obituary

The death of Andrew McCredie, unexpected by most of us, and taking place following surgery in Melbourne, brings symbolically to a close a particular phase of Musicology in Australia.

He was altogether a colourful and eccentric personality and possessed a brilliant mind and remarkable skills in musical research. He was always the centre of his own world and during the decades in which he served the University of Adelaide (which was the greater part of his career) he gave Adelaide extraordinary access to musicological studies of all kinds.

There is no denying Andrew's swift impact. With David Galliver now as Elder Professor, he gained a Senior Lectureship, and advanced quite quickly through the ranks to a personal chair in Musicology which he held from 1978 to 1994, and a school of PhD students came into being, many of whom have attained distinction both in Australia and many parts of the world. Among his accolades was the English Royal Music Association's Dent Medal and an Order of Australia (AM) for his services to Music in 1984.

He had not been in Adelaide long before he organised the first of several musicological conferences. Andrew was born in Sydney where his first studies took place, and these continued in Copenhagen and Stockholm and with a PhD in Hamburg on German Baroque Opera. This explains why the first conference he organised in Adelaide was on Scandinavian music. There

were several more conferences attracting scholars from a worldwide field in which his eminence was growing.

From the start he gave attention to Australian music and much later entered the new field of local history by editing a collection of articles on music in South Australia under the title: *From Colonel Light into the Footlights* (1988). The journal *Miscellanea Musicologica* was his at its inception.

Andrew's world view of music clearly favoured German and Central European music, both in taste and teaching, though historical musicology was gradually losing its place as the unquestioned epicentre of musical studies. There were so many subjects which he took as his own. Graham Abbott's bibliography in the *Festschrift: All kinds of Music* (ed. Graham Strahle and David Swale), shows how vast

his productions were. But a central place might be given to his work on Karl Amadeus Hartmann. Hartmann was a significant symphonist who had studied with Webern and was in conflict with the Third Reich. Andrew produced a detailed catalogue of his compositions as well as a number of articles employing new material, using his influence with German musicians and organisers to obtain performances of Hartmann's works in various places. The thoroughness of his approach was characteristic.

Andrew was not everyone's favourite academic, but he was not a man to be overlooked. Various people will make different assessments, but the part he played in a great age of discovering and reassembling and teaching the relics of a great musical heritage was not without honour for the University of Adelaide.

Contributed by David Swale

The Ethics of Data Linkage

in Public Health Research & Practice

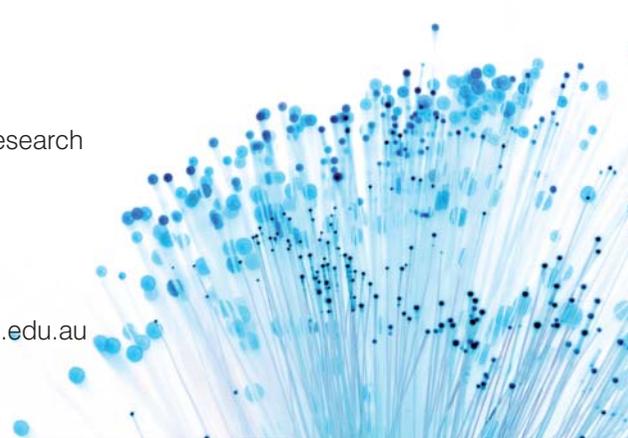
Date: Thursday 28 September
Time: 3.30-8.00pm
Venue: Kelly's Room, National Wine Centre of Australia

FREE to register by 22 September

For more information contact:

Josie Covino
Australian Institute for Social Research
University of Adelaide
Level 3, 10 Pulteney St,
Adelaide, SA 5005

Fax: 08 8303 6309
Email: josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au



Electronics Research Expo

The University of Adelaide's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering is holding a Research Expo on Friday 8 September to celebrate its 60th anniversary and to highlight the School's research.

The Research Expo runs from 9am to 5.30pm in the Engineering Mathematics Building, with parallel seminar sessions, poster presentations, guided tours and demonstrations.

Centres featuring their research activities include Biomedical Engineering, High Performance Integrated Technologies and Systems, Internet Research, Expertise in Phased Array and Microwave Radar, the Sensor Signal Processing Program, Adelaide Auto-ID Lab and the Power and Control Systems Group.

The Expo aims to: encourage promising undergraduate students to undertake postgraduate research; inform fellow postgraduate students and University staff generally about the research activities of the School; demonstrate the School's capabilities to the electronics industry; and establish professional networks for further research collaboration and career opportunities.

The day will end with a cocktail reception from 5-7pm. Further details from expo@eleceng.adelaide.edu.au or www.eleceng.adelaide.edu.au/expo

Letters reveal giant intellect

■ Books

University of Adelaide historian Wilfrid Prest has published an edition of the letters of William Blackstone, an 18th century scholar and judge credited with writing perhaps the most influential law book in the English language.

Blackstone's *Commentaries on the Laws of England (1765-1769)* is regarded as the first comprehensive account of English common law, the basis of both the Australian and American judicial systems.

Professor Prest, who holds a joint appointment in History and Law at the University of Adelaide, is working on a full-scale scholarly biography of Blackstone. Editing Blackstone's letters was the first step in this process.

"This has been a complex task, for the sources are very widely dispersed," Professor Prest said.

Original copies of some of the 180 letters now published are housed in over 30 archives, libraries and private collections on both sides

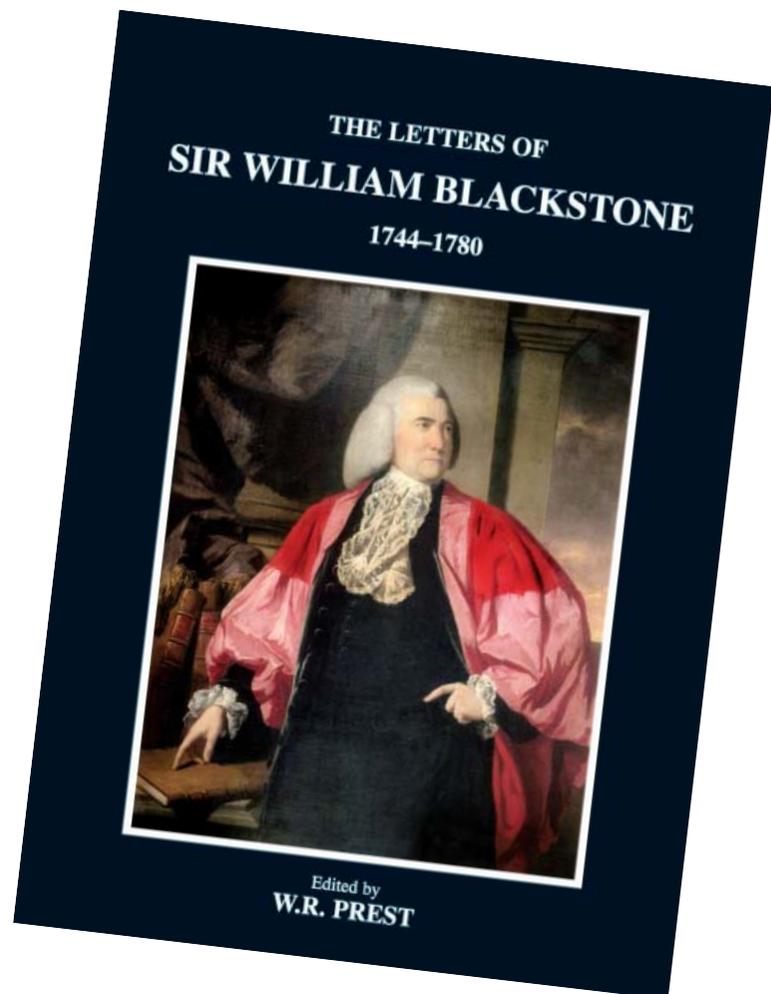
of the Atlantic. Others survive only as facsimiles, transcripts and summaries in a variety of printed books, catalogues and periodicals.

William Blackstone's letters reveal an extraordinarily erudite man who excelled as a poet, bibliophile and critic, editor and scholar, academic administrator and national politician, historian, practising lawyer, judge and penal reformer.

Born in 1723, Blackstone only lived to 57, but apart from the *Commentaries*, published another half-dozen books during his lifetime. He wrote his first treatise on architecture in his 20th year.

Now in the Getty Research Library, Los Angeles, this manuscript and its slightly later successor (at the Codrington Library of All Souls College, Oxford, where Blackstone was a fellow) are currently being edited by Ms Carol Matthews as an Adelaide history PhD thesis.

Her work, like that of Professor Prest, is part of "William Blackstone: Life and Works", a Discovery Project supported since 2002 by an Australian Research Council (ARC) Professorial Fellowship.



Besides teaching history at the University, from 1966-2002, and editing the *Wakefield Companion to South Australian History*, Professor Prest has published numerous works on the English legal profession.

He hopes to publish the Blackstone biography in 2008 to coincide with the 250th anniversary of Blackstone's inaugural lecture as

Vinerian Professor of the Laws of England in the University of Oxford, which made him the world's first common law academic.

The Letters of Sir William Blackstone 1744-1780 (Selden Society, London, 2006), may be ordered from the Law School Office. Contact them on (08) 8303 4020.

Story by Candy Gibson

Legal fraternity honours Selway

■ Law

The late Justice Bradley Selway, a former adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide, was honoured by some of Australia's sharpest legal minds at a national conference in Adelaide last month.

Justice Selway, who died in 2005, served as Crown Solicitor and then Solicitor-General for the State of South Australia before being appointed as a Justice of the Federal Court of Australia.

His contribution to public law was recognised at the Australian Association of Constitutional Law (AACL) conference, which was hosted by the University's Law School and held for the first time in Adelaide.

A range of constitutional issues affecting the States and Territories was discussed by the eminent gathering of judges, practitioners and academics.

"In terms of the calibre of speakers, the conference was unrivalled," said University of Adelaide constitutional law expert Professor John Williams. "It was a gathering of the finest legal minds."

Speakers included:

- The Hon Chief Justice Michael Black AC, Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia;
- The Hon Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, former Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia;
- Solicitor-General of Australia, Dr David Bennett AO QC;
- Solicitor-General for South Australia, Christopher Kourakis QC;
- Solicitor-General for the Northern Territory, Tom Pauling QC;
- Associate Professor Helen Irving, who has recently returned from a year at Harvard Law School;

- Leading political scientist Professor Brian Galligan;
- Leading constitutional barrister Dr Melissa Perry QC.

"This was a timely conference because federalism is undergoing fundamental change in Australia and the conference gave the states an opportunity to talk about their role in this regard," Professor Williams said.

Apart from some serious debate on constitutional issues, a lively session was devoted to winning cases through strong written and oral skills, and the importance of court etiquette.

About 40 law students, sponsored by the Law Foundation of South Australia, were invited to sit in on the conference sessions.

Professor Williams said the conference papers would be published in the *Adelaide Law Review* in early 2007.

Story by Candy Gibson

New fund launched to support Roseworthy

Alumni

A new fund to support students, education and research at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus was recently launched at a special gathering of graduates, friends of Roseworthy and representatives from the agricultural industry.

An initiative of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA), the Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund aims to support and encourage students through scholarships, prizes and other financial assistance, to enhance facilities for education and research, encourage study and research through study awards, and to develop outreach activities to help transfer knowledge to the wider community.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said: "The name 'Roseworthy' has long been synonymous with excellence in education and development of new technology in agricultural and natural resources industries. Roseworthy graduates have become leaders in agricultural and natural resource-based industries.

"Today Roseworthy is involved in national and international leading-edge technologies in a broad range of animal sciences, biotechnology



and agronomy and is exploring the feasibility of establishing a postgraduate veterinary science school.

"The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund will help ensure Roseworthy keeps producing future generations of leaders and innovators."

The Fund has appointed Australian agricultural identity John Crosby as Fund Patron and will be championed and managed by a high-profile committee of co-patrons under the chairmanship of the Hon. Dr Bruce Eastick AM.

"We are privileged to have someone of John Crosby's calibre as Patron of this Fund," Dr

From left: Fund Patron John Crosby, the Hon. Dr Bruce Eastick AM and Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha
Photo by Joy Prior

Eastick said. "John has been at the forefront of agriculture and agribusiness in Australia over many years and, as a Roseworthy graduate himself, is an ideal champion for Roseworthy."

To find out more about the Fund, or to make a contribution, please contact the Development and Alumni Office of the University of Adelaide on (08) 8303 4994.

Development & Alumni Events

Adelaide Uni Alumni Malaysia Bhd

Event: Dinner in conjunction with University of Adelaide Open Day, Kuala Lumpur
Date: Friday 1 September
Venue: Royal Lake Club
Time: 8.15pm
Cost: RM65 per person (RM60 for life members)
Info: Contact Robert 019-2330277 or email westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com for details

Event: University of Adelaide Open Day
Date: Saturday 2 September
Venue: Hotel Nikko, Kuala Lumpur
Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm
Info: Local Chapter supporting with 3 graduate presenters on "Where our degrees can take you". Contact Robert 019-2330277 or email westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com for details and to volunteer.

Event: Penang trip / Membership extension to northern states
Date: 30 September - 1 October. *Time and Cost TBA*

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association Inc

Event: ROCA AGM and Dinner

The 2006 ROCA Award of Merit will be presented in conjunction with the 108th Annual General Meeting and 2006 Annual Dinner. Featured also will be 10, 25, 40 and 50 year reunion groups.

Venue: Glenelg Golf Club, James Melrose Drive, Novar Gardens

Date: Friday 13 October

Time: 6.30 pm

RSVP: Dr David Cooper
(08) 8363 4371 (work)
(08) 8332 5882 (home)

Event: 20th Reunion Roseworthy Graduates

All former students at Roseworthy in the year 1986 (graduates from 1986, 1987, 1988 and 1989) and their partners are invited to this 20-year Special Reunion. A recovery function is planned for Sunday 17 September at the Aberdeen Hotel, Pulteny Street, Adelaide.

Venue: National Wine Centre, North Terrace, Adelaide

Date: Saturday 16 September

RSVP: Chris Barnes (03) 9428 9699
ctgbarnes@optusnet.com.au
Frank Chapman 0418 651 186
frank.chapman@citigroup.com

Commerce Alumni Dinners and Social Events

In the coming months we will be going wine tasting in the McLaren Vale region, holding some social rounds of golf, and continuing our successful dinner program. A dinner is scheduled for mid-September.

If you're interested in attending, want to find out more, or are just keen to catch up with friends you haven't seen since uni, visit www.commerce.adelaide.edu.au/alumni to see the latest, and register as a member for free.

For more information on Alumni events please contact Development and Alumni on (08) 8303 5800 or email alumni@adelaide.edu.au



Far left: Tall Poppy of the year Dr Amanda Able
Photo by Brett Sheridan from Blue Razoo Photography

Above: Dr Mel McDowall
Photo by Sam McDowall

Left: Dr Bradley Ferguson with Nobel Prize winner Dr J. Robin Warren

Young researchers stand tall

■ Science

A University of Adelaide scientist renowned for her research into plant diseases was last month named South Australia's 2006 Tall Poppy of the Year.

Dr Amanda Able, a senior lecturer in the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, was presented with the award by 2005 Nobel Prize winner Dr J. Robin Warren at the SA Young Tall Poppy Science Awards last month.

"It is exciting to be recognised as someone who contributes to science in our community," Dr Able said.

Since 2001 Dr Able has helped secure almost \$2 million funding for plant-related research at the University of Adelaide. Her laboratory is a world leader in understanding the physiology of plant-pathogen interactions and postharvest disorders.

In addition to her research excellence, Dr Able is passionate about educating the next generation of scientists. She was awarded the Executive Dean's Excellence in Teaching Award in 2005 and

is heavily involved in promoting plant breeding and plant biotechnology to school students.

"I'm really looking forward to visiting school students over the next year and getting them interested in science as a career," she said.

Dr Melanie McDowall, a postdoctoral fellow at the University's Roseworthy Campus, was also one of six recipients of this year's Young Tall Poppy Science Awards.

The annual awards recognise and reward individuals who have made a significant contribution to science in South Australia through their academic achievements and their community engagement in promoting science.

Dr McDowall, a researcher within the Discipline of Agricultural and Animal Science, is well known for her work to improve wool traits in Merino sheep by treating pregnant ewes with nutritional supplements. She is also a project leader within the Sheep Genomics program, which aims to improve wool, meat, parasite and reproductive efficiencies of sheep by gene discovery and non-genetic manipulations.

"It's an honour to receive a Tall Poppy award because there are so many bright, early career researchers in Adelaide," Dr McDowall said.

"It's a credit to the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine that two of their researchers have been recognised and it's a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of agricultural research and its importance to the Australian economy."

Recent University of Adelaide graduate Dr Bradley Ferguson was also named a Tall Poppy for 2006. A senior engineer with Tenix Defence, Dr Ferguson continues to be involved with T-ray research in the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering at the University.

Dr J. Robin Warren, who received the 2005 Nobel Prize for Medicine with colleague Professor Barry Marshall, addressed the six award winners at a luncheon at the Hyatt Regency.

Dr Warren, a 1961 medicine graduate of the University of Adelaide, and Professor Marshall won the Nobel Prize for their discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease.

The Tall Poppy Campaign was created by the Australian Institute of Political Science to promote a greater appreciation of scientific achievers and encourage younger Australians to follow in their footsteps.

Story by Candy Gibson



Let the Games begin!

■ Sport

More than 5000 student athletes will descend on Adelaide in September for the nation's largest annual multi-sport event, the Australian University Games.

From 24-29 September, more than 300 University of Adelaide student sportsmen and women will be hoping to beat last year's tally of three gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Students will compete in more than 20 individual and team sports

including athletics, cycling, rock climbing, swimming, karate, baseball, Australian Football, hockey, volleyball and netball.

Events will be held in Adelaide's top sporting venues including the Santos Stadium, ETSA Park and Hindmarsh Stadium.

"The Australian University Games are probably the best sporting experience students will have during their time at University," said Gloria Chester, Adelaide University Sports Association Executive Officer.

"Sport is an important part of university life, adding to the total

student experience, and the Games are the ultimate opportunity for students to compete at a high level, showcase and represent their university, meet lots of people and have a fantastic time."

The Australian University Games started in 1993 and the host city expects a direct economic gain of more than \$4 million.

The University of Adelaide is a host university and Games partner together with Flinders University and the University of South Australia.

In the 2005 Games, University of Adelaide students won gold in the

heptathlon (Lauren Foote) and in two rock climbing events, bouldering and on-sight top rope intermediate, (Peter Matulich); silver in on-sight top rope intermediate (Richard Hillan) and 200m breaststroke (Andrew Ragless); and bronze in the men's hockey and men's rowing eight.

Story by Robyn Mills

For more information about the Australian University Games, visit: www.unisport.com.au

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