

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Dr Theresa Hickey

## Sex hormone key to women's health

### Reproductive Health

A sex hormone commonly thought to be specific to men will be the focus for biomedical researcher Dr Theresa Hickey, who will spend the next four years investigating its role in women's health and disease.

The University of Adelaide postdoctoral researcher has recently been awarded a Peter Doherty Australian Biomedical Fellowship to investigate the role of androgen receptor activity in the development of breast cancer and diseases of the ovary.

Dr Hickey will work in collaboration with some of Australia's leading biomedical experts in the Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories and the Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

Androgens are present in both male and female bodies, although men make approximately 10 times more of these sex hormones than women do, Dr Hickey said.

"Women convert about half of their androgen to oestrogen, the hormone that is essential for normal female sexual development. The androgen that does not get

converted to oestrogen in women is what interests me.

"We know too much or too little androgen can disrupt female physiology in a major way, but we're still unsure precisely how androgens work in women. That will be the focus of my research," Dr Hickey said. "In part, it appears that androgens play a balancing act in controlling the activity of oestrogen in a woman's body."

Surprisingly little work has been done in this area, despite the importance of androgen and oestrogen in both sexes.

continued on page 17



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**Editor:**  
David Ellis

**Design and Layout:**  
Chris Tonkin

**Writers:**  
Candy Gibson  
Robyn Mills

**Contributors:**  
Alison Beare  
Lana Guineay

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**Editorial/Advertising enquiries:**  
Tel: +61 8 8303 5414  
Fax: +61 8 8303 4829  
Email: david.ellis@adelaide.edu.au

**Mailing address:**  
*Adelaidean*  
Marketing & Strategic  
Communications,  
University of Adelaide,  
SA 5005  
Australia

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Welcome to our new-look *Adelaidean* for 2007. We will continue to bring you stories about excellence in research, teaching and learning at the University of Adelaide, and promote the many activities the University is involved in. Feel free to provide feedback on this publication so that we can keep making it better for you, the reader.

David Ellis, Editor



## From the Vice-Chancellor

It's been many years since I was an undergraduate, but I can still remember what it's like to be starting university for the very first time. First-year students often have a sense of nervousness and excitement about university, and I don't blame them! Studying at university can be daunting, especially if you've come straight out of secondary school, but it also opens up a world of possibilities that, for many students, will enhance and enrich the rest of their lives.

I recently spoke at a welcome event for new students. It's always a pleasure to be welcoming students to this University because of the opportunities that lie ahead. For the University, our relationship with these students does not end at the conclusion of their three or four-year degree (or longer, in some cases). That is just the start of the relationship, and while I mentioned that university enhances and enriches students' lives, the benefit is two-fold – as alumni of our University, they also enrich our University community.

I say "alumni", because you don't have to be a graduate of the University to be counted among our alumni – current students and staff are also part of the alumni community. In that sense, alumni represent our entire University community.

Alumni are the lifeblood – and the life cycle – of this institution. Without them, we would have no students, no staff to teach the students, and no graduates. How the University manages its alumni relations is therefore critical to all of our activities.

In December last year, the University of Adelaide made an important decision about how we handle alumni relations that will have a positive impact on all

our alumni and the University. The University's Council decided that a new model of alumni relations would be adopted – one that integrates alumni activities directly with the University.

As a strong supporter of our many alumni relationships and stakeholders, I am very pleased that Council has made this decision. It is an important step forward for our University, and will result in a more integrated approach to alumni relations, with individual alumni groups now able to interact directly with the University through the Development and Alumni Office. In return, the University can now provide more direct support and input into alumni relations and activities.

This gives us an opportunity to further incorporate all of our alumni into the life and fabric of our University. The University expects to make an impact on the lives of our alumni, and in turn we want them to have a vital role to play in helping to shape our future as a University community.

I'm sure this is the last thing on our new students' minds right now, but like them, I share the excitement of new possibilities.

**JAMES A. McWha**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

## Art & Heritage Collections

The University of Adelaide is renowned for its collections. They range from visual art, heritage furniture, scientific instruments, classical archaeology, and over a dozen more, including gifts given to the University, minerals, trees and so on.

The Art & Heritage Collections staff take care of these collections and are in the process of a massive cataloguing project.

In each *Adelaidean* this year, we will highlight an object from a collection in the hopes of giving readers the opportunity to explore the breadth and depth of this unique aspect of the University.

If you wish to have your finger on the collection pulse, please email: [art.heritage@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:art.heritage@adelaide.edu.au)



S.T. Gill's *Hunt Meet at Dry Creek near Adelaide* (1845) depicts a very different era, when the University – or much of Adelaide – had not yet been established.

This water colour on paper is currently located in the Mitchell Building at the University's North Terrace Campus.

■ Mirna Heruc, Manager, Art & Heritage Collections



# Defence net widens with UK alliance

## ■ Partnership

The University of Adelaide will help boost skills and capability in the South Australian defence industries with a new strategic collaboration with the UK's Cranfield University.

The two universities last month signed an agreement to collaborate on the provision of courses and research in defence and security.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha and the Principal of Cranfield University's Defence College of Management and Technology, Professor Hugh Griffiths.

Cranfield University is among the UK's most research intensive universities and is a leader in defence research and postgraduate and professional education.

"Preliminary talks with Cranfield University have revealed a range of complementary strengths in research and education within the defence and security fields," Professor McWha said.

"Collaboration between the two universities promises major benefits

for both organisations and for the South Australian defence industry, and will contribute significantly towards the State's defence research and training requirements.

"The University of Adelaide has considerable strengths in defence research and education, including a strategic alliance with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) with joint projects in a number of faculties. This collaboration with Cranfield University will help boost skills and capability for the local defence industry, adding to recent initiatives such as the new Master of Marine Engineering degree with ASC Pty Ltd, and the launch late last year of our Centre for Defence Communications and Information Networking."

Proposals for collaborative work include professional short courses for the defence and security industries and new postgraduate courses, including Masters degrees.

Above:  
A Seahawk helicopter

Photo courtesy of the  
Australian Department  
of Defence

■ Story by Robyn Mills

## ■ News in Brief

### International award for guitarist

PhD student Aleksandr Tsiboulski (Elder Conservatorium of Music) has won first prize in the inaugural Southwest Guitar Festival's International Competition in San Antonio, Texas.

This follows his recent win at the Tokyo International Guitar Competition, as well as the St Joseph International Guitar Competition.

Aleksandr is currently a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Texas, Austin.

### Ponytail comes off – 16 March

To raise money for the Brain Foundation (SA), Professor Bob Hill (Faculty of Sciences) has agreed to have his ponytail cut off on Friday 16 March during Brain Awareness Week.

For more information and to make donations, visit:

[www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/ponytail/](http://www.sciences.adelaide.edu.au/ponytail/)

### Heart research earns student prize

PhD student Dr Bobby John (Cardiovascular Research Centre) has won a major international award for his research into rheumatic heart disease.

He won the Young Investigators Award at the Asia-Pacific Atrial Fibrillation Symposium in Tokyo, attended by 800 cardiologists from around the world, for his research which links rheumatic heart disease with the development of the irregular heart rhythm, atrial fibrillation.

Rheumatic heart disease affects more than 15 million people on a global scale.

### 'Homegrown' talent launches concert series

Compositions by PhD student Anne Cawrse (Elder Conservatorium of Music) will feature at the opening concert of the Zephyr Quartet's 2007 concert series, 'Homegrown'.

Featured works include 'A Woman's Song', based on the texts of female poets Pernette du Guillet, Amy Levy and Emily Bronte.

The concert will be held at 6.30pm Friday 30 March at the Carclew Youth Arts Centre, Jeffcott Street, North Adelaide. For more information and bookings, contact BASS on 131 246.

[www.zephyrquartet.com](http://www.zephyrquartet.com)



# From Snowball Earth to outback glaciers

## ■ Geology

Is it possible that the earth lost its balance 800 million years ago and rolled over on its side to restore equilibrium?

It's a wild idea but Dr Galen Halverson, one of the world's leading geoscientists studying this time period, is helping to provide compelling evidence of this shift.

Dr Halverson, a new recruit to the Discipline of Geology & Geophysics within the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences, is co-author of a paper published last year which presents evidence in support of the Inertial Interchange True Polar Wander theory.

The theory suggests that under certain conditions, the redistribution of masses in the interior of the earth can cause the entire earth to rotate by up to 90° perpendicular to the spin axis, such that land masses on the poles would move to the equator.

In principle, it means Alaska could have moved to the equator in the earth's distant past in just a few million years.

Dr Halverson and a team led by Princeton University geoscientist Adam Maloof advanced the theory after analysing the magnetic composition of ancient sediments found in the remote Norwegian archipelago of Svalbard, dating from 800 million years ago. They are now testing the hypothesis by studying rocks of the same age in Australia.

The contentious finding is one of two major discoveries the American geoscientist has been involved with in recent years.

The other theory that made a big splash in the scientific community was back in 1998 when Dr Halverson co-authored a paper which explained an ancient climatic paradox.

For decades geologists had struggled to explain evidence of glacial deposits that formed near the equator and at sea level in low latitudes some 650 million years ago. Rocks found in the Flinders Ranges in South Australia actually provided the world's scientific community with the best evidence that the Earth was once entirely locked in ice.

In the late 1990s, Dr Halverson and his PhD supervisor at the time, Paul Hoffman, found anomalies in the ratios of carbon isotopes in ancient sediments that suggested a rapidly cooling earth brought life to a halt for millions of years. This glaciation ended abruptly when a greenhouse-induced effect kicked in, turning the entire planet into a sauna for a few million years, until Earth's climatic thermostat could cool it off again.

This hypothesis, widely known as the Snowball Earth theory, was written up by Hoffman, Dr Halverson, and two colleagues, Alan Kaufman and Daniel Schrag in the journal *Science* in 1998. The hypothesis continues to attract worldwide attention, but remains highly controversial.

Dr Halverson joined the University of Adelaide in November 2006 from Toulouse, France, where he worked for two years as a postdoctoral researcher funded by the National Science Foundation in the US. He completed his PhD in Geology at Harvard University in 2003, researching climatic and environmental change in the Neoproterozoic Era (1000 to 542 million years ago).

An isotope geochemist, Dr Halverson has carried out most of his fieldwork in the Arctic and southern Africa, but South Australia is a new frontier for him.

"Joining the University of Adelaide presents a fantastic opportunity for me because South Australia is one of the world's focal points for the study of the late pre-Cambrian era," Dr Halverson said.

"A lot of the international work on this era has been carried out in the Adelaide Hills and Flinders Ranges, where there is evidence of ancient glacial deposits.

"This was arguably one of the most interesting times in our history because there was so much going on. There were a series of large global glaciations and it appears that the earth's environment became fully oxygenated at this time.

"Another attraction that South Australia presents is the number of excellent recent sediments from 40,000 years ago to the present day," he said.

Above left: Geologists believe these rocks from central Australia contain a record of the True Polar Wander event

Photo courtesy of Dr Galen Halverson

Above: Dr Galen Halverson, a world-renowned geologist who has recently joined the University of Adelaide

Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Story by Candy Gibson



Dr Gordon Howarth (left) with Women's and Children's Hospital cancer patient, 11-year-old John Nicholls, who is receiving chemotherapy and radiotherapy for a head and neck tumour. John is highly susceptible to mucositis, the focus for Dr Howarth's research.

Photo by Candy Gibson

# Cancer breakthrough from shellfish discovery

## ■ Animal Science

“It looked like they may have been on the right track, judging by our laboratory results”

A New Zealand shellfish has given University of Adelaide scientists a breakthrough in the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases.

Experiments by Associate Professor Gordon Howarth and his team show that extracts of the Green-Lipped Mussel can help combat inflammatory bowel disease and intestinal mucositis – a side effect of chemotherapy.

The extract, Lyprinol, is a recognised anti-inflammatory product used to treat asthma and arthritis, but this is the first time that researchers have found evidence that it can also be used in the fight against an inflamed gastrointestinal tract.

Mucositis is an inflammation and ulceration of the lining of the mouth, throat or gastrointestinal tract, commonly associated with chemotherapy or radiotherapy for cancer.

Dr Howarth, from the Agricultural & Animal Science Discipline, said experiments with rats endorsed anecdotal evidence from hundreds of years ago, when Maoris and Polynesians consumed molluscs to help ward off disease.

“It looked like they may have been on the right track, judging by our laboratory results,” he said.

Dr Howarth is half way through

a three-year SA Cancer Council Research Fellowship to develop new strategies to combat mucositis, and new approaches to decrease inflammatory bowel disease.

Both projects involve the combined resources of the University of Adelaide and the Women's and Children's Hospital Gastroenterology Department.

He has a team of Honours and PhD students working on the projects, with some impressive results to date.

“The primary focus of my research, using proven animal model systems, is looking at the damage that chemotherapy can cause to the intestine and ways to mitigate this,” he said.

Early tests show that positive bacteria known as probiotics can provide a drug-free form of controlling infection in the bowel.

“People tend to think of bacteria as negative micro-organisms, because we normally hear about it in terms of salmonella, or pathogens such as E coli, but there are also positive bacteria which help counteract the bad bacteria in the bowel.

“We have established that a member of the streptococcus family of bacteria is a new probiotic which can help treat mucositis in

the bowel, along with the marine extract, Lyprinol.”

Another probiotic, BR11, has been identified by Dr Howarth's team as a therapeutic agent to treat colitis, an inflammation of the large intestine which can lead to colon cancer.

The project team has also established that certain zinc supplements can help reduce the severity of both colitis and intestinal mucositis, Dr Howarth said.

Emu oil is another novel bioactive product being tested by the team for its anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties.

“Aborigines have used it for centuries to help heal wounds and muscle soreness. Like the Maoris and New Zealand mussel, its healing properties are mainly anecdotal, but we are now testing these beliefs in a scientific way and the early results are encouraging.”

The team has now received ethical approval to use pigs for some of their scientific experiments, providing them with a better animal model than rodents for their research.

“Humans have a lot in common with the pig, certainly in terms of our intestine,” Dr Howarth said.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

## Student work on exhibition

A new public exhibition of student designs will show Salisbury's Civic Square in a way it's never been seen before.

As part of its commitment to develop learning and employment initiatives in the northern area of Adelaide, the City of Salisbury asked first-year students from the University of Adelaide to come up with possible designs of what the Salisbury Town Centre could look like.

The results will be shown in a free public exhibition called [SUB]URBAN [CON]TEXT, which opens on Monday 5 March from 5.30pm at the John Harvey Gallery, 12 James Street, Salisbury.

Leading planning and urban design experts and professionals are expected to attend and show their support for the initiative.

"The students' designs are hypothetical only, so their work is not aimed at shaping the future look of the town centre. However, the exhibition is an opportunity to demonstrate the City of Salisbury's progressive attitude and interest in new, innovative talent," said Julie Nichols, course coordinator with the University of Adelaide's School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design.

"The collaboration between the University of Adelaide and the City of Salisbury has proved to be a fantastic experience for all, and the results of our students' hard work can now be seen by the public.

"The exhibition also provides an opportunity for students – that is, the future leaders of urban design – to connect with the current leaders of urban design in Adelaide."

The Salisbury Civic Square is a significant meeting place and a hub for cultural and recreational activities.

The exhibition will run from 5-23 March, 9am-5pm Monday to Friday.



# Unborn babies at risk from lack of folic acid

## ■ Obstetrics & Gynaecology

“Women need to be aware that they may not be adequately protecting their baby from the risk of neural tube defects”

A University of Adelaide study has found that most pregnant women are failing to take adequate folic acid supplements, leaving their unborn child at risk of brain abnormalities and spinal cord defects such as spina bifida.

Researchers from the University's Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the Women's and Children's Hospital say folic acid is a key factor in reducing the incidence of defects, which affect around 1-2 pregnancies per 1000.

The study, published in *The Australian and New Zealand Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology*, shows that only 30% of pregnant women adequately supplement their diet with folic acid. Also, most do not know the recommended correct daily dose – 400 micrograms from one month before conception and the first three months of early pregnancy.

Professor Alastair MacLennan, Head of the Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, said some supplement brands do not contain the recommended dose in one tablet.

"Women need to be aware that they may not be adequately protecting their baby from the risk of neural tube defects," Professor MacLennan said.

The neural tube is the embryonic structure that develops into the brain and spinal cord. Very early in a

baby's development, a layer of cells folds over and "zips up" to form the neural tube. If the cells fail to form a tube at some point, the baby will be affected with brain and/or spinal abnormalities called a neural tube defect.

Co-researcher Melissa Conlin, a Faculty of Science Honours student, said Australia needs to follow the lead of other countries that have mandatory folic acid additives in certain foods such as flour.

"There is considerable room for improvement in the current policy of supplementation in Australia, with variable trends across the States in the rate of neural tube defects," she said. "Since pregnancies are often unplanned, to rely solely on supplementation is an ineffective health policy.

"To achieve the best outcome, this study recommends both policies are adopted – folic acid additions in foods such as bread, along with a daily capsule or tablet supplement for women who could become pregnant."

Professor MacLennan said both health policies were required to minimise the chances of major birth defects.

Ms Jessica Broadbent from Obstetrics & Gynaecology was also involved in the study.

■ Story by Candy Gibson



# Study targets poverty in Asia-Pacific

## Trade

The University of Adelaide's Institute for International Trade is undertaking a 12-month study to identify the best trade policies for poverty reduction in the Asia-Pacific region.

The \$456,000 project is being supported by AusAid and the World Trade Organization (WTO), and will involve several Schools within the University of Adelaide as well as academic and business researchers throughout the region.

Jim Redden, Senior Program Manager for the University's Institute for International Trade, said: "We are aiming to provide governments and policy makers in the Asia-Pacific region with examples of trade policy and practices that have assisted in reducing poverty.

"Experienced researchers from a range of developing countries will work with us to develop case-studies evaluating the impact of trade reform and recent global economic developments on some

of the most disadvantaged groups in our region.

"We know there is a clear link between long-term economic growth and poverty reduction when growth is inclusive of, or specifically targets, poorer communities. But linking the needs of the poor with a more open trading economy can be a very complex equation.

"We need much more factual evidence to explore exactly what sort of trade policies are needed on the ground to bring benefits to some of the poorest communities."

Experts from the University of Adelaide, the WTO and AusAID will work with colleagues in the Asia-Pacific region exploring such themes as the relationship between labour migration and earnings sent back to their families, the vital importance of trade in services for the future of poorer countries, the needs of small and island economies, and the role of transnational companies in helping or hindering poverty reduction.

"We need more targeted solutions for specific situations. For instance, how can circumstances be improved for women working as cheap labour in factories across Asia? What sort of trade policies do newly emerging countries such as East Timor need to put in place to deal with youth unemployment, lack of infrastructure and rural poverty?" Mr Redden said.

A book will be produced offering informed analysis on appropriate trade strategies and capacity-building measures for long-term poverty reduction.

This project builds on the recent publication of an earlier Institute for International Trade-managed project, *Managing the Challenges of WTO Participation: 45 Case Studies*, co-edited by Institute Executive Director Andrew Stoler and published by Cambridge University Press.

Above:  
Children in a village  
in Cambodia

Photo by Brenton Millard

■ Story by Robyn Mills

**Don Dunstan Foundation**  
Program March/April 2007

**Event:**

Corporate Responsibility Seminar with David Grayson CBE: How successful businesses around the world are operating for people, profit and planet

**Date:**

Thursday 15 March

**Time:**

5.15pm for 5.30pm

**Venue:**

Enterprise House,  
136 Greenhill Road

**Cost:**

\$50 incl GST (includes light refreshments)

**Event:**

Addressing the Challenges of Climate Change through Green Productivity, with Heinz-Werner Engel

**Date:**

Tuesday 3 April

**Time:**

5.15pm for 5.30pm

**Venue:**

Napier Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

**Event:**

Food Justice in South Australia: From the ground up, with Professor Fran Baum and Zannie Flannagan

**Date:**

Thursday 19 April

**Time:**

5.15pm for 5.30pm

**Venue:**

Radford Auditorium, Art Gallery of South Australia

**Cost:**

\$20 incl GST (includes light refreshments)

For more information please visit:  
[www.dunstan.org.au](http://www.dunstan.org.au)

For bookings please call  
Josie on 8303 3364 or email:  
[josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au)

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# Genetics insight into heroin addiction

## ■ Pharmacology

University of Adelaide researchers have made a breakthrough in the treatment of heroin addiction which could improve treatment success rates for millions of heroin users around the world.

Researchers in the Discipline of Pharmacology have discovered a genetic variation that may help determine the most effective methadone dosage levels for individual heroin addicts.

The genetic discovery reveals why some people are either less efficient or more effective in distributing drugs throughout their body to the central nervous system.

Lead researcher Dr Janet Coller said accurate dosing of methadone is essential to successfully treat drug addicts because up to 62% fail to remain in the methadone program due to severe withdrawal symptoms.

"Individualised dosing may decrease the incidence of withdrawal symptoms in some people and therefore encourage

them to continue with the methadone treatment."

An estimated 10 million people worldwide are heroin dependent, including 74,000 Australians, incurring enormous health, social and economic costs.

"More than 40,000 people are undergoing methadone treatment in Australia and only 38% of them are staying in the program at the moment. Most drop out at the start of the treatment when the withdrawal effects are severe," Dr Coller said.

This breakthrough will allow individuals undergoing the methadone treatment program to be tested for the genetic variation to determine optimal treatment doses.

The pharmacology study was conducted collaboratively as part of Dr Coller's postdoctoral and Daniel Barratt's PhD studies, supervised by Professor Andrew Somogyi, with the assistance of Karianne Dahlen and Morten Loennechen, Masters of Science students from Denmark. The results have been published in the journal *Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics*.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

"More than 40,000 people are undergoing methadone treatment in Australia and only 38% of them are staying in the program"

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# Keith's urban master plan

## Urban Management

Stormwater and wetlands could be important keys to solving Adelaide's water crisis, according to the first Masters student to graduate from the University of Adelaide's Urban Management Program.

Keith Smith, an ecologist with the Natural Resources Management Board at Mt Lofty, is the first student to complete all the stages of the newest postgraduate program in the Faculty of Sciences. He graduated with his Masters last December.

Mr Smith said the program offered a good mix of both practical and theory and brought together several disciplines, with a major focus on flora and fauna as well as water issues.

His thesis explored the change in Adelaide's urban vegetation in the past 10 years and the importance of wetlands.

"Adelaide's stormwater and wetlands management is among the most progressive in the country," he said.

"Wetlands provide important habitats for many plant and animal species and they also help manage

our flood risk in urban areas in times of heavy rain. Wetlands provide us with an opportunity to capture and cleanse stormwater that would otherwise be wasted," he said.

"Because they are locally based, you can capture and treat the water locally which is less expensive than having it treated elsewhere and pumped over long distances."

Mr Smith said government, industry, councils, schools and community groups were starting to work together to harvest and recycle Adelaide's water.

"Most years, Adelaide has a relatively good supply of water, although we are seeing some major pressures with the current drought and we need to be innovative about where we get our water from and how we use it. There are many opportunities for stormwater recycling schemes and the development of more wetlands."

The Masters graduate said it was inevitable that Adelaide's urban vegetation would undergo a transformation in future years.

"Many of our older trees are severely stressed by the effects of the current drought and while we are already noticing some tree deaths, many more could die as a result of this stress in the future.

What we plant in their place will determine the fabric of Adelaide in the years to come.

"In the past decade our long-term goal to 'green' the city has resulted in a substantial increase in woodland areas at the expense of grasslands.

"It has been a good thing on the whole but grasslands are important habitats in their own right. They support different birds and reptiles to those found in more densely vegetated areas.

Mr Smith said Adelaide residents were already starting to plant more native species in their gardens and replace grass with pervious surfaces such as gravel.

"There is a growing realisation in Australia and around the world that we have to manage our urban environments better. After all, more than two thirds of Australia's population already lives in our five largest cities and the urban environment will continue to impact significantly on our quality of life into the future."

Dr Sandra Taylor from the School of Earth & Environmental Sciences and Dr Chris Daniels from UniSA supervised Mr Smith's thesis.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Masters graduate Keith Smith. Wetlands provide important habitats for plant and animal species.

Photo courtesy of Keith Smith

# Honorary doctorates go to university greats

## ■ Graduations

Of the thousands of students who graduated at the University of Adelaide late last year, three people received the University's highest honour.

They were all awarded an honorary doctorate – the degree of Doctor of the University *honoris causa* – in recognition of their outstanding achievements.

The former Royal Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the **Hon. Elliott Johnston AO QC**, received his honorary degree for his "pursuit of justice and equality" for indigenous Australians.

A law graduate of the University of Adelaide, champion of the underdog and former Justice of the Supreme Court of South Australia, Mr Johnston is credited with bringing to the nation's attention the overt discrimination of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia.

In May 1988 he was appointed Royal Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody and his subsequent findings challenged Australia's treatment of its indigenous people and paved the way for reconciliation.

**Ed McAlister** was Chief Executive Officer of the Royal Zoological Society of South Australia for 15 years until his retirement last year. He was awarded an honorary doctorate for his "contribution to animal conservation, the environment and the community and his distinguished scholarly achievement".

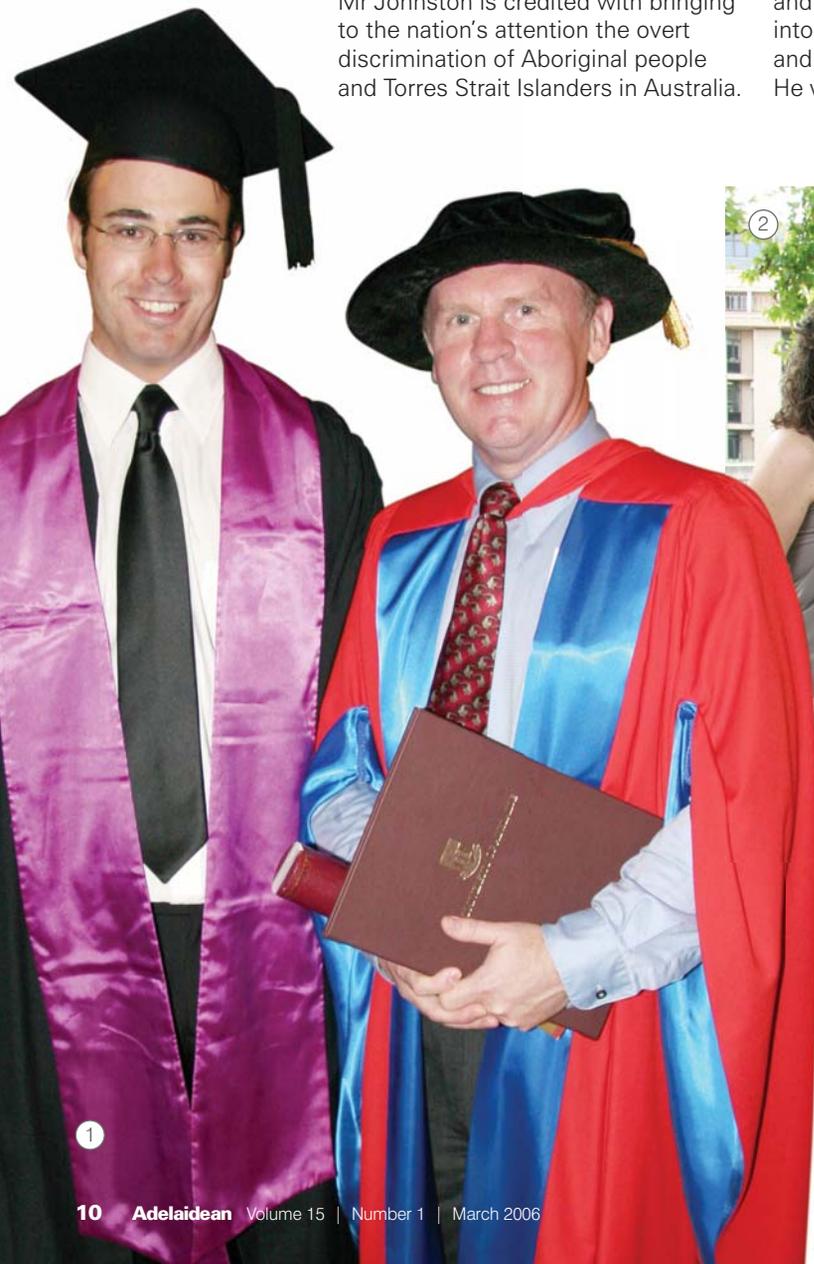
He oversaw the opening of Monarto Zoological Park in 1993 and its subsequent transformation into a significant conservation body and renowned zoological park. He was responsible for improving

zoo education and strong growth in the Society's membership and involvement of volunteers.

NASA astronaut **Dr Andrew Thomas** was awarded an honorary doctorate in recognition of his distinguished contribution as a research scientist in fluid mechanics.

An engineering graduate of the University of Adelaide, Dr Thomas said receiving the doctorate from his *alma mater* was a "great honour".

"When I left the University of Adelaide from a very similar graduation ceremony, over 30 years ago, I carried a dream, which by all the standards of the day was quite unrealisable. That I was able to turn that dream into a realistic ambition and which ultimately took me to space, I owe largely to the education that I received at this institution," Dr Thomas said.



1. NASA astronaut Andy Thomas (right) with engineering graduate Ryan Arbon. Ryan was one of the students who received the Andy Thomas Scholarship to study at the University of Adelaide. He graduated with a Bachelor degree in Mechatronic Engineering at the same ceremony in which Dr Thomas received his honorary degree.

2. The Hon. Greg Crafter (centre) was presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award. He is pictured with his family: (from left) daughter-in-law Olivia Brown, son Sam Crafter, grandson Ignatius, wife Rae and daughter Lauren.

Photo by David Ellis

Photo by Candy Gibson



3. Ezhil Mathi Lourdaraj (Christy) from Chennai, India was one of the first graduates in the new Master of Engineering (Advanced) (Telecommunications)

Photo by David Ellis



4. Electrical & Electronic Engineering PhD graduate and Research Fellow Dr Mark McDonnell was awarded the prestigious Postgraduate Alumni University Medal

Photo by David Ellis

5. Honorary degree recipient and former Adelaide Zoo chief Ed McAlister (left) with Vice-Chancellor and University President Professor James McWha

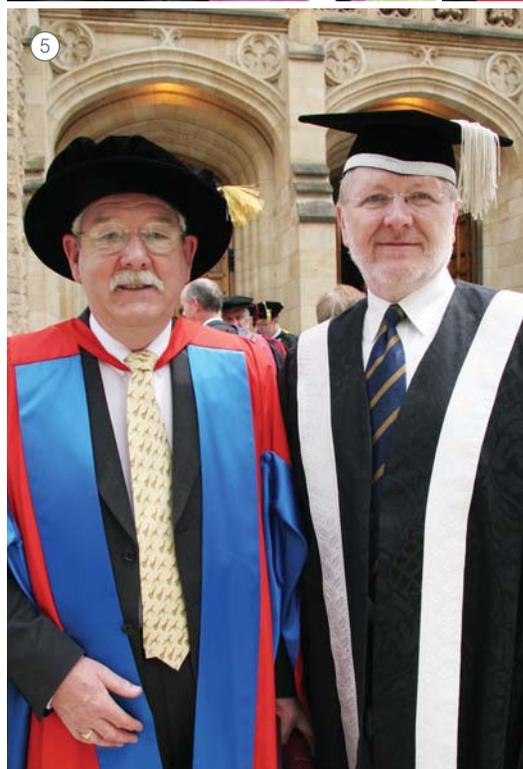
Photo by Candy Gibson

6. University Chancellor the Hon. John von Doussa QC (left) with honorary degree recipient, the former Royal Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, the Hon. Elliott Frank Johnston AO QC.

Photo by David Ellis

7. Proud dad Professor John Kaldi from the Australian School of Petroleum with daughter Anastasia Kaldi, who graduated with a Bachelor of International Studies degree

Photo by Paula Featon



8. University of Adelaide Marketing Project Manager Anouska Kranz graduated with a Master of Commerce (Marketing) degree and received a prize from the School of Commerce for her outstanding results

Photo by Candy Gibson

9. Senior lecturer in the Adelaide Graduate Centre Dr Kate Cadman graduated with her PhD in the same ceremony as her son, Paul, who received his Bachelor of Arts degree



Photo by Adam Thomson



Dr Severence MacLaughlin

Photo by Robyn Mills

# Healthy diet for unborn baby has impact on adult health

## ■ Physiology

University of Adelaide research has shown the importance of healthy eating before becoming pregnant on the future health of the child.

Research by Dr Severence MacLaughlin, who graduated from the University in December with a PhD, found that a mother's nutrition and the environment of an embryo in the first few days of life – even before implantation in the uterus – can influence the potential for adult diseases such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Dr MacLaughlin said research using sheep as a model of human pregnancy found undernutrition during the period from fertilisation to day seven altered the development of the fetus and placenta during pregnancy and 'programmed' the fetus for disease in later life.

The research team has also shown this early environment can influence the timing of birth. Very recent data suggests the effects of diet could be seen even earlier, in mothers' eggs still within the ovary before conception.

"It has been known for about 20 years that poor maternal health during pregnancy can have detrimental effects on adult health outcomes, but for the maternal

environment around the time of conception to be shown to have these effects is very significant," Dr MacLaughlin said.

"To put it in context, how many women know they are pregnant during the first week of life?

Through their diet and social habits women with unknown pregnancies could be having an impact on their child's health for its entire life."

In their research with sheep, the researchers found that 30% undernutrition altered the chemical "signal" from mother to the developing embryo, which impacted on the development of the placenta and fetus.

"We found that maternal undernutrition during these few days alters fetal growth and weight due to changes in the development of the placenta. There are also changes to the cardiovascular and kidney development of the fetus during very early and late gestation," Dr MacLaughlin said. "This may be setting the scene for the development of adult disease."

Associated research has also found that the importance of the embryonic environment during early development has significant potential impact for the health of those born using IVF and other artificial reproductive technologies.

"We know from our studies that just the use of embryo transfer without culture causes changes in heart, fat, fetal and placental development," Dr MacLaughlin said. "The use of culture conditions exacerbates this situation."

The research team has shown for the first time that the sheep model of human pregnancies reflects observed outcomes resulting from in vitro culture used as part of artificial reproductive technologies.

"We now have an animal model that closely resembles the human pregnancy unlike the mouse or rat. We can use this model to further study long-term health implications of in vitro culture," Dr MacLaughlin said.

Dr MacLaughlin completed his PhD within the Discipline of Physiology in the School of Molecular & Biomedical Science at the University of Adelaide. His PhD supervisors were Professor Caroline McMillen, now Pro Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at UniSA, and Dr Simon Walker, Turretfield Research Centre, South Australian Research and Development Institute.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

# Indigenous health still being hurt by policy

## Public Health

Dr Judith Raftery is a firm believer that we need to confront our past in order to make informed decisions about a better future.

A Visiting Senior Lecturer in Public Health at the University of Adelaide, Dr Raftery introduced a historical perspective to the teaching of public health when she was first appointed to the discipline in 1989.

She was the first person to introduce a course on Aboriginal Health Policy at the University, at a time when almost nothing about indigenous health was being taught.

Almost two decades later, Dr Raftery has published a book dealing with the impact of non-indigenous policies and practices on the health of South Australia's indigenous people.

The book deals with colonisation until the policy of self-determination in 1973, a period that has helped to shape current trends and issues in Aboriginal health.

Titled *Not Part of the Public – Non-indigenous policies and practices and the health of indigenous South Australians 1836-1973*, the book is a must for anyone wanting to learn more about the policies that have impacted on South Australia's indigenous population, as well as those looking for a possible way forward.

"History informs us," Dr Raftery said. "There is still a lot of ignorance among the community – including among policy makers – about the impact successive governments and policies have had on Aboriginal people. That's a very strong reason for writing the book."

"It's not about blame; people in the past didn't have the insights that we have now into what contributes to the health of populations. What I'm aiming to do with this book is to help bring to life the issues, and provide some hope for the future."

These issues include the understanding that political decisions and choices are fundamental determinants of people's health. Dr Raftery said there was increasing evidence that social and economic inequalities have a major impact on the health of populations.

"Over successive years, Aboriginal people did not have the same rights to public goods and services. They [Aboriginal people] had essentially been constructed by government and society as not being part of the public, and that has resulted in marginalisation and the worst health status in the country."

"The influence of this was determined by the spread of white settlement. From 1836, in Adelaide itself, Aboriginal people rapidly became paupers, vagrants, beggars. Hunting grounds disappeared on the Adelaide Plains. Fishing grounds were depleted and damaged."

"They were also subject to diseases – smallpox, venereal disease and other infectious diseases – to which they had never been exposed before. However, ultimately their health was damaged by losing the capacity to live independently."

Dr Raftery said this history is not a thing of the past: it continues to impact on the present.

"There is a myth of the level playing field in this country," she said. "The current Federal Government promotes this myth, and has a kind of 'pull yourselves up by your bootstraps' attitude. This might tap into the views of many Australian voters, but unfortunately it doesn't match reality."

"The problem is, indigenous populations have been so damaged, so dysfunctional, and so removed from the rest of the community. It's not a case of just helping them to climb a bit further up the ladder – in many cases, they don't have access to the ladder," she said.

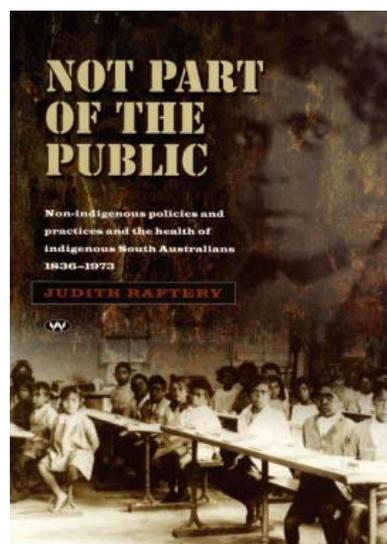
"There is increasing evidence that we have an unequal society. If we don't intervene politically to address this, health outcomes will continue to be spread unevenly throughout the community."

"Indigenous people need to be included as part of the public in every way – though that should not be misread as a plea for uniformity. Many indigenous people are proud of and wish to retain their cultural distinctiveness."

Story by David Ellis



Dr Judith Raftery  
Photo by David Ellis



*Not Part of the Public* is published by Wakefield Press and is available at a recommended retail price of \$39.95.

The *Adelaidean* has one signed copy to give away. To win, be the first caller on (08) 8303 5414.

## Professor Robert John Barrett

MBBS, PhD, Dip Psychother, FRANZCP  
Professor of Psychiatry

Born: 8 May 1949, Adelaide

Died: 12 January 2007, Adelaide



### ■ Obituary

Rob Barrett was an outstanding scholar and clinician, a gifted teacher and a wise mentor, who made a substantial contribution to the disciplines of medical anthropology, psychiatry and medical education.

His unique training as both a clinical psychiatrist and as a social anthropologist allowed him to blend medical and anthropological observations in a way that reviewers of his writings have described as masterful. It is rare for a scholar to be able to straddle two quite different ways of approaching knowledge and Rob did so with aplomb.

Rob went to school at King's College in Adelaide (which later became Pembroke School) and was admitted to the Medicine program at the University of Adelaide in 1967. He was awarded his MBBS in 1973 with a number of distinctions and student prizes.

Following graduation in 1973, he served as an intern at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) and then had a brief foray into general practice before being admitted to the training program in psychiatry at the RAH. There he served as a junior registrar between 1976 and 1979.

Rob obtained his membership of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) in 1979 and was awarded the Maddison Medallion for topping this examination nationally.

His FRANZCP was conferred in 1983, the same year he completed his Diploma in Psychotherapy.

Visiting Consultant appointments to a number of hospitals followed, as did the very prestigious Neil Hamilton Fairley Fellowship awarded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, enabling Rob to spend time at the Harvard Medical School in Boston. In 1988 he was awarded his PhD by the University of Adelaide.

Rob was appointed Senior Lecturer in the University Department of Psychiatry and a Consultant Specialist to the RAH in 1990, and was also made the Director of the Eastern Community Mental Health Services. In 1998 he was appointed Professor of Psychiatry at the RAH.

Rob's written work crossed a number of different areas, but he was probably best known for two major ethnographic studies in the area of schizophrenia, one conducted in a psychiatric hospital here in Adelaide, the other in Borneo with the Iban people. His research involved pursuing the most basic theoretical concepts in anthropology back to their historical origins, and applying these theories in new ways to clinical psychiatry.

He had, in recent years, commenced an ambitious new project that attempted to marry the disciplines of social anthropology and genetics, to try to understand the heritability of schizophrenia.

Rob drew upon his research in the delivery of his teaching to medical students and trainee psychiatrists. He also taught, as an invited lecturer, to anthropology and psychology students. His teaching was mesmerising – students were enthralled and captivated not only by his novel material, but by his quirky sense of humour, his dynamic delivery and his passion for his disciplines of medicine, psychiatry and anthropology. His students' world views were often permanently changed by his teaching.

His personal gifts were a boon to his research. The tremendous listening, observation and communication skills Rob possessed were invaluable to both his psychiatric practice and his anthropological research. His formidable intellect, however, did not prevent him being a very skilled and caring medical manager of his psychiatric patients.

He contributed greatly to the work of the Mental Illness Fellowship (formerly the Schizophrenia Fellowship), Amnesty International and Nunkuwarrin Yunti.

Rob is survived by his wife Mitra and daughter Githie, and will be greatly missed by his family, his many friends, his colleagues and his patients.

■ Contributed by Derek Frewin and Anna Chur-Hansen

## Join Selby & Friends with a free subscription!

Renowned pianist Kathryn Selby is reprising her popular Selby & Friends concerts for a national audience in 2007, and one lucky reader has the chance to win a double subscription package to all five Adelaide concerts.

The first concert, on Sunday 18 March, features virtuoso violinist Niki Vasilakis and former Principal Cellist of the ACO Emma-Jane Murphy, who have joined Kathy to form the new piano trio, Trio Oz.

All concerts in Adelaide will be held at Elder Hall at the University of Adelaide.

Tickets for the National Touring Season for Selby & Friends range from \$27-\$48 and are available by calling (02) 9405 5532 or (02) 9969 7039, or email: [info@selbyandfriends.com.au](mailto:info@selbyandfriends.com.au)

Ticket order forms and details of all concerts in the national touring season can be obtained from the website: [www.selbyandfriends.com.au](http://www.selbyandfriends.com.au)

To win a double subscription package valued at \$432 for the 2007 Selby & Friends concert series in Adelaide, be the first to call (08) 8303 5414.



Kathryn Selby

Photo courtesy of  
Neil Ward Publicity



# Water research to flow from international meeting

## ■ Engineering

Researchers from India and Australia have pledged to join forces to help overcome key problems in water resources management, following a meeting of water engineering experts from both countries at the University of Adelaide.

Adelaide hosted a four-day workshop of researchers in water resources engineering from India and Australia last month, aimed at exploring areas of common research interest and building links between the two countries.

The workshop brought together senior researchers from five technological institutes in India with experts from four Australian universities.

"India and Australia have a number of similar issues when it comes to water and water resources management, and the expertise needed to overcome those issues is something that we can all potentially benefit from," said the coordinator of the workshop, Professor Graeme Dandy from the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering, University of Adelaide.

"There is no doubt that water resources management is a very real concern for many countries around the world, with high environmental, economic and social consequences for getting it wrong. By working together, Australia

and India stand to make important gains."

There were two keynote speakers at the four-day event, both of them prominent academics from India: Professor Kalyanmoy Deb from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, and Professor BS Murty from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras.

Professor Murty hailed the workshop a success, and said it would result in a number of joint research proposals being developed within a few weeks.

"The workshop has been extremely valuable," Professor Murty said. "We were able to identify many common areas of research interest. There are very common linkages – it's just that we had not thought about this kind of workshop before.

"The organisers have had a great vision in terms of organising this workshop. There is strength in numbers, complementing each other's areas of expertise," he said.

The main outcome of the workshop was the agreement among experts from both countries that they would collaborate and bid for funding for joint research projects.

"We are also planning to visit each other more often, to keep the contact going. This is just the starting point," Professor Murty said.

Professor Dandy said eight research areas had been identified out of the workshop, with each project to have one team leader from both Australia and India.

Key areas of research for the group to collaborate on include:

- Identifying water catchments and river basins in India and Australia that share common features, for a comparative study;
- Improvements in management and understanding of complex water systems by integrating problem-specific knowledge with computer models;
- Studies of water distribution networks, and their monitoring, control and management;
- The impact of climate change and climate variability on water resources management;
- Flooding in urban areas;
- Urban water supply and the use of integrated water management in cities, with a view towards sustainable outcomes.

**An international conference on water resources and hydrology will be held in Adelaide next year, called Water Down Under 2008. Another India-Australia workshop is planned in conjunction with that conference.**

Above:

Workshop coordinator Professor Graeme Dandy (centre) with the two keynote speakers, Professor BS Murty (left) and Professor Kalyanmoy Deb, demonstrating the spirit of joint research in water resources management

Photo by David Ellis

■ Story by David Ellis



# Getting Commercial: to patent or not to patent?

Robert Chalmers takes up the role of Managing Director of the University's commercial development company (ARI Pty Ltd) in March. He has a long background in the business and legal issues surrounding research, development and commercialisation of new technologies, and also holds an academic role in the University's Law School. This month Robert discusses the use, misuse and abuse of intellectual property ("IP").

## ■ Commentary

There is an increasing emphasis in our world on the power of ideas, brands and technologies. Along with this has come discussion about the protection and exploitation of these "intangible" outputs of our research institutions and the broader economy. Some of this discussion is practically oriented: about using IP protection to generate commercial returns. Others decry what they see as the abuse of IP and commercialisation: e.g. the controversies around patenting life forms or methods of medical treatment, or concerns about undue restraints on freedom of speech and distribution of information subject to copyright protection.

Much of the press on these issues is simplistic: on the one hand there can be an assumption that

aggressively pursuing IP protection in all situations is an essential prerequisite to success, and on the other a perception that all forms of protection and exploitation are inappropriate.

The reality is that IP provides a set of options that can be used to good effect, whether you are a hard nosed business person or of a more liberal "open source" sharing mindset. However, IP itself is far from the be all and end all: it needs to be placed within the broader context of what you are trying to do, why, how, and in what environments. There are many good businesses whose success is really derived from being first to market, or having effective distribution channels, rather than a heavy emphasis on IP protection. And there are numerous products and services we use for which the providers may derive indirect or intangible, rather than direct monetary, rewards.

One type of IP that gets a lot of focus is patenting. A patent is an exclusive right to exploit an invention, with a standard lifetime of 20 years. An idea with some practical application that is both novel and inventive, and satisfies certain other conditions may be patentable, but patenting is not

an appropriate strategy in all situations and is also very costly. Copyright is more significant to most of us: it protects text-based works, software, music, art, film and other things. Trade marks is yet another important category: we live in a world submerged in the badges of business, and those can be very valuable intangible assets. There are also other categories of IP, including systems to protect confidential information, and even plant breeders' rights. Indeed, the majority of the University's commercialisation revenue is actually derived from this latter and relatively unknown form of IP.

As with all things, contextual understanding is key. Sometimes maintaining control of IP is important and useful, and sometimes not: giving away rights to use might be a more effective strategy. Understanding clearly how you might be using or abusing other people's IP rights is also critical from a risk management perspective. All of these issues can be complex and require advice (something we at ARI provide as a core service for University staff) – however it is always important to focus foremost on the outcomes you want to achieve.

[www.adelaide.edu.au/aripl](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/aripl)



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# Sex hormone key to women's health

story from page 1

Dr Hickey spent her early research years investigating the link between androgen receptors, which mediate the effects of androgen in the body, and prostate cancer in men. Her attention has now turned to the role that androgens play in some critical female health problems.

"Research suggests that weak or disrupted androgen activity promotes the development of breast cancer in susceptible individuals and may cause early failure of ovarian function.

"Too little androgen activity can also result in loss of female libido and weak bones. On the other hand, too much androgen activity is a characteristic feature of conditions like polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), hirsutism (excessive hair) and acne in women."

Dr Hickey said many common environmental pollutants, as well as some oral contraceptives and hormone replacement therapies, contain substances which potentially interfere with normal androgen action in the female body.

"We now know that disrupted androgen activity not only causes major psychological problems and infertility for women, but other life-threatening health conditions. For example, a link between excess androgen, Type 2 Diabetes and metabolic syndrome in women has recently been revealed."

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) awarded the Fellowship Grant earlier this year. It comes on top of a three-year Project Grant awarded to Dr Hickey and her colleagues in 2006 to investigate androgen activity in the ovary.

Professor Robert Norman from the Research Centre for Reproductive Health and Professor Wayne Tilley from the Dame Roma Mitchell Cancer Research Laboratories will collaborate with Dr Hickey on her research.

The postdoctoral researcher spent 2006 writing up her PhD thesis on the role that androgen receptors play in the development of PCOS, a condition that affects one in 15 women of childbearing age.

Dr Hickey's research has won national and international acclaim, including awards from the Society for Reproductive Biology (Aus), Australian Women in Endocrinology, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Research Foundation, and the Androgen Excess Society (USA).

"Last year was a stellar year for me and I'm hoping that by the end of 2007 we will have made some real progress in this field," Dr Hickey said.

Above:  
Dr Theresa Hickey (seated) with research assistants Kai Yan Mak, Ean Phing Lee and Sook Ching Lee. All will be working on the androgen receptor project.

Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Story by Candy Gibson

## Top graduates earn Monash Awards

Two University of Adelaide graduates have been awarded Australia's most prestigious postgraduate scholarships to undertake further study at the world's best universities.

The General Sir John Monash Award provides the winners with financial support up to the value of \$150,000 over three years. They are awarded for academic excellence, leadership and community service.

Gemma Sharp has a Bachelor of Science (Molecular Biology), a Bachelor of Science (First Class Honours) – which earned her a University Medal – and a Diploma in Languages (Japanese) from the University of Adelaide.

Gemma has a passion for breast cancer research, and will use her Monash Award to study for a PhD at the University of Cambridge in the UK. Gemma's research aims to identify genes as prognostic markers for detecting, monitoring and treating breast cancer.

"Breast cancer is the primary cause of cancer-related death in Australian women and I hope my research will help ameliorate this problem," Gemma said.

Owen Siggs has a Bachelor of Science (Molecular Biology) and Diploma of Languages (German) from the University of Adelaide and a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the Australian National University.

Since graduation, he has worked as a Research Assistant at the John Curtin School of Medical Research, Canberra, and more recently at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne.

Owen's ambition is to lead Australian research into the prevention and treatment of genetic disease. To that end, he will use his Monash Award to pursue a joint PhD/DPhil at The Scripps Research Institute in the United States and the University of Oxford in the UK.

"The greatest attraction of this award was the freedom to use it at the best institutions in our chosen fields. It's now our responsibility to use this experience to benefit our nation," Owen said.



# University says thank you and all that jazz

## Alumni

'Thank You and All That Jazz', an event held recently to celebrate and recognise the University's supporters, saw some of the University community's alumni, friends, industry partners and donors gather for an evening of celebrations.

The jazz-themed event attracted more than 300 guests who filled the Santos marquee, with the Barr Smith Library providing a magnificent backdrop.

The Kerin Bailey Jazz Combo – whose members are all University of Adelaide alumni – got the party started with some jazz tunes, and Robyn Brown, Director of the Development and Alumni office, welcomed the guests in her opening speech.

Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, took the opportunity to officially thank supporters and recognise the impact that they have on the University.

Guest speaker for the night was Adelaide law student and Menzies International Scholarship recipient Enzo Belperio, a real-life example of

the difference that financial support makes to our students' lives.

"My time at Adelaide University, and the support that I have received from both the University and Menzies International, have provided a solid foundation for me to build upon," Mr Belperio said.

"The scholarship has given me the financial freedom to be able to focus on my studies, and at the same time pursue many varied interests outside of my studies. Without being under pressure to work to support myself, I've been able to spend time, when not studying, trying to gain a broader education than the law reports alone can give."

Now in its second year, the annual thank you event provides the University with an opportunity to recognise the significant contribution that its supporters, donors and friends make every year.

To view photos from the event, visit Development and Alumni's gallery page at: [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/gallery/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/gallery/)

Main photo:  
The Kerin Bailey  
Jazz Combo

Insert (from left):  
Menzies International  
Scholarship recipient  
Enzo Belperio with Vice-  
Chancellor and President  
of the University of  
Adelaide Professor James  
McWha and Director of  
Development and Alumni  
Robyn Brown

Photos by John Hemmings

■ Story by Lana Guineay

## Development & Alumni Events

### MBA Alumni Association (MBAAA)

**Event:** Networking breakfast – first Wednesday of every month

**Time:** Any time after 7:30am

**Venue:** East Terrace Continental Café (between North Terrace & Rundle Street), Adelaide

**Enquiries:** [mbaaa\\_committee@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:mbaaa_committee@adelaide.edu.au)

### Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

**Event:** Ruby Payne-Scott: a woman scientist in a man's world

A free public talk by Dr Miller Goss on the life and work of one of the first radio astronomers, Ruby Payne-Scott. What was it like to be one of the few woman scientists in a man's world 60 years ago? Payne-Scott made many contributions to the successful Australian radars used in the war in the Pacific.

**Date:** Thursday 22 March

**Time:** 6 for 6.30pm

**Venue:** Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide

**Cost:** Admission is free and open to the public: gold coin donation invited

**RSVP:** Bookings by Tuesday 20 March to [karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:karen.hickman@adelaide.edu.au) or telephone 8303 4064

### John Bray Law Chapter

**Event:** Big Band Dance with the Adelaide Art Orchestra, Conductor Timothy Sexton, Vocalist Johanna Allen and a Ballroom Dancing Show.

Dress to experience the magic of the Big Band Era including the music of Cole Porter and Glenn Miller. BYO Supper and Drinks.

**Date:** Saturday 5 May

**Time:** 7.00pm for 7.30pm start

**Cost:** \$65 per person (\$45 students/concession)

**Enquiries:** to [gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au) or phone 8303 6356

### West Malaysia Chapter

**Event:** Paintball competition – open to all alumni of Australian universities

**Date:** Sunday 1 April

**Time:** morning

**Venue:** To be announced, Kuala Lumpur

**Cost:** To be announced

**RSVP:** Edmond Yap on 019 3809788, email: [westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com)

**Event:** Alumni Reunion Dinner – in conjunction with the University's convocation in Kuala Lumpur

**Date:** Sunday 22 April

**Time:** 7.30pm pre-dinner drinks served for an 8.00pm start

**Venue:** Orchid Room, Royal Lake Club (Jalan Chedrawasih, Taman Tasek Perdana, Kuala Lumpur)

**Cost:** RM70 / RM65 (Life Member)

**RSVP:** Robert 019 2330277, Kong Sing 03 79824312, Edmond 019 3809788, email: [westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com](mailto:westmalaysia.alumni@gmail.com)

# It's an honour for our alumni

## Alumni

Congratulations to those members of the University of Adelaide alumni community whose contributions to their field and their community were acknowledged in the 2007 Australia Day Honours List.

Among those to receive an Australia Day Honour this year was Professor Christopher Findlay, Acting Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Professions and Head of the School of Economics.

He was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for "service to international relations in the Asia-Pacific region, to economic cooperation in trade, transportation and economic reform, and to education".

Professor Findlay believes that long list of contributions is actually all part of the same job – his job as an academic.

"It means a lot to me," he said of the Honour. "I've valued very much the recognition that it gives to the work that I've done; work to some extent that I've always thought was part of my normal academic role."

The main reason for Professor Findlay's award is his work with various institutions that link Australian researchers, business people and policy makers with their counterparts in East Asia – in particular, his work with the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC), the forerunner of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

Professor Findlay described his involvement in this nexus of academics, business and policy makers as "the perfect package".

"It's what I've always thought academics were supposed to be



Professor Christopher Findlay

Photo by David Ellis

doing – working on interesting things that were important and topical, but also interesting from an analytical and disciplinary point of view. You can then bring these things back into your teaching and into your research, so it becomes a loop. It means that your work has a focus on real-world impact."

### Companion in the Order of Australia (AC)

#### Dr J Robin Warren AC

(MBBS 1961, MD 2000)

for service to medicine and to medical research, particularly through the discovery of the bacterium *Helicobacter Pylori* and its role in gastritis and peptic ulcer disease.

### Officer in the Order of Australia (AO)

#### The Honourable Dr John C Bannon AO

(LLB 1967, BA 1968)

for service to politics and to the South Australian Parliament, to history, particularly through researching and publishing in the subject area of Australian Federation, and to the community through sporting, cultural and welfare organisations.

#### Mr Maurice J de Rohan OBE AO

deceased (BTech (Civil) 1960)

for service to Australia-Britain relations through involvement with and contributions to organisations promoting business, educational, charitable, community and sporting initiatives.

#### Professor Börje Nordin AO

(DSc 1993)

for service to medicine nationally and internationally as a pioneering researcher in the fields of calcium metabolism, osteoporosis and renal stone disease, and as a clinician and academic.

#### The Honourable Justice John W Perry AO

(LLB 1959)

for service to the judiciary and to the law, particularly as a contributor to the activities of professional regulatory committees, to legal education, and to the community.

### Member of the Order of Australia (AM)

#### Professor Donald B Bursill AM

(BSc 1971)

for service to water quality research and resource management through a range of research and industry organisations.

#### Professor Christopher C Findlay AM

(BEc (Hons) 1975, University Staff)

for service to international relations in the Asia-Pacific region, to economic cooperation in trade, transportation and economic reform, and to education.

#### Professor Brian A Hills AM

deceased (PhD 1967, DSc 1975)

for service to medical research, particularly in the fields of respiratory physiology and decompression sickness as an educator and author.

#### Mrs Elizabeth Keam AM

(M Nurs Sc 1998)

for service to community health in the field of palliative care through contributions to the development of programs and services to assist people with a terminal illness, and to nurse education.

#### Dr Peter Malycha AM

(MBBS 1969)

for service to medicine through research and development of new procedures for the diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, to medical education, and to professional organisations.

#### Dr Gregor A Ramsey AM

(BSc 1958, Dip Sec Ed 1961)

for service to education, particularly through contributions to higher education, the vocational education and training sector, and programs committed to quality teaching and school leadership.

#### Professor Graham Vimpani AM

(MBBS 1967)

for service to medicine as a paediatrician committed to improving child health and welfare through contributions to a range of government, professional and community organisations, and as an academic, researcher and clinician.

### Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM)

#### Mr Colin H Brideson OAM

(Dip Prim Ed 1959, BA 1966)

for service to the community through a range of service, church and educational organisations.

#### Mr Brian Condon OAM

(DipAg 1946)

for service to the community, particularly through the Rotary Club of Port Pirie and the International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians.

### Mr Carl Crossin OAM

(BMus 1979, BMus (Hons) 1980, University Staff)

for service to music, particularly as a choral conductor and founding director of the Adelaide Chamber Singers.

#### Dr Andris P Darzins OAM

(MBBS 1961)

for service to medicine as a general practitioner and as a contributor to the development of aged care facilities in South Australia.

#### Ms Pamela Dunsford OAM

(BAgSc 1973)

for service to the wine industry as an oenologist, judge and promoter of the role of women in the field, to business development and to tourism.

#### Mrs Vera K Matthews OAM

(Dip Arts & Ed 1953)

for service to the community as Coordinator of the Brighton Church of Christ Community Care Centre.

#### Dr Tony O'Malley OAM

(BTech (Civil) 1965)

for service to the community of South Australia, particularly as a contributor to the evaluation of economic, social and environmental trends in the state.

#### Mr John E Vickery OAM

(Dip Oenology 1955)

for service to the wine industry as an oenologist, particularly through the development of innovative methods for riesling production.

### Public Service Medal (PSM)

#### Mr Kym F Duggan PSM

(LLB 1978)

for outstanding public service in the development and implementation of major reforms to the family law system.

#### Mr Roger B Wickes PSM

(BAg Sc 1970, MAg Sc 1980)

for outstanding public service, particularly for his contribution in the field of natural resource management.



Third-year Elder Conservatorium student Stevan Pavlovic will feature in the 30 March concert in Elder Hall as part of the 2007 Friday Lunch Hour Concert Series

Photo by Randy Larcombe

# Lunch hours wouldn't be the same without our concerts

## ■ Music

Adelaide's most popular daytime concert series is returning to the University of Adelaide, starting this month.

Award-winning Russian pianist Rem Urasin will launch the 2007 season of Friday Lunch Hour Concerts, performing Beethoven's *Moonlight* sonata at Elder Hall on 2 March – his only performance in South Australia as part of his national tour.

Urasin, winner of the People's Choice Award at the 2004 Sydney International Piano Competition, will begin his recital with Beethoven's beloved sonata, which was voted No. 1 in a survey of the top 100 piano works by ABC Classic FM.

The Friday Lunch Hour Concert Series, run by the University's Elder Conservatorium of Music, last year delighted crowds of more than 16,000 across 30 concerts, and won an 'Oscart' award from *The Advertiser* for being the Best Value music series in Adelaide.

The series of weekly concerts features an assortment of musical treasures, from classical masterpieces to Australian premières performed by staff and students from the Elder Conservatorium and visiting artists from across the nation and overseas.

Admission to the concerts, held at 1.10pm on Fridays, costs only \$6.

"The Lunch Hour Concert Series plays a vital role in showcasing the work of the Conservatorium. It provides wonderful experience for our young performers, as well as giving composition students the chance to have their works performed," said the new Director of the Elder Conservatorium, Dr David Lockett.

"The concert series is an important part of life on campus, and it is also an important part of the life of the city of Adelaide. To see so many people attending these concerts each Friday makes you realise that the University's staff and students are really making a connection with the people of Adelaide through their music," Dr Lockett said.

Postgraduate students will feature prominently throughout this series. On 9 March, Kathryn Selby, one of Australia's leading pianists, will perform piano trios by Beethoven and Ravel with Niki Vasilakis, a brilliant young Adelaide-born violinist who is currently completing her Masters degree at the Elder Conservatorium, and Emma Jane Murphy, former principal cellist with the Australian Chamber Orchestra.

On 23 March, pianist Paul

Rickard-Ford, PhD candidate in performance, and his duo piano partner Natalia Sheludiakova, have chosen a Russian program which includes *Rhapsody on Russian Themes* by Diana Weekes. Diana is a Lecturer in Piano at the Elder Conservatorium and is also a PhD candidate in composition.

The talents of undergraduate students are also showcased in all of the large ensembles including the Elder Conservatorium's Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. The first major ensemble concert is on 30 March and the program includes the magnificent Seventh Symphony by Beethoven and a Tuba Concerto by Vaughan Williams. The soloist is Stevan Pavlovic, one of the Conservatorium's talented third-year students.

The Friday Lunch Hour Concerts will be held in Elder Hall at the University of Adelaide's North Terrace Campus at 1.10pm every Friday from 2 March to 22 June. Tickets are \$6, available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of each concert. Special subscription passes are also available for \$75 – for more information contact the Concert Office on (08) 8303 5925.

To view the full program, visit: [www.music.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.music.adelaide.edu.au)