

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Research for life

Our world-class institute
for fertility, pregnancy
and health across
generations

Story on page 5



Someone's listening

Is it just me, or is the Federal Government actually paying attention to higher education?

Universities had become so used to being treated as second rate by the previous government that it now comes as something of a surprise when the current government says: "We hear you, and we are going to do something about it."

Back in November 2007 – on the eve of the federal election – I wrote in this very publication: "University education and research has never been as important to Australia's future as it is today. Whichever government Australia ends up with after the election, that government needs to fully understand the role of higher education in dealing with current issues faced by our nation, as well as preparing us for the many issues that are yet to be identified."

It seems the Rudd Government agrees.

Some recent announcements by the government offer hope and promise for the future of higher education in Australia – and by that, I mean the future of education, research and innovation, which are so vital to the nation's prosperity.

Last month, Education Minister the Hon. Julia Gillard announced that funding for student load would become demand-driven by 2012, with the removal of "artificial caps" and "rationing" of places. This is something I've been supporting for many years. It heralds a new opportunity for universities such as ours to offer a quality educational experience to a greater number of students, and to match our programs to student and employer requirements.

There will also be incentive to ensure that students disadvantaged by location or socio-economic status will be given appropriate

opportunities. This is vital if Australia is to get the greatest benefit from its intellectual capital.

The issue of quality has factored heavily into the government's response to the Bradley Review, and this is something the University of Adelaide supports. I've long been an advocate of quality processes underpinning everything we do; such processes, if handled correctly, can only encourage universities to seek continuous improvement in all our activities.

In the same week, the Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Minister, Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, gave a very telling speech in which he acknowledged that the full cost of research must be addressed. This is another issue that the Group of Eight (Go8) universities – including the University of Adelaide – have been telling the government for years. Yet it is an issue that, until now, has been ignored by the decision-makers in Canberra.

The following week, Senator Carr gave another speech in which he outlined the government's "ambition" to "progressively address the gap in funding for the indirect costs of research, subject to the capacity of future budgets".

Note the cautious wording. Nevertheless, he said: "Our aim is to put university research on a sustainable footing and ensure that the community gets the highest possible dividend on its investment in research projects."

In return, universities will need to provide more meaningful data on research costs, which will help the government to better understand exactly how much money is spent on research.

The University of Adelaide believes not only in full funding of research, but also, like other Go8 universities, we believe that such funding should be transparent, with reporting on the use of funds for direct and indirect costs, and with a benchmarking process for quality. Such a system should result in vast improvements in Australia's ability to conduct world-class research.

With more detail of these and other initiatives to be announced during the Federal Budget in May, it will be interesting to find out just how much the government has been listening... but these announcements are already a step in the right direction.



JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

Adelaidean

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Editor:

David Ellis

Design:

Chris Tonkin

Writers:

Candy Gibson
Robyn Mills

Contributors:

Claire Oremland
Lana Guineay
Edward Joyner
Jeff Smith

Cover photo by:

Andrew Beierle

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Contact us to let us know.

Editorial/Advertising enquiries:

Phone: +61 8 8303 5414

Fax: +61 8 8303 4829

Email: adelaidean@adelaide.edu.au

Mailing address:

Adelaidean
Marketing & Strategic
Communications,
University of Adelaide,
SA 5005
Australia

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New course caters to music lovers

In an Australian first, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) and the University's Elder Conservatorium of Music have joined forces to create a 10-week course in classical music studies.

The course, called "Soundings: explorations in classical music", does not require the ability to read music and is designed for people who want to know more about the history and ideas behind the evolution of classical and orchestral music.

"Before every ASO Master Series concert we get hundreds of people attending the pre-concert talk, which gives audiences an insight into the history of the works to be played," said ASO Chief Executive Rainer Jozepts.

"Clearly there is a hunger for knowledge about the repertoire, and for the first time an orchestra is joining forces with one of Australia's most prestigious conservatories to present a short course designed for the general public.

"It's a perfect opportunity to join with the Elder Conservatorium, and highly acclaimed musician and educator Richard Chew, in delivering an after-hours music

studies course that leads to a Certificate of Achievement conferred by both the ASO and the Conservatorium."

Richard Chew said: "This course represents a wonderful opportunity for people who are enthusiastic about classical music and would like to learn more about it in a friendly and supportive environment.

"The emphasis will be on enjoyment and enrichment through listening to and appreciating great works of art.

"It's something we desperately need in an age which is so dominated by information technologies, where there is so little time for reflection and aesthetic pleasure."

There is substantial interest in the course from arts organisations, practitioners in the broader music industry, and subscribers and followers of the ASO.

Part of the course will require students to attend ASO Master Series concerts, as well as lectures and seminars conducted at the Elder Conservatorium at the University of Adelaide.

The course costs \$950 and will run from 23 April–25 June.

For more information about the course, contact Susie Gold at the Elder Conservatorium of Music's Access Centre: +61 8 8313 0304 or email: susan.gold@adelaide.edu.au www.music.adelaide.edu.au/study/access

Photo courtesy of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO)

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\$1.85 million reward for teaching performance

The University of Adelaide has been rewarded with \$1.85 million for excellence and improvement in teaching and learning.

The success was announced by Minister for Education the Hon. Julia Gillard as part of the Federal Government's 2009 Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.

The Fund allocations are based on seven performance indicators of student satisfaction, student success and graduate outcomes.

University of Adelaide Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) Professor Fred McDougall said the University was delighted to receive recognition and funding under both the excellence and improvement categories.

"The University of Adelaide is committed to excellence in teaching and learning," Professor McDougall said.

"We've been devoting significant resources and effort to improving the student experience and student outcomes.

"This recognition shows our efforts are starting to pay off. We are also confident of continuing improvements next year."

The University is making significant investments in improved student facilities, in mentoring and study support initiatives, in staff training, in new innovative curriculum and teaching approaches – all aimed at enhancing the educational and broader experience offered to students.

Story by Robyn Mills



Injured seabirds under microscope

University of Adelaide forensic pathology student Ella Carapetis will spend the next 12 months analysing foreign debris that has injured local seabirds.

The 21-year-old honours student will work with the President of Project Dolphin Safe and South Australian Seabird Rescue, Aaron Machado, at Torrens Island on a project to investigate the main causes of seabird injuries.

"One of the many problems encountered by wild seabirds living along coastal regions is entanglement or hooking in fishing gear," Ella said.

"Many bird species, including gulls, pelicans, albatross and penguins have been injured or even killed."

A microscope donated by the University of Adelaide will be used to help analyse the material – both ingested and external – obtained from injured seabirds.

"Fishing hooks and lines appear to be the main cause of injury," Ella said.

"Although there is a lot of anecdotal evidence about the dangers of fishing

hooks, there's been very little scientific analysis, so hopefully my project will provide hard evidence about this problem," she said.

Project Dolphin Safe (PDS) started in 1998 after the killing of six Port River Estuary dolphins. In the past 10 years, PDS has restored sensitive habitats within the estuary, launched education campaigns across the State concerning marine wildlife issues, revegetated affected areas and organised clean-up days.

"More than 65 tonnes of rubbish and 71 abandoned vehicles have been found in the estuary," Mr Machado said.

"We now have a 24/7 rescue service for injured marine wildlife and have built a natural wetland rehabilitation facility on Torrens Island – the first of its kind in Australia."

Ella's honours project is being supervised by Mr Machado and Professor Roger Byard from the Discipline of Pathology.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: The President of Project Dolphin Safe and South Australian Seabird Rescue, Aaron Machado, with University of Adelaide forensic pathology student Ella Carapetis and "Andy" the pelican

Photo courtesy of Messenger Community Newspapers

Research for life: new institute advances health across generations

University of Adelaide researchers are showing that factors during a mother's pregnancy can influence her daughter's reproductive and general health 30 years later, and are investigating potential ongoing effects on the following generation.

This research, involving 1000 Adelaide women aged 30-33, is part of the work of the University's new Robinson Institute, recently launched by South Australian Health Minister the Hon. John Hill.

The Robinson Institute will focus on reproductive health and regenerative medicine, tackling big issues around improving health and preventing illness across generations – and aims to be the world number one in its field.

Named after renowned obstetrician Professor Jeffrey Robinson CBE, Emeritus Professor at the University of Adelaide, the Robinson Institute combines the University's Research Centre for Reproductive Health, the Centre for Stem Cell Research and the Centre for the Early Origins of Health and Disease.

It brings together a unique blend of clinical and research leaders including more than 200 research staff and students with wide-ranging expertise, from epidemiology through to genetics and molecular biology.

Robinson Institute Director Professor Rob Norman said bringing together world-class researchers from such diverse disciplines would lead to significant medical advances around genetic and environmental influences on

fertility and pregnancy, and the health of the next generation.

"Bringing together these big guns from many disciplines, with enormously different skills and access to randomised clinical trials and established research cohorts, is going to lead to rapid and significant health outcomes for our population," Professor Norman said.

The cross-generational study of more than 1000 Adelaide women is being led by Associate Professor Michael Davies, Co-Director of the Centre for the Early Origins of Health and Disease.

Results to date indicate possible links between maternal smoking in pregnancy and obesity and reproductive dysfunction in the daughters 30 years later. The study has also identified links between maternal obesity and, in their daughters, obesity and polycystic ovary syndrome.

"We are looking at the current health status of the daughters and relating that back, through medical records, to the pregnancy conditions and environment of the mother," said Associate Professor Davies.

Researchers hope to extend the study by following up the mothers' current health and following the children's health.

"Part of the work of the Robinson Institute will be looking at how we take such research results and turn them into messages for the community so people can incorporate them into their daily lives," said Associate Professor Davies.

The Robinson Institute will build on the University's strong international reputation in reproductive health. Its world-leading research over the past 50 years has increased understanding of human and animal reproduction and produced new infertility treatments and genetic diagnosis of embryos.

Emeritus Professor Jeffrey Robinson led this development from 1986 to 2006. In 2006 he was awarded one of Britain's highest awards, Commander of the British Empire (CBE), for his services to maternal and fetal health.

www.adelaide.edu.au/robinson-institute

Story by Robyn Mills

Photo by iStock





Marathon men show true heart

Those 35,000 runners fearful of injury or collapse when they line-up for the London Marathon on 26 April can take heart.

Among the crush of amateur, celebrity and professional athletes will be three medical students from the University of Adelaide ready to lend assistance if needed.

But Chris Wong, Adam Nelson and Mark Hassall hope to complete the 42.2 kilometre route without mishap, to themselves or others.

They have a more important agenda, apart from finishing, and that's to raise \$42,195 – one dollar for every step of the marathon – for research into cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death in Australia.

Chris, Adam and Mark are members of an eight-man team selected by the National Heart Foundation to raise money and awareness of the foundation's work in Australia.

The trio are over halfway towards their fundraising target, thanks to prior experience in event management and extensive marketing nous.

An end-of-exams party in 2008 kicked off the fundraising campaign, with more than 2000 tickets sold, generating \$20,000 in just one night. The remaining money is

being raised through a fundraising dinner, raffle, lawn bowls event and individual donations.

Sandwiched in between this fundraising campaign the trio are managing to squeeze in some training for the marathon.

All three are passionate long distance runners and keen to embrace the challenge of one of the world's major international marathons.

Chris, 22, has been running seriously since high school.

"Apart from the obvious physical benefits, running is a chance to unwind and de-stress. A marathon takes that to the limit. Feeling the blisters, the ache in your legs and your chest burning is all part of it, but when you cross the finish line it's an unbelievable feeling," he said.

Adam, 23, started running in 2001 to lose weight and keep fit, but the benefits have gone far beyond his initial goal.

"Apart from the challenge of pushing myself to new levels of fitness (and pain), I love the reflection and solace that running provides," Adam said. He hopes to compete in the Boston Marathon if he fares well in London.

Mark Hassall, 21, uses running to escape from the daily grind of study.

"It gives me a chance to solve problems without any distractions and to release residual tension. The endorphin high at the end is just an added bonus," he said.

Held annually since 1981, the London Marathon is one of the five major international marathons and ranks

alongside Boston, New York, Berlin and Chicago for its size, scenery and reputation.

Philanthropic fundraising is a well-established aspect of the London Marathon; in 2006 alone, participants raised more than \$90 million for charity.

The National Heart Foundation funds world-class cardiovascular research into heart, stroke and blood vessel diseases which, in 2006, accounted for 34% of all deaths in Australia. It is estimated that cardiovascular disease kills one Australian nearly every 10 minutes.

Last September, Chris Wong – a fourth-year medical student at the time – was awarded one of the nation's top cardiovascular prizes for his research into atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder in the world.

He is believed to be the first undergraduate student in the country to win the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand's (CSANZ) Affiliate Prize for scientific excellence, and beat a field of 2000 delegates.

If you would like to support Chris, Adam and Mark on their London Marathon challenge, please contact them at mail@adelaidetolondon.com or visit their secure Heart Foundation donation page: www.adelaidetolondon.com

Story by Candy Gibson

Above (from left): Medical students Mark Hassall, Chris Wong and Adam Nelson

Photo by Rexson Tse



Genetics help to spot the difference

University of Adelaide research has discovered that there are many more species of Australian lizards than previously thought.

PhD student Paul Oliver, from the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, has done a detailed genetic study of the Australian gecko genus *Diplodactylus* and found more than twice the recognised number of gecko species, from 13 species to 29.

This study, done in collaboration with the South Australian Museum and Western Australian Museum, raises new questions about conservation and management of Australia's native reptiles.

"Many of these species are externally very similar, leading to previous severe underestimation of true species diversity," said Mr Oliver.

"One of the major problems for biodiversity conservation and management is that many species remain undocumented.

"This problem is widely acknowledged to be dire among invertebrates and in developing countries.

"But in this group of vertebrates in a developed nation, which we thought we knew reasonably well, we found more than half the species were unrecognised."

Mr Oliver said this has great significance for conservation. For instance, what was thought to be a single very widespread species of gecko has turned out to be eight or nine separate species with much narrower, more restricted habitats and possibly much more vulnerable to environmental change, he said.

"This completely changes how we look at conservation management of these species," he said.

"Even at just the basic inventory level, this shows that there is a lot of work still to be

done. Vertebrate taxonomy clearly remains far from complete with many species still to be discovered. This will require detailed genetic and morphological work, using integrated data from multiple sources. It will require considerable effort and expense but with potentially rich returns."

A paper on this study was recently published online in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

The research was supported by grants from the Australia & Pacific Science Foundation and the Australian Biological Resources Study.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above (main): Originally thought to be the gecko *Diplodactylus tessellates*, this is in fact a new gecko species; (inset): the actual gecko *Diplodactylus tessellates*

Photos courtesy of Paul Oliver



Do Australian wines lack a sense of place?

Well known UK wine and food writer and broadcaster Andrew Jefford has taken a year-long position at the University of Adelaide to research Australia's wine regions.

As Senior Research Fellow at the University and Winewriter in Residence to the Australian Wine 2030 research network, Mr Jefford will undertake research and write a book about how great Australian vineyard sites differ from each other and from those elsewhere in the world. He will also take part in lectures, industry meetings and conferences as part of Wine 2030.

Mr Jefford said some Australian winemakers needed to be "a bit braver" in allowing regional characteristics to shape their wines.

"Australia's astonishing wine success overseas has been built on consistency, strong brand marketing, its newness, to some extent fashion, and the clarity and straightforwardness of the wine," said Mr Jefford.

"But the Australian industry needs to deliver more if it wants to maintain and

strengthen its position. A sense of place is the guiding principle of gastronomy and fine-wine creation the world over. There is an Australian vanguard which appreciates that, but it's still missing from the typical Australian export wine."

Mr Jefford is known for his writing and broadcasts about different places in the world and the foods, drinks and scents associated with them. He's won many awards for his work including three Louis Roederer International Wine Writers' Awards in the last three years.

Over the past 20 years he has led a highly successful career as a writer and broadcaster in the UK, including many years with the *Evening Standard* and BBC Radio Four and, currently, the *Financial Times*, *Decanter*, *World of Fine Wine* and *Waitrose Food Illustrated*.

He has written a number of books including *The New France*, *Peat Smoke and Spirit: a Portrait of Islay and its Whiskies* and *Andrew Jefford's Wine Course*.

Mr Jefford said some may question his credentials to comment authoritatively on Australian wines and its industry.

"There are some outstanding books about Australian wines written by Australia's great wine writers. Why do we need one by a Pom?

"But maybe that's an advantage. I'm not from within the industry and I haven't got an Australian-trained palate."

In fact, he said, the strong "Australian approach" to winemaking was ripe for evolution.

"I'd love to see more aesthetic width in Australian wine. More Australian wine made, if you like, in a less Australian way," he said.

Professor Christopher Findlay, Head of the University's School of Economics and Convenor of Australian Wine 2030, said Mr Jefford would contribute to the work of Wine 2030.

"What makes a great wine? That is one of Andrew's interests and working with him and with the Australian industry on that question will offers new insights for local winemakers and add value to our work," Professor Findlay said.

Mr Jefford's Senior Research Fellowship is being funded and supported by wine-maker and the co-Chair of the Wine 2030's external advisory board, Brian Croser and family, publisher and media proprietor Javier Moll, the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation and the University of Adelaide.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: (main) photo by Randy Larcombe (inset) wine writer Andrew Jefford

Student think-tank on terrorism, intelligence



An online think-tank which explores issues of intelligence, terrorism and international relations has been established by students at Oxford and Adelaide universities.

Project GOA is a global postgraduate-led think-tank aimed at connecting students, scholars and practitioners in the fields of intelligence, counter-terrorism and international relations.

Adelaide PhD student Charles Vandeppeer was recently invited to present a lecture at the University of Oxford as part of the launch of Project GOA.

The lecture was based on Charles's current research into intelligence analysis and decision-making, being undertaken through the School of History and Politics, which provided funding and support for the visit.

"Whilst a student-led think-tank is an ambitious idea, the enthusiasm and determination amongst postgraduates has seen this initiative become a reality," Charles said.

"The think-tank provides postgraduates with an online forum to debate and critique ideas as well as publish and get credit for their research.

"The initial link between postgraduate students at these two universities is reflected in the name Project GOA, an acronym of Graduates at Oxford and Adelaide. However, the project is already expanding to take advantage of interest from students at a number of other universities, and the plan is to develop the think-tank more broadly into North America, Europe and the Asia-Pacific region.

"In addition to academic funding, the not-for-profit think-tank has already attracted private sector support in the United Kingdom, enabling the Project to secure its future for the next three years," he said.

Charles said the University of Adelaide's support for this initiative reflected growing interest in the field of intelligence.

"In 2006 and 2007 the School of History and Politics ran intelligence conferences involving postgraduate students, academics, researchers and practitioners in the field. In addition, the School has added a number of intelligence courses as part of the International Relations program."

In another Adelaide link, Associate Professor Felix Patrikeeff in the School of History and Politics has been invited to act as a Project GOA Counsellor.

As part of the initiative, an international video-conference between Oxford and Adelaide will be run in June this year. Current and past postgraduate students who are interested in being involved should contact Charles via email: charles.vandeppeer@adelaide.edu.au

A copy of Charles's lecture is available on the think-tank's website: www.goa-intelligence.org

Above: University of Adelaide PhD student Charles Vandeppeer at Nuffield College, Oxford

Art & Heritage Collections



Members of the public can support the University of Adelaide's cultural collections by purchasing a beautifully packaged folio of eight gift cards specially produced by the Friends of the University of Adelaide Library and Art & Heritage Collections.

The cards feature four illustrations from George French Angas's *South Australia Illustrated*. Angas painted some of the

earliest views of South Australia, and in 1847 he oversaw the printing in London of the magnificent *South Australia Illustrated*, which has served ever since as a snapshot of South Australia in 1844.

This work is part of the Sir Samuel Way Bequest – the largest single contribution of books to the University of Adelaide Library.

Mirna Heruc, Manager, Art & Heritage Collections

The gift packs sell for \$20 (GST inclusive). For more information, contact Art & Heritage Collections on +61 8 8303 3086, art.heritage@adelaide.edu.au or email the University of Adelaide Library: library@adelaide.edu.au

SA Water doubles scholarships

SA Water will support 24 scholarships with students from the University of Adelaide this year and give some the opportunity to receive paid work experience.

The 24 scholarships include 13 new scholarships for 2009.

The scholarship program will support students studying in the fields of engineering, business, economics, commerce and accounting. It also supports female and indigenous students, as well as some students in financial need.

"We welcome SA Water's scholarship support, which is exactly what students – and the State – need," said the University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"Today's students are tomorrow's leaders and innovators. Not only will SA Water's support be greatly appreciated by our talented and deserving students, it will directly contribute to creating a better future for all of us," he said.

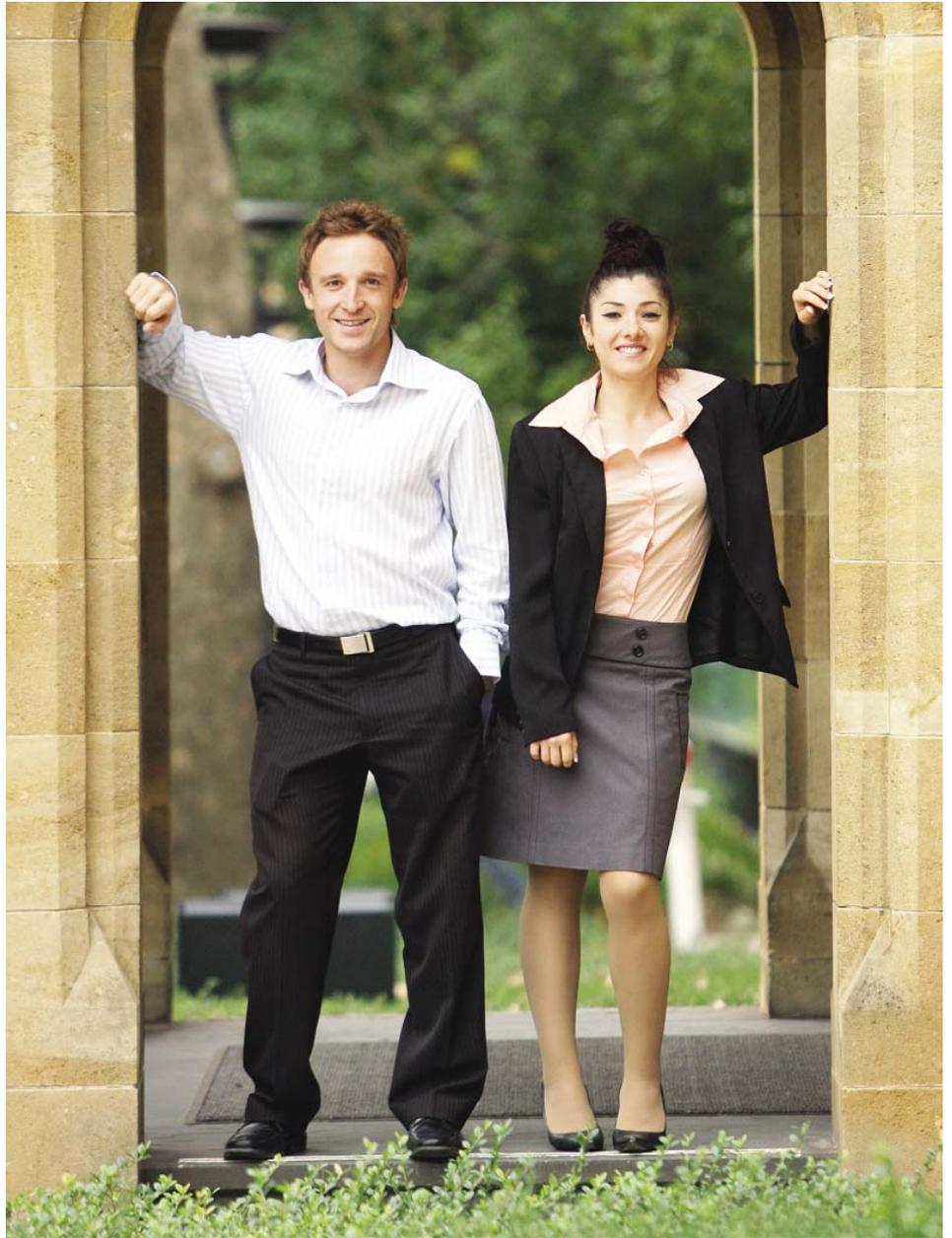
SA Water Chief Executive Anne Howe said SA Water was proud of the strong scholarship program it had established, which now provides more educational opportunities to young South Australians.

"The SA Water Scholarship Program has been developed to assist in ensuring that SA Water, the water industry and business in general is provided with high achieving individuals in the areas of engineering, business, science and Information Technology," Ms Howe said.

"Recipients of the scholarships will be invited to attend various SA Water graduate events and are encouraged to interact with graduates who are currently on the SA Water Graduate Program.

"By establishing relationships with recipients and identifying high achieving students with a passion for the water industry early on, we hope to foster these relationships and secure top talent throughout the graduate recruitment cycle, with the intention of encouraging students to apply for SA Water's Graduate Program at the completion of their degree."

Ms Howe said the SA Water Scholarship Program complemented all existing recruitment program initiatives, including traineeships and apprenticeships, and



indigenous, graduate and vocational work experience programs.

Among the new scholarships for 2009 are:

Newly created scholarships:

- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarships in Civil and Structural Engineering (three scholarships in total);
- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarships for Women in Civil and Environmental Engineering (three scholarships in total).

New scholarship places offered in the following:

- SA Water Indigenous Scholarship (now two scholarships);
- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship in Civil Engineering (now two scholarships);
- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship in Commerce (Accounting) (now two scholarships);
- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship in Economics (now two scholarships);

- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship in Engineering (now five scholarships);
- SA Water Undergraduate Scholarship for Women in Civil Engineering (now two scholarships).

There are also three SA Water Undergraduate Scholarships in Business.

The scholarships range in value from \$2500 to \$5000 per year and vary per scholarship and degree undertaken.

Winners of the Civil Engineering, Indigenous, and Women in Civil Engineering scholarships also have the chance to receive paid work experience at SA Water throughout the duration of their scholarship.

www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships

Story by David Ellis

Above: Civil & Structural Engineering student Jarrod Sedmak and Economics and Finance student Rachel Iasiello are among the many University of Adelaide students to benefit from SA Water scholarships

Photo by Matt Turner, courtesy of *The Advertiser*



Top Riverland student wins Andy Thomas Scholarship

More than 150 of the State's most outstanding students attended a special presentation in Bonython Hall recently after winning scholarships to study at the University of Adelaide.

The University has provided up to \$1 million to attract the best and brightest students from every area of the State, as well as the Northern Territory, Broken Hill and rural Victoria.

A total of 22 Merit Scholarships and 124 Principals' Scholarships were awarded at the ceremony, as well as the highly regarded Andy Thomas Scholarship and four Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

International scholarships – the Adelaide Vietnam, the Adelaide Outstanding Achievers International, and the Adelaide Malaysia Scholarships – were also awarded to nine outstanding international students.

Former Renmark High School student Brian Maddocks has won the annual

Andy Thomas Scholarship, named after one of the University's most distinguished graduates, NASA astronaut Dr Andrew Thomas. Brian, 17, from Paringa, gained a 99.75 TER and became the third Riverland student in the past four years to win the prestigious scholarship. Andy Thomas Scholarship winners are chosen based on academic merit as well as community involvement and contribution.

Local students Alice Wharldall (from Joslin), Danielle Fitzpatrick (Auldana), Shane Selvanderan (Burnside) and Aakriti Gupta (Northgate) have won the prized Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships. Winners of this scholarship achieved a TER of 99.95 (excluding all bonuses) and made a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

Both the Andy Thomas and Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships provide full fee remission for the approved program plus \$5000 to help with education and living costs, each year for up to four years.

The Principals' Scholarships, worth \$5000, are awarded to students who have been nominated by their former school principal for outstanding academic merit

and for making a significant contribution to their school and wider community.

The Merit Scholarships, worth \$10,000, are awarded to students who gained a perfect TER of 99.95, excluding all bonuses.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha congratulated the students on their scholarships.

"These students have already revealed their outstanding character and academic ability and we are very pleased they have chosen to study at the University of Adelaide," Professor McWha said.

"We are committed to educating high achievers and encouraging the best students to stay and study in South Australia."

The ceremony was attended by Employment, Training and Further Education Minister the Hon. Paul Caica.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above: The University of Adelaide's Andy Thomas Scholar for 2009, Brian Maddocks

Photo by Robyn Mills



Students get cheeky for research

Students from schools right across Australia will play a key role in the world's biggest study into the genetic causes of cerebral palsy, and they'll need to get "cheeky" to do it.

The study – being conducted by researchers from the University of Adelaide – is enlisting the help of primary and secondary schools in all Australian States.

The researchers are currently looking for 10,000 Australians to take part in the study, including those with and without cerebral palsy, to help unravel the mystery of how genetic mutations are linked to cerebral palsy.

Students aged 5-18 years will be able to get involved in the study by providing genetic samples in the form of cheek swabs.

Parental permission will be required before students can provide a cheek swab. Once taken, these swabs will help researchers to understand what genetic differences exist between those who do and don't have cerebral palsy.

Researchers also need the students' mothers to provide a cheek swab, which will be important in comparing any genetic differences that occur from mother to child.

"In order to understand how cerebral palsy is caused at a genetic level, we need a large sample size in the community," said the research leader, Professor Alastair MacLennan, Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide and head of the South Australian Cerebral Palsy Research Group.

"What we're looking for is young people aged between 5-18, which is why school students are perfect for this study, and their mothers.

"This is the one time when being 'cheeky' at school will actually be doing the community a favour," Professor MacLennan said.

Researchers have begun contacting schools around the country asking for their help with the study.

"By targeting schools, we're hoping not only to gain a large number of genetic samples but we're also helping to educate young people and the community about what cerebral palsy is and what we can do about it," Professor MacLennan said.

"A number of schools have already been very responsive to our call for help."

The researchers will:

- Distribute invitation letters from the school principal to parents;
- Host recruitment booths at schools and school fairs;
- Insert recruitment flyers in school newsletters;

- Display posters on school noticeboards;
- Give brief presentations at school assemblies or other school events.

Cerebral palsy is one of the world's most serious complications during pregnancy and birth, affecting one in every 500 children born in Australia.

It was once commonly thought that cerebral palsy was caused by low oxygen levels during birth. However, studies conducted by the South Australian Cerebral Palsy Research Group show that the condition is often associated with genetic mutations that either increase blood clotting within the unborn child's brain or make the fetal brain more vulnerable to damaging infection.

"Because the problem is so big and affects so many people, we have an opportunity to make an impact by helping to unlock some of the mysteries about this condition. With enough public support, we may be able to do just that," said Michael O'Callaghan, PhD student and study coordinator.

To find out more about the study, visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/cerebralpalsy

Story by David Ellis

Above: Students from Nailsworth Primary School, Sam, 8, and Sophie, 5, swabbing the inside of their cheeks for the cerebral palsy research. Nailsworth Primary is the first school to be visited by the researchers to recruit students and their mothers for the study.

Photo by Michael Marschall, courtesy of *The Advertiser*



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE
AUSTRALIA

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE WEEK

EDUCATING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

23 to 26 APRIL

Over four days in April, the University of Adelaide-Singapore, will open its doors to honoured guests, prospective students, business leaders and interested parties in what will be our first ever Adelaide Week.

There are a range of activities on offer - from the Business Forum and Academic Masterclasses to the Singapore Alumni Reunion Dinner. The week concludes with an Open Day where students can learn more about studying at one of the University's campuses in Adelaide, Australia, or at Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre in Singapore. Adelaide Week will also celebrate the University's most recent graduates.

EVENTS

Business Forum on Sponsorship:

Creating Meanings and Delivering Value

Thursday 23 April

8.30am registration

Venue: Goodwood Park Hotel, Windsor Ballroom

Masterclass by School of Professions:

'Recession!! Tough decision time!!'

Friday 24 April

1.30pm-2.00pm registration

Venue: Teocheew Building

Graduation Ceremony

Saturday 25 April

10.30am and 3.00pm

Venue: Teocheew Building

Singapore Alumni Reunion Dinner

Saturday 25 April

7.00pm-10.00pm

Venue: Pariss International Seafood Buffet Restaurant
6 Raffles Boulevard

Open Day

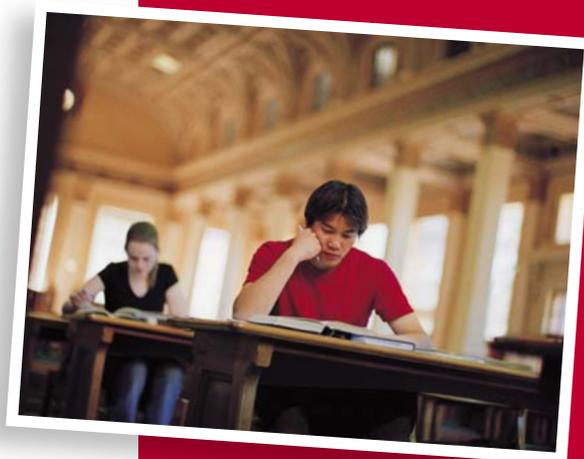
Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre

Sunday 26 April

1.00pm-5.00pm

FURTHER INFORMATION: +65 6738 2910

WEBSITE: www.adelaide.edu.au/sg



The University of Adelaide is a member of Australia's prestigious Group of Eight universities.

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Life Impact.



GROUP OF EIGHT
MEMBER





Adelaide joins national mining program

The University of Adelaide has launched its membership of the unique mining education joint venture Mining Education Australia, promising benefits for students, the mining industry and the State.

Mining Education Australia (MEA) now provides common, industry-backed mining education in four Australian states.

At the launch held recently at the University of Adelaide, the State Government announced it has granted \$100,000 to the University of Adelaide to support this initiative.

Minister for Mineral Resources Development the Hon. Paul Holloway said the Government was strongly supportive of initiatives to develop skills for the expanding mining sector in South Australia.

“South Australia’s membership of MEA confirms this State’s place as a leading

national provider of university-level mining engineering education,” he said.

The new partnership means the University of Adelaide joins the University of New South Wales, Curtin University and the University of Queensland in providing a common curriculum to third and fourth-year mining engineering students.

“Membership of Mining Education Australia is a major coup for the University of Adelaide, for the South Australian mining industry and for the State,” says Professor Peter Dowd, Executive Dean of the University’s Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

“It signals national recognition of our mining degree program and brings South Australia into a world-leading initiative in mining education. The MEA now covers mining regions throughout mainland Australia and it is believed to be the first national undergraduate degree program in Australia.”

The University of Adelaide’s Bachelor of Mining Engineering program started in 2007 and already has more than 200

students in first, second and third year.

MEA was formed as an unincorporated joint venture in 2006, funded by industry through the Minerals Tertiary Education Council.

“It provides new opportunities for the mining industry, the SA economy and for South Australian students and will help reduce the shortage of qualified professionals in the mining industry,” says Professor Dowd.

“MEA students also have access to a much larger team of academics than any one university can offer. Students will benefit from this world-class education and the mining industry will benefit from the quality of graduates on offer.”

The University’s membership in MEA was launched at a celebration involving University, government and mining representatives.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above (from left): Professor Peter Dowd (Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences), Professor Bruce Hebblewhite (School of Mining Engineering, UNSW), Dr Paul Heithersay (Division of Minerals & Energy Resources, PIRSA) and John Roberts (SA Chamber of Mines & Energy)



Global effort to extract more oil and gas

A University of Adelaide petroleum geologist is spearheading an international project to extract more oil and gas from the ground, potentially saving companies billions of dollars.

Associate Professor Bruce Ainsworth from the Australian School of Petroleum (ASP) is a principal investigator of the WAVE Consortium, an industry-sponsored global group that hopes to improve the average extraction rate of 60% from oil and gas fields.

"Petroleum companies are generally leaving about 40% of the oil behind due to a number of factors," Dr Ainsworth said.

"A large proportion of the remaining hydrocarbon reserves are contained in rocks deposited in marginal and shallow marine environments. When they were laid down these deposits were influenced by waves, tides and river currents that together determine the geometries of our shorelines," he said.

The consortium's aim is to study these influences in order to better predict the distribution of oil and gas in the earth's subsurface and to more efficiently extract it from hydrocarbon reservoirs.

Eight petroleum companies from around the world – in Australia, Austria, Canada, Egypt, New Zealand, Norway, The Netherlands and the United States – have collectively provided \$820,000 for the

first phase of the project, which involves the study of ancient and modern coastal systems.

The University of Adelaide has employed two postdoctoral researchers, Dr Rachel Nanson and Dr Ivar Midtkandal, who together with Dr Ainsworth and Dr Boyan Vakarelov, a lecturer and co-investigator at ASP, will investigate the wave, tidal and fluvial processes that affect the shoreline.

Dr Nanson is in the final stages of a study to determine which of the three processes were responsible for generating Australia's present-day coastline, while Dr Midtkandal will be working in western Canada, examining ancient geological systems to help develop models that can be applied to oilfields.

Another Canadian-based researcher is studying the traces that animals left in the sediments over millions of years ago.

"Animals only live in certain environments so their traces can give us a better idea of where these sediments were actually deposited and what the predominant influences on the coastlines were," Dr Ainsworth said.

Dr Ainsworth has 17 years' experience in the field of petroleum geology and worked in The Netherlands, Canada, Thailand, New Zealand and Western Australia before taking up a research and teaching post at the University of Adelaide in 2007.

"We hope to attract sufficient funding to take the project to the next level," he said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above (from left): Dr Bruce Ainsworth and Dr Boyan Vakarelov in Canada

Apathy + speed = deadly

Community apathy is contributing to Australia's appalling road toll, according to one of the country's leading road safety experts.

Professor Mary Lydon from the University of Adelaide's Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR) said the fact that people are not shocked to hear that 1400 Australian motorists are killed each year is a tragedy in itself.

The Director of CASR discussed Australia's road safety challenges at last month's Research Tuesday seminar at the University of Adelaide.

Professor Lydon said people had become desensitised to the road toll, believing that "crashes happen to other people".

"More community concern is needed about our road statistics. The fact that 1400 people are killed each year in Australia and another 14,000 seriously injured should really shock people, but it doesn't.

"Worldwide, the annual road toll of 1.5 million people equates to 4000 deaths each day. That is a far worse statistic than wars, violence or murder," she said.

Professor Lydon said driver behaviour as well as road and vehicle factors all needed to be taken into account to reduce the road toll.

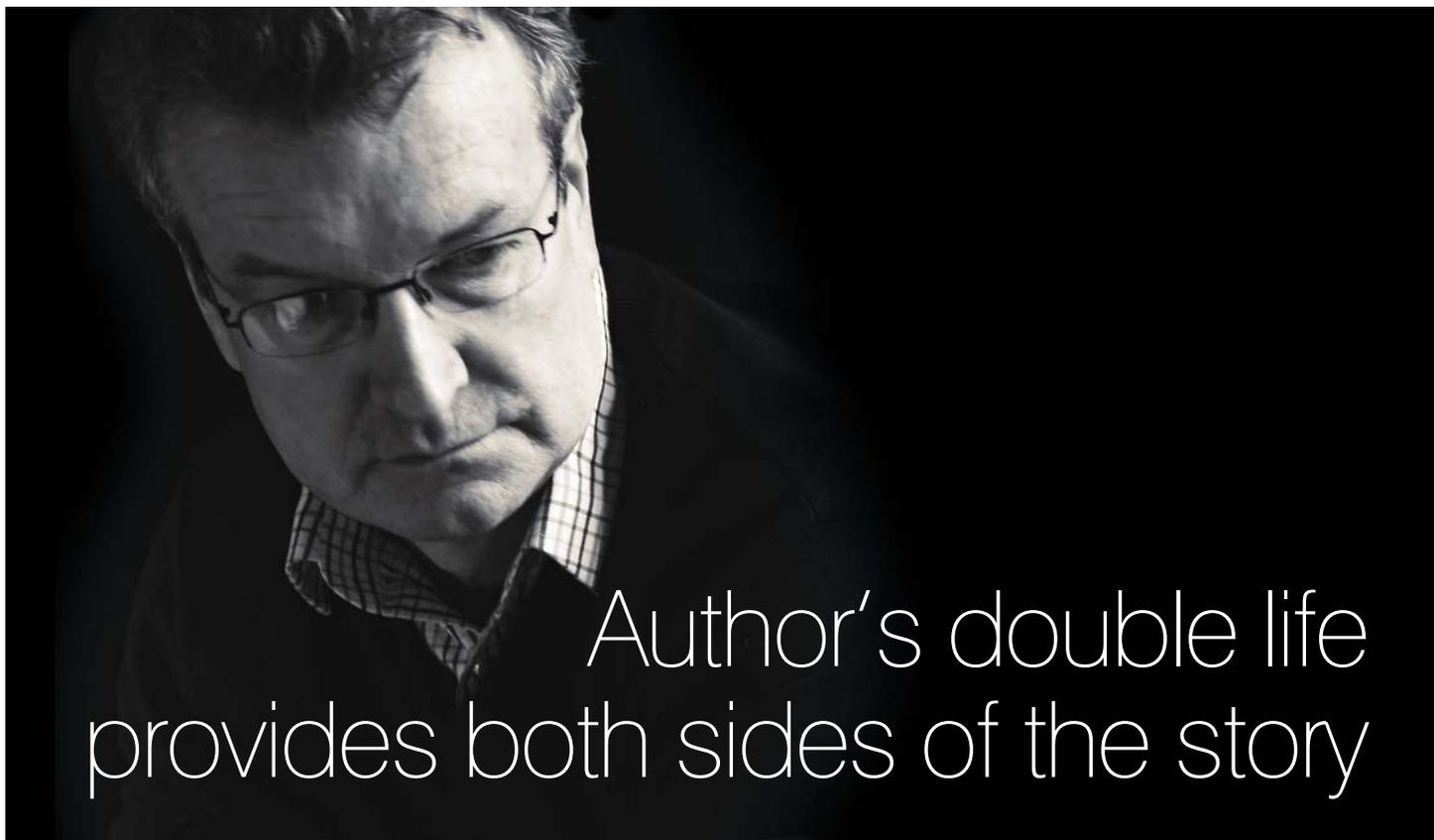
"It's rarely one cause in isolation and the public needs to get around this false perception that road accidents only happen to young, drunk, reckless people. Most crashes happen to ordinary people doing ordinary things."

Speed is the most common denominator in road crashes, but other measures can be employed by authorities and motorists to improve the nation's road toll, Professor Lydon said.

The internationally renowned Centre for Automotive Safety Research conducts independent research on the causes of road accidents and provides solutions to improve road safety.

Professor Lydon has more than 30 years' experience in the field and was appointed CASR Director in 2008.

Story by Candy Gibson



Author's double life provides both sides of the story

Want to become a writer?
Try becoming a doctor first.

That's the advice from one of the University of Adelaide's medical graduates, who also happens to be a celebrated Australian author.

Dr Peter Goldsworthy graduated with a medical degree from the University of Adelaide in 1974. A general practitioner, Goldsworthy has successfully balanced a career as both doctor and author since his first novel, *Maestro*, was published in 1989.

He has now authored 16 books – including novels, poetry, collections of short stories and essays – as well as two operas and plays.

Two adaptations for the stage of his award-winning novels, *Maestro* and *Three Dog Night*, have been playing in Adelaide theatres during this year's Fringe season.

The first was adapted by Goldsworthy himself, co-written with daughter and University of Adelaide music graduate Anna Goldsworthy, a concert pianist and writer now based in Melbourne. *Maestro* received rave reviews and strong support from audiences during its run in Her Majesty's Theatre.

The second adaptation, *Three Dog Night*, opens on Tuesday 31 March and plays until Thursday 9 April at the Space Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre. Adapted by Petra Kalive from Victorian-based theatre company Two Blue Cherries, *Three Dog Night* takes audiences on a journey into the vast expanse of the Australian outback, and deep within the human soul.

Goldsworthy, whose first adaptation for the stage was based on his bestselling novel *Honk If You Are Jesus*, said he was indebted to his wife Lisa for introducing him to the theatre about eight years ago.

"I hadn't gone to theatre much before," he said.

"It was Lisa who took me along to the theatre and rubbed my nose in it, and I'm grateful to her for that. I'd just written novels, and poetry and short stories, but getting out into that world, it has a really powerful immediacy. So I'm loving it."

While some might get precious about their original works being adapted, Goldsworthy has embraced the creative differences from the page to the stage.

"What makes a good novel is completely different to what makes a good play. Each can do things the other can't. It doesn't have to be the novel, it can be something new, something in its own right.

"One of the problems with all of my novels is that they're written as first-person narratives, so everything in the novels comes through the eyes of a central narrator, including the other characters – we only see the narrator's version of them. So when they have to stand up on stage, all of the characters have to be a bit more rounded.

"That's what's particularly good about *Three Dog Night*. Petra (Kalive) plays Lucy, who's the wife of the narrator. Although he loves her desperately, he really doesn't have a clue about her, so (in the novel) she's this idealised figure that we see through his eyes. On stage, that's not what we want to see – we want to see her as she is rather than who he thinks she is."

Goldsworthy said his life as both a doctor and an author had been "very complementary".

"I still do it (medicine) halftime, so I keep a foot in both. Writing's very lonely. The great Spanish filmmaker Luis Buñuel said: 'Solitude's a wonderful thing, as long as you can talk about it with someone afterwards.' So I write in the morning, and then I go and see my patients in the afternoon, which is more social – you need both.

"The other thing that's marvellous is the stories my patients tell me, they're real character studies, and it's high-stakes – those stories are made for a writer.

Somerset Maugham, who was a medical graduate, said he couldn't imagine a better profession for a writer than medicine. Some people find the combination surprising, but I find that it's a very natural fit."

While many artists struggle to make a living, Goldsworthy said he considered himself to be "very lucky".

"Without medicine providing its own sort of literary fellowship... it would have been much, much more difficult, so I've been very privileged. I'd recommend medicine as a career to any would-be writer."

Tickets for *Three Dog Night* (31 March–9 April) can be purchased from BASS on 131 246 or online at www.bass.net.au. University of Adelaide alumni can purchase tickets at the concession rate of \$40. Simply quote the word "novel" when booking tickets in person or over the phone (sorry, not available to those who purchase online). There is also a student price of \$25 per ticket.

Story by David Ellis



Lincoln College to honour Dr Abraham

Renowned Malaysian paediatrician, social activist and University of Adelaide alumnus Datuk Dr Samuel Abraham will be honoured with a building dedication at Lincoln College.

The College – where Dr Abraham resided while studying Medicine at the University of Adelaide – will posthumously honour the distinguished alumnus by renaming its recently refurbished Annexe building 'Abraham House' in recognition of his contribution to the life of Lincoln College and his outstanding medical and charity work.

Dr Abraham was awarded a Colombo Plan scholarship to study medicine at the University of Adelaide, obtaining an MBBS in 1959. It was during this time that he was a resident of Lincoln College, making his mark on the many people who came to know him.

After graduating, Dr Abraham became one of the most highly respected medical practitioners in Malaysia, his pioneering work making a profound and lasting difference to the health and welfare of children, the disabled and the marginalised.

Lincoln College is holding a series of events to celebrate the dedication of Abraham House, including a homecoming

for Malaysian alumni and an official ceremony featuring eminent alumni and community speakers.

For more information, please visit www.lincoln.edu.au

EVENTS

6.00pm–7.00pm Friday 3 April

There will be a Civic reception in the Queen Adelaide Room, Adelaide Town Hall, welcoming Malaysian colleagues and friends back to Adelaide.

10.00am–1.00pm Saturday 4 April

Abraham House dedication. Lincoln College, Adelaide, will posthumously dedicate its Annexe building to Datuk Dr Sam Abraham.

RSVP by 26 March and requests for more information to admin@lincoln.edu.au or +61 (08) 8290 6000

Above: The renamed Abraham House at Lincoln College
Inset: An early photo of Dr Sam Abraham

Alumni

MEMBERSHIP

Adelaide alumni have access to a range of exclusive benefits, services and discounts – and each month we bring you the pick of the bunch for a featured special.

Special Offer of the Month: Executive Fitness Management

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During April, EFM are offering a special offer for alumni – **20% off membership** and **3 FREE trial sessions** to try before you buy!

To access this offer, and check out the full Alumni Privileges Package, logon to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges





Cathedral concerts for Holy Week

St Peter's Cathedral and the Elder Conservatorium of Music will continue their strong partnership when they present a series of performances in the week leading up to Easter (Holy Week) this month.

2009 marks the third year of this highly successful collaboration between the two institutions, following massive audiences in 2007 and 2008 for the Bach *St John Passion* and *Mozart Requiem*.

The week culminates in a performance of Fauré's *Requiem* on Good Friday (10 April) at 3.00pm, featuring the combined choirs of St Peter's Cathedral and the Conservatorium, as well as the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Keith Crellin.

The orchestra will also perform Haydn's *Symphony No 26 'Lamentatione'*, written especially for Holy Week.

Although more than a thousand people will pack into the Cathedral for the meditative performance on Good Friday, Director of Holy Week Edward Joyner said the reflective recitals earlier in the week were also set to be a real highlight.

"On the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we have a beautiful program of music played by some fantastic musicians – I can't think of a better way to end a working day," he said. "There will be music by great composers including Bach, Debussy and Arvo Pärt for violin, viola, cello, piano, choir and organ."

What: Holy Week musical performances by musicians from St Peter's Cathedral and the Elder Conservatorium of Music

When: 5.30pm 6, 7 & 8 April, and 3.00pm 10 April

Where: St Peter's Cathedral, North Adelaide

Cost: Free (*donation requested to cover costs and for charity*)

Photo by Christine Beal



Call to donate bodies to medical science

The University of Adelaide is calling on more South Australians to donate their bodies to medical science and help train the next generation of doctors.

Professor Bob Vink, Head of the School of Medical Sciences, said more bodies were needed to train our current and future health professionals and to advance science through research.

"Despite advances in medical and surgical treatment, the study and examination of the human body remains one of the most powerful learning tools for our medical students," he said.

The University of Adelaide has been accepting donations of bodies since its medical school was established 124 years ago. It operates a central mortuary facility and a state-wide body donation program on behalf of all the universities in South Australia.

"Our anatomy laboratory is the largest in the State and services approximately 1500 students each week," Professor Vink said. "The Ray Last Anatomy Laboratory has recently undergone a \$4 million redevelopment with state-of-the-art Surgical Skills and BioSkills SA facilities, ranking it among the best in Australia."

Historically, South Australians have generously supported the body donation

program and have one of the highest donation rates per capita in Australasia.

"The opportunity to be able to dissect the human body is a privilege not available in many parts of the world and this is reflected through the quality of our graduates and our world-class research facilities," Professor Vink said.

For the past 12 years the University has held an annual memorial and dedication service for the families and friends of those people who have donated their bodies to science.

"This service is important for a number of reasons. It's a reminder to the community that scientific endeavour is linked to the concerns of humanity. It's also a reminder to scientists and students that their study is often dependent on the trust and involvement of members of the public. And it's a reminder to all of us that the maintenance of human dignity has a pre-eminent place in the pursuit of knowledge," Professor Vink said.

About 150 donor families attended this year's memorial service in Bonython Hall last month.

People interested in learning more about the body donation program are asked to contact the School of Medical Sciences on +61 8 8303 5998 or www.health.adelaide.edu.au/school_medsci/bodydonation/

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: The state-of-the-art Surgical Skills Laboratory at the University of Adelaide's Medical School

Photo by John Kruger



Why health treatments should be tested

With the cost of healthcare drastically on the rise, researchers at the University of Adelaide are calling for more hard proof to show that medical treatments are effective and appropriate.

In a paper published recently in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, researchers from the University's Discipline of Public Health said some current treatments may provide little to no benefit to patients in relation to their high cost, and in some cases may cause harm instead of good.

The researchers said a range of medical treatments should be assessed, with those that are not effective from a cost or medical point of view to be reduced or withdrawn, and the money reallocated to treatments that deserve it.

"More needs to be done to make healthcare in Australia cost-effective

and beneficial for the greatest number of patients," said lead author Dr Adam Elshaug, from the research group Adelaide Health Technology Assessment.

"We need to rethink how healthcare resources are allocated and on what basis they're allocated, especially as the cost of healthcare rises. We can improve the health system by making it more efficient and accountable, and enhancing quality of care, without necessarily asking for additional resources.

"By better understanding what medical practices work and those that don't, and by assessing appropriate use, we have an opportunity to provide a cost-saving or cost-neutral solution for the health budget. This would see resources move away from inappropriate areas and towards areas with greater demonstrated effectiveness. It would reduce the amount of unnecessary suffering and premature death arising from the use of treatments that deliver less than the best-available value for money," he said.

Dr Elshaug said he supported a recent call from the Australia 2020 Summit to

"ensure that resources are allocated across the system based on hard evidence".

"Public funding should be added and removed on the basis of clearly demonstrated effectiveness," he said.

Dr Elshaug and his colleagues have recommended expanding the role of the Medical Services Advisory Committee to scientifically and transparently assess current practices and technologies, as well as new ones.

Their paper provided a framework that could be used to help identify and prioritise treatments that are strong candidates for assessment. "A number of practices need to be evaluated to ensure Australians are receiving the best and most appropriate care as well as the best value from their tax dollar," he said.

According to the paper, total health expenditure was conservatively projected to rise from \$71.4 billion in 2002-03 to \$162.3 billion by 2032-33. This represented 10.8% of gross domestic product by 2032-33.

Story by David Ellis



Engineering student wins ABC scholarship

University of Adelaide fourth-year engineering student Daisy Correa has won one of this year's ABC Women in Engineering Scholarships.

"These scholarships are part of the national broadcaster's commitment to inspiring and promoting the education, training and advancement of engineering among young women in the broadcast industry," said ABC State Director South Australia Sandra Winter-Dewhirst.

Ms Winter-Dewhirst and Coordinator of Information Technology South Australia Anthony Pleic presented the Scholarship to Daisy at ABC's Collinswood centre.

"The Scholarships are awarded nationally each year to women undertaking studies in Electrical Engineering and who have an interest in broadcasting, telecommunications or information technology," Ms Winter-Dewhirst said.

"Successful applicants receive a cash prize of \$1500 and valuable industry experience in the exciting and challenging technology area of the ABC.

"Outstanding tertiary qualifications and enthusiasm for the broadcasting industry have made Daisy a perfect candidate for the scholarship this year."

Daisy Correa is currently in the fourth year of a double degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Finance at the University of Adelaide. She is expecting to graduate at the end of 2009.

Daisy has many academic achievements and a number of awards including the Dean's Merit Certificate for Outstanding Academic Achievement, and she was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society.

Daisy is also involved in the wider university community. She is currently a Peer Mentor for the International Student Centre's Orientation program and is on the Electrical and Electronic Student Staff Committee.

Above (centre): Daisy Correa with Sandra Winter-Dewhirst and Anthony Pleic

Concertina music has robotic overtones

A group of Mechanical Engineering graduates and their supervisor will fly to France this month, accompanied by a highly unusual piece of luggage.

The 2008 Masters students and Dr Steven Grainger hope their computer-operated musical concertina will impress the judges at an international competition in Nice on Thursday 23 April for machines that play musical instruments.

Mohsen Bazghaleh, Yudi Wang, Long Xin, Jia You, Chen Fei Yu and Yin Yuan spent their final year at university designing a 48-key robotic concertina. The instrument won the national competition, the Candiago Cup Challenge, in 2008 and now qualifies for the international Artemis Orchestra Competition.

It is the second time that the University's mechanical engineering school has been represented at the Artemis competition, earning second place in Berlin in 2007 with a robotic violin design.

Supervisor Dr Grainger, a lecturer in the School of Mechanical Engineering, said the concertina was controlled by a microprocessor-based system.

"The microprocessor drives the bellows via an electric motor and uses feedback to control the air pressure. It also operates electromechanical wires that open and close valves, letting air flow over the sound-producing reeds," Dr Grainger said.

All the skills developed during the project, including the mechanical, software and electronic design, are directly applicable to the real world of mechanical engineering.

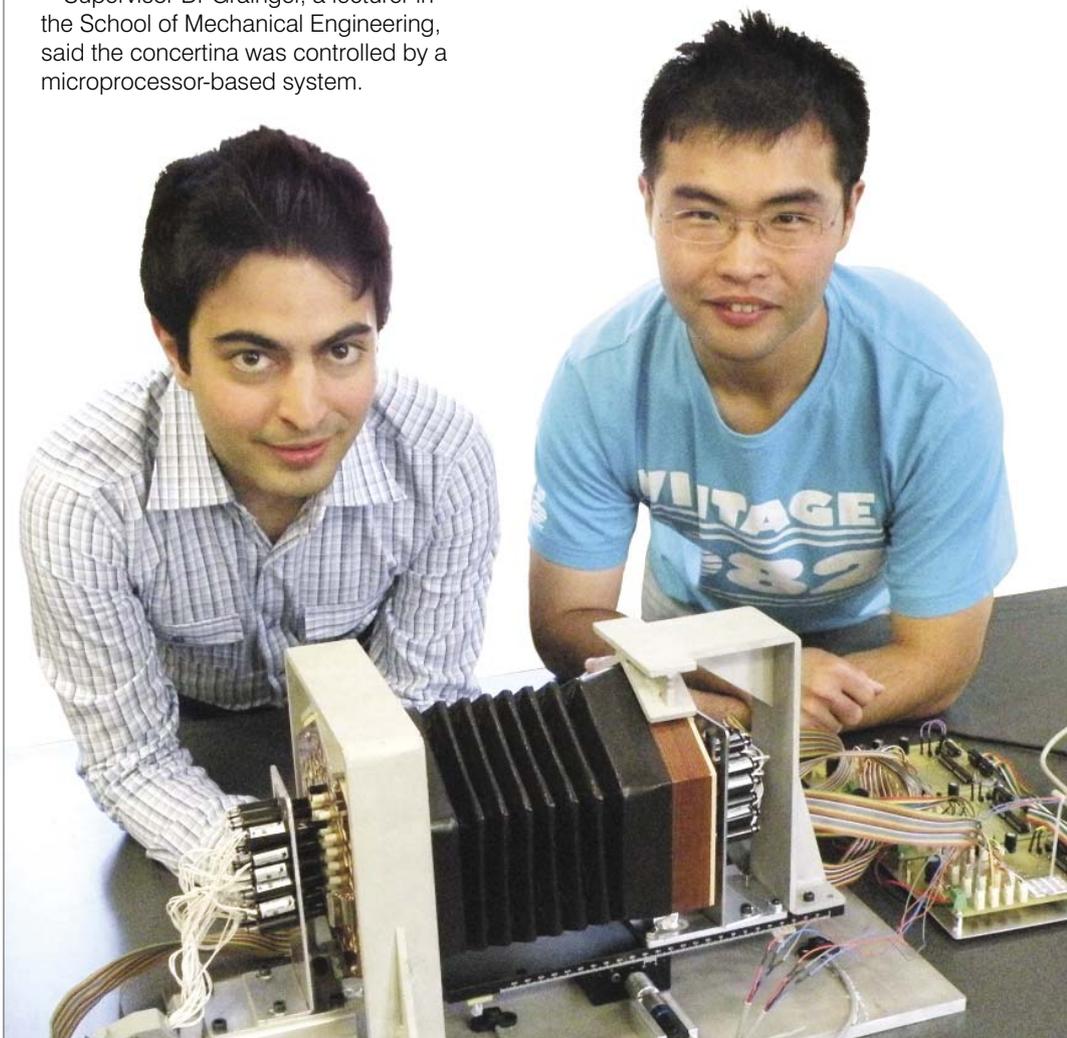
"Graduate students might be expected to design similar systems for hard disk drives, automotive anti-lock braking systems or manufacturing robotics," he said.

The robotic concertina project formed part of a Masters course in Advanced Digital Control taught by Dr Grainger. The course is concerned with the design and analysis of devices controlled by computers.

The concertina was invented in 1829 by British scientist, Sir Charles Wheatstone, more famously known for the Wheatstone Bridge, an electric circuit used for measuring unknown resistances.

Story by Candy Gibson

From left: Mohsen Bazghaleh and Chen Fei Yu pictured with the robotic concertina
Photo by Candy Gibson



Country people with diabetes needed for study

People in rural South Australia suffering from Type 2 diabetes are being invited to take part in a new University of Adelaide study that aims to better understand their difficulties of managing diabetes.



The study, which focuses on how country people cope with Type 2 diabetes and the kind of information and care they receive, is believed to be the first of its kind in Australia and one of the few of its kind in the world.

Funded by SA Health, the study aims to help improve the plight of diabetes sufferers in country SA.

"Type 2 diabetes is a huge problem in the community – it is one of the top 10 causes of death in Australia, and the incidence of Type 2 diabetes is increasing in all age groups," said the study's coordinator, University of Adelaide Psychology PhD student Laura Jones.

"We know that in urban areas there are many challenges for people trying to manage their diabetes, and this study gives researchers the chance to gain a greater understanding of the unique challenges facing country residents.

"Differences in lifestyle, access to information such as nutritional information, and availability and quality of care are just some of the issues that play an important part in people's ability to manage diabetes.

"By better understanding the specific issues for country people, and by evaluating current policies and guidelines, this study hopes to inform improvements in services, information and management for sufferers in rural areas," said Ms Jones, 24, who hails from Murray Bridge.

There are two key stages to the study. The first stage will involve recruiting a small number of country South Australians with diabetes to take part in group discussions and individual phone interviews.

The second stage involves using a questionnaire to gain a much greater understanding of people's experiences with diabetes in the country. This questionnaire

will be sent to hundreds of country residents and will be informed by the group discussion.

"We'd like to hear from as many people as possible – those who would either like to take part in the group discussion or interview, or who would like to fill out the questionnaire when it is available," Ms Jones said.

To register your interest, phone Laura Jones on 0407 392 824 or +61 8 8313 0461, or email her at: laura.jones@adelaide.edu.au

Story by David Ellis

Above: Psychologist PhD student Laura Jones
Photo by David Ellis

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Russian pianist to thrill Adelaide

One of the world's rising stars of the piano, Konstantin Shamray, returns to Elder Hall in April to perform his only Adelaide piano recital.

Winner of the 2008 Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia, Shamray has become the first contestant ever to win both the 'People's Choice' award as well as the overall competition.

"Shamray's competition performances enthralled both judges and audiences alike. Since then, reviewers around Australia have used words and phrases like 'transcendent', 'once-in-a-lifetime-musician' and 'magical', and audiences have responded with standing ovations," said Elder Hall Manager Claire Oremland.

"This is a truly wonderful opportunity for Adelaide audiences to experience an international rising star of the piano."

Shamray began piano studies in the Russian city of Novosibirsk, where he was born, and moved to Moscow to further his studies at the Gnessin Academy of Music.

Now aged only 23, and considered a musician with a great future, he has already performed throughout Europe and the United States.



Performing works by Beethoven, Schumann, Prokofiev and Rachmaninov, this will be Shamray's second performance in the University of Adelaide's historic Elder Hall in as many years.

The concert is presented by arrangement with the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia.

Shamray's recital will also help to raise awareness of the Elder Conservatorium of Music's bid to raise funds for a new Steinway concert grand piano for Elder Hall. Proceeds from the concert will go towards the piano.

Konstantin Shamray in recital
Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus,
University of Adelaide

7.30pm Thursday 30 April

Tickets are \$25 (adult); \$20 (concession) and \$15 (student) Phone 8303 5925 for bookings or more information

Above: Konstantin Shamray is an up-and-coming star of the piano. He plays his only Adelaide recital in Elder Hall on Thursday 30 April.

Photo courtesy of the Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia



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Back Story



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Writers Radio

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Adelaide researchers win training fellowships

The University of Adelaide has won four of this year's NHMRC Training (Postdoctoral) Fellowships, including two overseas-based fellowships.

Dr Jason Armfield, Senior Postdoctoral Researcher with the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health, will spend two years at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA, before returning to Adelaide for the final two years of his fellowship.

He will investigate the role of psychological factors in the causes, prevention and treatment of high dental fear.

"Despite dental fear being one of the most common fears experienced by Australians, the etiology of this serious condition is still not well understood, and both preventions and treatments for dental fear are not widely or effectively implemented," Dr Armfield said. His scholarship will give him first-hand experience at one of only a handful of dental fear research clinics in the world.

Dr Sarah Linke will continue her research at the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden on an oxygen-sensing enzyme found in all body cells.

"This research is important for any diseases involving oxygen-deficiency, such as stroke, heart disease and cancer," said Dr Linke.

"This enzyme detects oxygen deficiency and conveys the message throughout the cell, leading to molecular responses that help

cells and tissue to copy and survive."

Dr Linke completed her PhD last year in Dr Daniel Peet's laboratory.

"The generous NHMRC fellowship will support me in furthering this research at the Karolinska Institutet. The facilities and techniques available will enable me to study the functions of this oxygen-sensing enzyme in stem cells and tumour models."

Two other training fellowships have been awarded to Dr Michael Stark and Mr Steve Paltoglou.

Dr Stark will be based in the School of Paediatrics and Reproductive Health and the Women's and Children's Hospital with additional responsibilities at the Lyell McEwin Hospital. He will investigate the influence of duration of pregnancy, gender and exposure to antenatal steroids on placental and newborn blood flow in premature births.

Mr Paltoglou will be based in the Adelaide Proteomics Centre and will work on novel modifications to a protein which plays a role in tumour suppression and blood vessel growth.

Two University of Adelaide PhD students were also awarded NHMRC Postgraduate Scholarships. Dr Rishi Puri is investigating the relationship between plaque build-up and relaxation properties in the coronary arteries. Ms Lisa Akison won the Dora Lush Biomedical Postgraduate Scholarship for her project, on molecular mechanisms regulating ovulation.

Story by Robyn Mills

Photo by Shutterstock



ASO launches Classic Hour

Take time out to experience the brilliance of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) as you have never seen them before.

In ASO's new Express Concert Series, be uplifted with a short burst of music from the ASO in your lunch hour or after work.

Chief Conductor Arvo Volmer, inspired by the 200th anniversary year of Haydn, has built a program based on light, fun classical pieces and is keen to make classical music accessible for everyone, including the time poor!

Classic Hour begins with Haydn in Autumn – at 1.00pm and 6.00pm Wednesday 1 April at Elder Hall, University of Adelaide.

The first Classic Hour will see Sophie Rowell as soloist, sharing the stage once again with former Australian String Quartet colleague and newly appointed ASO Concertmaster Natsuko Yoshimoto.

www.aso.com.au

Classic Hour – Haydn in Autumn

Arvo Volmer, conductor
Sophie Rowell, guest soloist, violin

Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus,
University of Adelaide

1.00pm and 6.00pm Wednesday 1 April

Skalkottas: Greek Dance
Schnittke: Moz-Art à la Haydn
Haydn: Violin Concerto in C major
Haydn: Symphony No 83 in G minor

Book at BASS on 131 246
or online at www.bass.net.au.

Above: Newly appointed Concertmaster for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) Natsuko Yoshimoto

Photo by Bridget Elliott



Research Tuesdays

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH
WITH THE COMMUNITY

Anatomy of a meltdown.

The GFC Forum: Causes, effects and recovery

Few public events are significant enough to justify their own acronym. Much has been said and done about the global financial crisis (GFC) already. But how accurate or effective has this been? Are fingers being fairly pointed? Can the cracks be repaired, or do we need a whole new system?

In this lively forum, four University of Adelaide experts in economics, finance, banking and international trade – Professor Christopher Findlay, Professor Ralf Zurbrugg, Professor Dogan Tirtiroglu and Mr Andrew Stoler – will break the GFC down, clear the fog, assess the way forward, and answer your questions.

WHEN: 5.30-7.00pm Tuesday 14 April

WHERE: Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus

ADMISSION FREE, RSVP ESSENTIAL

email: research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au
phone: +61 8 8303 3692

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays

Climate Futures

Climate Futures is a 12-part public seminar series that addresses the impacts of climate change and explores leading edge developments to enable society to live with anticipated future changes.

The lectures – given by a range of experts in their fields – are suitable for anyone with an interest in the challenges posed by climate change for a sustainable society.

www.adelaide.edu.au/climatechange

When: 5.00pm Wednesday 1, 8 and 29 April

Where: Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free – all welcome. For more information email: environment@adelaide.edu.au

MBAAA Networking Breakfast

When: Any time after 7.30am, first Wednesday of every month

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

The MBAAA Executive Committee welcomes contact from MBA Alumni and current MBA students in other Australian states or other countries who are interested in coordinating or participating in networking gatherings with MBA Alumni colleagues living in the same city. Contact us on mbaaa_committee@adelaide.edu.au and we will coordinate contact between alumni in the same city.

Lunchtimes at ELDERHALL

Adelaide's most popular daytime concert series.

For full program details contact the Concert Office on +61 8 8303 5925 or visit: www.elderhall.adelaide.edu.au

When: 1.10pm Friday 3, 10, 17 and 24 April

Where: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus

Cost: tickets \$7, available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of each concert

Fridays Uncorked '09

Offering a vibrant Friday night venue for the Adelaide business community to wind down at the end of the week, taste fine wines from selected regions, enjoy a selection from the cocktail menu, and relax at this unique Adelaide icon.

www.wineaustralia.com.au

When: 4.30pm Friday 3 April

Where: National Wine Centre of Australia

Cost: FREE entry including cocktail food. Wine from \$4.50 per glass.

Adelaide University Scuba diving Club's 40th Birthday Party

Come along and catch up with past members, and celebrate the last 40 years of the Adelaide University Scuba diving Club (AUSC). Drinks and finger food provided.

When: 8.00pm to midnight Friday 3 April

Where: Equinox Function Room, Union House, North Terrace Campus

Cost: \$65 per person

RSVP: by no later than Monday 30 March to sarah.cumpston@adelaide.edu.au or president@adelaideclub.com

Distinguished Social Sciences Public Lecture Series

"Research Assessment and its Future in the UK Academy: The Post RAE Debate" by John Scott (Professor of Sociology, Essex University)

www.hss.adelaide.edu.au/socialsciences

When: 6.00pm to 8.00pm Wednesday 8 April

Where: Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free and open to all

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

"Simon Vandenbergh: 18th Century radical publisher" – a public talk with Judy Green

When: 1.05pm to 2.00pm Thursday 23 April

Where: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free and open to all

RSVP: Bookings by Tuesday 21 April to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone +61 8 8303 4064

Konstantin Shamray in recital

The winner of the 2008 Sydney International Piano Competition of Australia, Konstantin Shamray, returns to Elder Hall in April to perform his only Adelaide piano recital.

When: 7.30pm Thursday 30 April

Where: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Tickets are \$25 (adult); \$20 (concession) and \$15 (student). Phone +61 8 8303 5925 for bookings or more information.

Quiz Night for Filling the Shelves Appeal

Dental Alumni, in conjunction with the School of Dentistry and the Barr Smith Library

When: 7.00pm to 11.00pm Friday 1 May

Where: Reading Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

Cost: \$25 full and \$18 concession. Wine, Beer & Nibbles included, Soft drinks available for purchase, BYO supper

RSVP: Tickets can be purchased from Norma or Lorraine, call +61 8 8303 6069 or visit Room 4.3.06 at the School of Dentistry

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ADELAIDE WEEK
EDUCATING THE LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Thursday 23–Sunday 26 April



Over four days in April, the University of Adelaide – Singapore will open its doors to honoured guests, prospective students, business leaders and interested parties in its first ever Adelaide Week.

There is a range of activities on offer – from the Business Forum and Academic Masterclasses to the Singapore Alumni Reunion Dinner.

The week concludes with an Open Day where students can learn more about studying at one of the University's campuses in Adelaide, Australia, or at the Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre in Singapore.

Adelaide Week will also celebrate the University's most recent graduates.

For more detail, turn to page 13.