

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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# Why the world needs GM crops



## ● Science

Adelaide has a major role to play in the development of salt-tolerant crops that could potentially feed millions of starving people worldwide.

According to statistics, world food grain production must be doubled by the year 2050 to meet the demands of a growing global population.

"Even under ideal conditions, it would be difficult to increase crop production much beyond current levels," said Professor Mark Tester, Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellow at the University of Adelaide.

Based at the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics at the Waite Campus, Professor Tester is a key researcher in international efforts to turn the tide of crop production.

"With the greatest population increases being in the cities of developing countries, it is an economic necessity that the majority of any increased food production should occur in the countries in which these growing cities are located," he said.

"Most crop-growing conditions are far from ideal. Particularly challenging is that increased

production must be achieved in the face of decreased land area for cropping, diminishing water resources and worsening environmental constraints, such as drought and poor soil.

"There are both practical and theoretical constraints which limit just how much a plant can do!"

Globally, cereal production is reduced by approximately one-third due simply to the effects of drought, salinity and low temperatures, Professor Tester said.

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## Adelaidean

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## From the Vice-Chancellor

I was about to go into an Alumni and Benefactors Breakfast in Kuala Lumpur when my mobile phone rang. It was Professor Neville Marsh, whose main duty as Acting Vice-Chancellor, as I had told him before I flew out a couple of days before, was to “make sure the place doesn’t burn down.” I was hoping he was joking when he said “But you didn’t say anything about a flood!” Thank heavens for the gift of humour, for we’re going to need a good deal of patience as we recover from the damage arising from a broken fire main on the morning of March 11.

Let there be no mistake, this was a major emergency, with more than 60 emergency services workers involved in an incident that affected nine densely populated buildings. Huge quantities of water flooded parts of the Hughes and Plaza buildings, and the southern part of the Library, causing a lot of property damage, and making the areas unsafe for some time.

I hope I did not appear too distracted during breakfast, but a few more telephone calls confirmed that there was no immediate risk, and that everyone had been safely evacuated. This came as a relief, but in the course of the day that relief turned to admiration and pride as stories of extraordinary generosity and dedication on the part of our staff and students came filtering through.

Without a single exception, the instructions of fire wardens and others were followed to the letter. People patiently waited to be allowed into affected areas, and a call for volunteers to assist in the immediate clean-up was met with an unstinting and enthusiastic response. More than

80 staff and 100 contractors worked all weekend to restore services, and it’s nothing short of a miracle that all timetabled lectures, practicals, tutorials and lab sessions were able to resume within the week.

There will be some hard work in the weeks and months ahead to restore and maintain safe working conditions in some of the worst affected areas, but the loyalty and dedication of our staff and students, about which I have spoken again and again, ensured that the first and biggest hurdles were overcome. Action speaks louder than words, and we have seen a remarkable demonstration that the University is indeed a community, while the assistance that was offered from others demonstrated a strong commitment to us.

That commitment extends far beyond Adelaide into Asia and further afield. The news of the water damage was met with immediate and heart-felt expressions of concern and support by many of our former students in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Wherever our graduates are, whether in Australia or far away, their engagement with the University of Adelaide is clearly a commitment for life.

JAMES A. McWha  
Vice-Chancellor

# Why the world needs GM crops

continued from page 1

“The difference between the potential yield and that actually achieved is termed the ‘yield gap’. Most practical increases in global food production will occur through the closing of this yield gap. In other words, we need to develop crops, particularly the cereals, that will be more tolerant to the so-called ‘abiotic stresses’, notably drought, salinity and low temperatures.”

Abiotic stresses are a problem not only in developing countries.

“The devastating effects of drought and salinity both on the environment and on the farmers of Australia are all too apparent. Only two years ago, national wheat production plummeted from 24 million tonnes down to nine million tonnes as a result of drought.

“A recent market analysis of cropping identified drought and poor soil

conditions (mainly salinity) as the two most significant factors limiting the yield of cereal crops in Australia. Salinity alone is estimated to be costing the Australian wheat industry \$1.3 billion annually. There is a clear imperative to improve the tolerance of our crops to the harsh environmental conditions that are prevalent in Australia,” he said.

The research underway in Professor Tester’s laboratory is focused on increasing the tolerance of crops to saline soils.

“Central to this work is the stark observation that some plants manage to keep growing well on saline soils (tough plants), whereas others grow poorly (the wimps). We’re identifying genes that make the tough plants tough, and then moving these genes into the wimps, in order to toughen up the wimps.

“The toughness genes may be derived from plants that are closely related to the crops we want to make more tolerant, or else they may be found in more evolutionarily distant plants, that display tolerance to greater extremes than do the crop relatives.”

It is not only the presence of a particular gene that is important, but also where in the plant the gene is activated, and when the gene is activated. It is these cell-specific genetic issues that are a major focus of the research program in Professor Tester’s laboratory.

“With the new developments in biology that exploit the power of robotics and computing, extraordinary and exciting new advances are now possible,” Professor Tester said.

“In large centres such as the Australian Centre for Plant



Professor Mark Tester

Functional Genomics and the Waite campus of the University of Adelaide, there is now a critical mass of researchers who have the chance to make significant breakthroughs in plant science and crop improvement. We live in exciting times.”

Story by David Ellis



# Orientation better than ever

## ● Orientation Week 2005

Adelaide's reputation for having one of the best student orientation programs in the country was confirmed with the success of the recent Orientation 2005, says Students' Association President David Pearson.

Orientation consists of four main components – the O'Camp, O'Tours, O'Week and O'Ball.

"All of these were incredibly successful, building up to the biggest orientation Adelaide Uni has seen in a long time," Mr Pearson said.

"The O'Camp sold out, with 125 first years attending the camp in Normanville. The O'Tours was revived this year, the first time it has been run in a number of years, and was very successful thanks to the Union Activities Committee."

O'Week is the heart of orientation and this year's wide range of activities included a professional wrestling ring set-up, national comedians for the comedian night, a superhero dress up disco dance party, a quiz night, cinema under the stars and events all day, including tricycle races, and O'cup, and free breakfast, lunch and drinks every day.

O'Ball, the premier event of Orientation, was the most successful of all, selling out with a capacity crowd of 3,200 people, and featuring many of Australia's best artists including Eskimo Joe, Gerling and Evermore.



"The O'Ball was also made a substantial profit, the first one in at least 5 years, providing a firm financial standing for Orientation 2006," David Pearson said.

"One of the reasons for such great success was the number of helpers and volunteers, but also the hard work of the Orientation Co-ordinator Andrew Potter and the other orientation directors and SAUA office bearers."



Some of the crowd-pleasing activities at Orientation 2005  
Photos courtesy of Students' Association



# New mining centre digs deep

## ● Industry

South Australia's mining industry will benefit from a new, world-class centre to be set up at the University of Adelaide to research and develop specialised deep mining techniques.

The new Centre for Mineral Exploration Under Cover will be established at the university with \$1.2 million funding over four years from the State Government's Plan for Accelerating Exploration (PACE) program.

In announcing the venture, Mineral Resources Development Minister Paul Holloway said the centre would concentrate on developing new methods to explore for mineral deposits at depth.

"These methodologies will have a very South Australian focus, though they will be applicable to mining in many parts of the world," Mr Holloway said.

"One of the problems facing mineral exploration in South Australia is the very deep cover over potential ore deposits. The State Government and the University of Adelaide are working with the

exploration industry and tackling this problem head on through the establishment of this Centre."

International advertising for a professor who will be Chair of Mineral Exploration and Director of the Centre for Mineral Exploration Under Cover is now underway. The position will be in the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences (Discipline of Geology and Geophysics), which already forms part of one of Australia's major centres of geophysical excellence.

"I am confident that this initiative will attract a number of world-class researchers once it is operational," Mr Holloway said.

The primary outcomes of the initiative will be:

- to attract a leading researcher to Adelaide;
- creation of a world-class research centre;
- development of an industry-focused method for exploring through cover;
- and strong collaborative links with other minerals-focused research centres.

"This is an important step towards achieving a major boost in mineral exploration in South Australia," Mr Holloway said.

"We have a target of increasing mineral exploration to \$100 million a year by 2007, with mineral production targets of \$4 billion by 2020.

"Developing new, locally based under cover exploration techniques will play a crucial role in achieving these targets."

Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha said the new Centre would build on the university's existing, world-class expertise in geological science and petroleum engineering and management.

"This Centre recognises that university research can have major benefits for industry, the economy and the community," Professor McWha said.

"We welcome the opportunity to build on our links with the mining industry and government."

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# Monkeying around with mobile phones



From left: Brian Doidge, Mrs Libby Deer (mother of the late Ben Heinsohn-Deer) and Luke Beard  
Photo by Howard Salkow

Gaming technology on mobile phones is becoming more sophisticated. This game, March Of Darkness, has been created by another company, Monkey Stack, utilising the tools developed by Monkey Physics.  
Photo by David Ellis



## Innovation

It's definitely not a case of monkey business for two Adelaide entrepreneurs, who are turning the mobile phone game industry on its head.

Luke Beard and Brian Doidge, who started the company Monkey Physics two years ago, specialise in the exciting new market of software application and game development for mobile devices.

Believing there was an opening for bigger, brighter games with better content that could be played on mobile phones, Beard and Doidge, both avid gamers, put their heads together and developed a multimedia gaming system for 3G phones.

What they found was a way to break up game content, so users could download it bit by bit, getting over the hurdle of mobile phones being unable to download large amounts of content in one hit. This also meant game developers and designers could

be more ambitious with the programs they create.

For their work, Monkey Physics won a federal commercialisation grant and has built links with international telecommunications companies to take its technology to the world.

Beard and Doidge, participants in the Graduate Entrepreneurial program at the Adelaide University Research Park, Thebarton Campus, have also become the latest recipients of the Ben Heinsohn-Deer Commemorative Medal.

The medal was established in 2002 in honour of Ben Heinsohn-Deer, a participant in Adelaide's Graduate Entrepreneurial program, who was tragically killed in Indonesia in 2002.

The medal is presented to the top ranking candidate(s) for the program each year for seven years.

In 2004 Beard and Doidge successfully applied to the

university's Graduate Entrepreneurial Program and, in addition to the Ben Heinsohn-Deer Medal, were each awarded a Premier's Enterprise Scholarship.

The scholarship provides a place in an incubator program at Adelaide University's Research Park at Thebarton, enrolment in a Masters program through the university's Education Centre for Innovation and Commercialisation (ecic), and support valued at \$50,000.

The scholarship aims to reward and encourage entrepreneurial graduates to develop innovative IT&C businesses for South Australia, and to enable these graduates to travel overseas to pursue their business development.

The primary goal of the travel will be to license the company's technology in overseas markets, and to gain acceptance into markets where 3G (next generation telephony)

is or has been integrated into the telecommunication systems.

The trip will also enable them to gauge overseas interest, to meet with key industry players, innovators and market strategists, and to gain a better understanding of future technologies and developments in their industry.

In addition, and of great importance to their business development, the scholarship will also enable them to attend one of the world's largest gaming conferences, E3, the Electronic Entertainment Industry Expo, to be held in Los Angeles in May 2005.

Applications for the Graduate Entrepreneurial Program for 2006 close in July 2005. For more information contact Kankana McPherson, Coordinator Graduate Entrepreneurial Programs, on 08 8303 3273.

Story by Howard Salkow

# Women take charge in science

## Commercialisation

Breaking with the tradition of purely academic research, four female scientists studying for a Masters degree at the University of Adelaide are at the forefront of developing science into commercial enterprise.

These innovative women – Dr Alexandra Bush, Dr Stephanie Agius, Ms Cheryl Pope and Ms Bernadette Swart – are undertaking the University of Adelaide’s Master of Science & Technology Commercialisation degree.

Run by the University’s Education Centre for Innovation and Commercialisation (ecic), this program is the first of its kind in Australia.

The efforts of these four women and their colleagues at the University of Adelaide aim to give Australia a competitive edge in a global market place.

Dr Alexandra Bush, Research Scientist with the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), has been chosen by the Cooperative Research Centre for Welded Structures (CRC-WS), to advise on the commercialisation of its technologies. (The University is a core participant of the CRC.)

“What I hope to achieve is to effectively and efficiently convert scientific innovation for greater economic and social benefit,” Dr Bush said.

Another of ecic’s Masters students, Dr Stephanie Agius, has had an extensive international research career, and has recently been appointed the Commercialisation Officer for the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (based at the University of Adelaide’s Waite Campus).

“One of the Centre’s core competitive advantages lies in the ability to develop and implement its innovation, and the Masters of Science & Technology Commercialisation provides me with the knowledge vital to accelerating the commercialisation process,” Dr Agius said.

Fellow peer Ms Cheryl Pope is the project manager at the Australian Sheep Industry CRC, and is equally aware that the health of the nation’s



innovation landscape is dependent on the commercial training of researchers.

“It’s so obvious. We need this course to make scientists aware that their research results can become a commercial reality,” Ms Pope said.

Child and Health Research Institute’s Ms Bernadette Swart, like many of these women, holds down a full-time job and has family commitments as well as devoting time to postgraduate study with the ecic.

“I believe that scientists today need to balance fundamental research interests with commercial awareness,” she said. “You need to wear both a scientist’s cap and a business cap.”

Fostering these skills in entrepreneurship and the commercialisation of innovation, ecic is a relatively

Dr Stephanie Agius, studying for her Master of Science & Technology Commercialisation, has been appointed Commercialisation Officer at the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics  
Photo by David Ellis

new and unique postgraduate school within the University of Adelaide.

“Wealth creation, long-term economic growth and social wellbeing all depend on bringing new technologies to fruition, doing it quickly, doing it well,” said ecic’s Acting Director, Mr Antonio Dottore.

The graduate school also has a “footprint” on the Australian Technology Park in Sydney, where it offers articulated programs to Masters in Project Management through Professor Vernon Ireland.

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



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# Cleft lip research benefits Malaysian infants

## Dentistry

A leading Malaysian craniofacial scientist is paving the way for the better diagnosis and treatment of Malaysian babies born with cleft lip and palate conditions.

Dr Zainul Rajion, who is a lecturer at the School of Dental Services at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), graduated with his PhD in Dentistry at the University of Adelaide's graduation ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur last month.

For his University of Adelaide PhD, Dr Rajion used high-tech three-dimensional Computer Tomography software, or 3DCT, to conduct detailed scans on Malaysian babies born with cleft lip and palate (CLP).

His PhD was done in conjunction with the University of Adelaide's Dental School, and the Institute of Craniofacial Study (ICFS), which is part of the Australian Craniofacial Unit at Adelaide's Women's and Children's Hospital.

Having returned to USM's Kota Bahru campus last year, Dr Rajion is furthering his research in this important health area, and is also now passing on his craniofacial

science knowledge through his teaching of USM dental students.

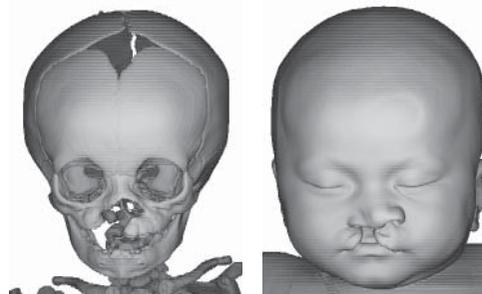
"The prevalence of CLP in Malaysian babies, particularly in Kelantan State, is very high – somewhere in the order of one in every 500 to 600 live births," Dr Rajion said.

"Previously, it was thought that babies with CLP only had deformity and problems in that particular area of the body. But the data I collected showed that most of these babies also suffered other medical problems such as aspiration pneumonia, a chest infection caused by the baby not being able to swallow in a coordinated way.

"It will now be easier for doctors to treat and diagnose CLP babies as they will know to fully investigate all areas of the body and not just the area of the CLP defect."

Using CT technology to give a detailed analysis of the severity and extent of deformities of CLP has provided insight into the biological basis of the condition, Dr Rajion said.

"My investigation has also highlighted the existence of a greater range of craniofacial anomalies in CLP babies



Dr Zainul Rajion (second from right) was among those to receive postgraduate Dentistry qualifications at the university's graduation ceremony in Malaysia last month. From left: Sharifah Zainal, Norhayati Luddin, Zaihan Ariffin, Zainul Rajion and Adam Husein. They are pictured with the Dean of the University of Adelaide's Dentistry School, Associate Professor Viv Burgess.

**Photo by Ben Osborne**

Images created from a CT scan of a baby with cleft lip and palate, showing the skeleton and skin surface  
**Images courtesy of Dr David Netherway**

than previously thought, and this will assist doctors in the management of affected infants," he said.

More broadly, Dr Rajion's research also highlights how Malaysian and Australian education, research and health institutions can join together to achieve significant and lasting outcomes.

"The USM has identified craniofacial science as one of its areas of excellence, and have been sending postgraduate students like myself overseas to pursue research at a PhD level," Dr Rajion said.

"At USM, we have had a long-term collaboration with the University of Adelaide as it is known internationally for its strength in research and teaching. I chose Adelaide over other Australian universities because it had a program

which suited my needs, and its degree is recognised worldwide."

Dr Rajion, along with his supervisors at USM, the University of Adelaide and ICFS, has already published several journal articles regarding his findings, and he has also spoken about his research at international conferences.

"My supervisors were absolutely committed in helping and guiding me," Dr Rajion said. "They nurtured my interest in medical and dental science and fuelled my passion for research work.

"I've been given a very big responsibility for USM's bid to excel in the area of craniofacial science in Malaysia, and my experiences in Adelaide will definitely help me."

**Story by Ben Osborne**

# ● Graduations | Malaysia



Around 40 of Malaysia's brightest young minds gathered at the Hotel Nikko on Saturday, March 12 to take part in the University of Adelaide's annual offshore graduation ceremony.

This prestigious event was made even more notable with the attendance of Royal Selangor managing director Datuk Yong Poh Kon, who gave the graduation address.

Datuk Yong himself is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, completing a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering in 1968 (see story on page 15).

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said the graduation ceremony highlighted the achievements and potential of the university's Malaysian students.

"We always look forward to coming to Malaysia for this graduation ceremony, as we have a strong relationship with this country dating back more than 50 years," Professor McWha said.

"We are extremely privileged and honoured to have someone of Datuk Yong Poh Kon's standing give our graduation address this year.

"At the University of Adelaide we strive to produce graduates who, like Datuk Yong, can go out and make an impact in their country and around the world and we hope there are many students graduating on Saturday who can follow in his footsteps."

Story and photos by Ben Osborne



**GUEST SPEAKER** (above): Managing Director of Royal Selangor, and University of Adelaide graduate, Datuk Yong Poh Kon was the guest of honour at this year's Malaysian ceremony

**SPECIAL HONOUR** (right): Edward Ng was joined by his family to celebrate his selection as macebearer and also receiving his Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) – (from left) Delicia, Sharon, Garry, Mary and Stephanie Ng

**FAMILY TIES** (below right): Kok Seng Yee (right) celebrated his Honours degree in Engineering (Information Technology and Telecommunications) with his father Soon Yik Yee and younger brother Kok Foo Yee

**PETROLEUM MASTER** (right): Mazlin Idress, who works for major Malaysian petroleum firm Petronas, received her Master of Petroleum Engineering





CLASS OF 2005 (above): this year's Hong Kong graduation ceremony saw more than 40 graduates receive their new qualifications

## Edith's new skills to help others in HK

Hong Kong accountant Edith Chan is using her new University of Adelaide qualifications to improve her skills – and she wants to help other accountants improve their skills too.

The proprietor of her own Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm Edith Chan & Co since 1994, she graduated with her Master of Business Administration at last month's University of Adelaide graduation ceremony at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Hong Kong.

Edith has already realised two childhood dreams: owning her business, which she began in 1994; and teaching, which she began a year later in 1995. She has been a part-time lecturer for the Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Institute of Vocational Education, and is now one of the workshop facilitators of the CPA Qualification Program for The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The CPA Qualification Program is the only professional program for those wanting to qualify as a Hong Kong CPA, and Edith is also the marker of the Qualification Program exam.

"When I was very young, I would like to play games with my sisters and brothers, where I would act as the teacher and they would be my students," Edith said. "I really enjoyed being a teacher. But as time went by, I also found that I loved mathematics and also enjoyed working with numbers and figures."

Undertaking an MBA with the University of Adelaide, through the Hopkins Training and Education Group in Hong Kong, was not a decision that Edith took lightly.

"I think getting a MBA is very important to me," Edith said. "I chose Adelaide because it is a five-star Australian university and it has a good reputation in Hong Kong."

"I have gained better skills to manage my company, like how to manage my staff more effectively and how to build up better relationships with my clients. These techniques can help my firm for future expansion."

"My MBA degree will also help widening my teaching experience."



Story and photos by Ben Osborne

# Vincent's career move: back to school!

● Graduations | Hong Kong

After 21 years of hard work in the Hong Kong financial industry, Vincent Li has put his promising career on hold – to gain further skills through the University of Adelaide.

Vincent graduated with his MBA from the University of Adelaide at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Hong Kong last month.

Vincent had previously held such positions as Vice-President of the Paine Webber Group's Hong Kong office, and was Division Director with the Equity Markets Group of Macquarie Bank when he made his decision in 2003 to stop working and recommence studying.

"I worked with Macquarie for eight years and have spent 21 in total in the Hong Kong financial industry, but I realised that I would not be able to

go much further without improving my academic qualifications and acquiring more contemporary skills and knowledges," Vincent said.

"So I made the decision to resign from Macquarie and undertake my MBA with Adelaide. I chose Adelaide because a lot of very outstanding and successful senior executives I worked with in Macquarie Bank were graduates from leading Australian universities, including the University of Adelaide.

"My choice proved to be the right one and the course was very enlightening and inspiring. I found the course gave me a much better understanding of how and why things are happening in the business world, and also provided me with very useful tools to compete in a rapidly changing environment."



## Hong Kong business leader speaks



Leading Hong Kong businessman Mr HL Kam's address was one of the highlights of the University of Adelaide's Hong Kong graduation ceremony on Sunday, March 13.

Forty-two students graduated at the ceremony, which was held at the Grand Hyatt Hotel and was the university's second official ceremony in Hong Kong.

Mr Kam is Deputy Managing Director of Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited, and holds numerous other senior executive roles with the Cheung Kong Group, the massive Hong Kong-based conglomerate which employs more than 180,000 people worldwide.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said it was a unique opportunity for the graduating students to receive more than just their qualification.

"We are delighted and honoured that someone of such standing as Mr Kam attended our ceremony to impart to the graduates just some of the knowledge and wisdom he has acquired in his career," Professor McWha said.

"Mr Kam has worked closely with many Australian universities, including the University of Adelaide, in his role as President and CEO of CK Life Sciences, a group which is conducting collaborative clinical trials for cancer and AIDS.

"He also played a significant role in establishing the Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Scholarship Program, which promotes student exchange between Australia and Asia."

Under the scheme, 140 students – including those from the University of Adelaide – are annually given the opportunity to participate in exchanges with counterparts in Asian countries. It is funded half by Cheung Kong Group and half by the Australian Government.

Mr Kam's business dealings with Australia are no less extensive and impressive. Under his leadership, Cheung Kong Infrastructure Holdings has become one of the largest foreign investors in Australia, with an extensive portfolio of energy, transport and water investments. He sits on the Boards of ETSA Utilities and Envestra Limited in South Australia, and numerous other Boards across Australia.

Stories and photos by Ben Osborne

# Language and commerce a good mix

## Commerce

Studying a language is already paying off in the world of business for Commerce graduate Carly McDonald.

After completing a triple major in International Business, Marketing and Management, Ms McDonald is now working as an International Market Research Officer with Joe White Maltings (a subsidiary of one of Australia's largest agricultural companies, ABB Grain Ltd).

"I'm pleased to have got a job so closely related to my qualifications," Ms McDonald said, "and through the cadetship, fortified a position in ABB prior to graduating."

The talented student also pursued Japanese language study during her time at the University of Adelaide. This now gives her a distinct advantage in her current job as her company directly deals with Japanese businesses.

"I'm often able to utilise my language skills for the business' Japanese clients, and it makes me feel more valuable to ABB," she said.

Ms McDonald's involvement with Japan can be traced back to her post-high school days when she went on a Rotary Youth Exchange to the country for 12 months. On her return, she became involved in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards – first as a participant, and then as a committee member and leader. This involvement with Rotary culminated in 2004 with her becoming a member of the Rotary Club of Adelaide Light.

"In this club, members are involved in community activities in Adelaide, such as helping the Adelaide City Council with the parklands (clearing weeds and planting), and working with the St John's Church in our 'beds project' for those in need," Ms McDonald said.



Contributing to the community is still a priority for her as she continues to teach piano at the Novar Music Learning Centre despite her work commitments.

Ms McDonald's networking with ABB Grain began when she won a Management Cadetship at the company in the second year of her degree. The university's career fairs, recruitment services, and staff helped her obtain the coveted cadetship.

"Staff in the School of Commerce, like Chris Medlin, Lee Parker, and Christine Ho, have been very supportive in helping me attain both my academic and career pursuits," she said.

Ms McDonald's many qualities were also recognised last year through the Commerce Alumni Deloitte Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded for academic excellence and evidence of leadership abilities.

The \$5000 scholarship is open to students entering into the final year of a full-time program within the School of Commerce at the University of Adelaide. More information is available from the School of Commerce, the Student Centre, and the Scholarships website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships/)

Story and photo by Sukhmani Khorana

## New scheme for aged care best practice

Could better care for elderly Australians become a reality?

There's new hope, thanks to a training program launched by the Adelaide-based Joanna Briggs Institute.

The Institute, an initiative of the Royal Adelaide Hospital and the University of Adelaide, is offering fellowships to train health professionals and administrators currently working in aged care within Australia.

Developed in alliance with the Commonwealth Government's Department of Health and Ageing, the program has a broad aim to foster best practice in aged care throughout the world.

"The problems in aged care aren't specific to Australia. The issues are

similar throughout the world, and so the best practice we aim to develop is relevant internationally," said the Coordinator of the program and Scientific Assistant at the Institute, Dr Tim Schultz.

"Once we have the initial group of clinical fellows through we hope to call for applications from overseas. We are keen to expand this program, and we are seeking expressions of interest to support it internationally," he said.

Executive Director of the Joanna Briggs Institute Professor Alan Pearson highlighted the positive impact of the program on both aged care residents and those caring for them.

"Health care professionals involved in aged care have long recognised the

need to develop best practice, and I applaud the Australian Government, and the Department of Health and Ageing, for showing initiative in supporting this clinical fellowship program that will undoubtedly lead to better outcomes for aged care residents," Professor Pearson said.

"When I spoke to people in aged care they were all very excited about the project," Dr Schultz said. "They felt it was time. They all want best practice put into aged care."

The scheme is aged-care specific and the first intake of fellows includes people involved in aged care with a wide range of expertise in mental health, quality, medication, clinical nursing consultation, research, administration, and nursing education.

"The Joanna Briggs Institute will train the clinical fellows, who currently work in aged care, in how to examine their practice and use the best available evidence along with various strategies and tools to achieve best practice," Dr Schultz said.

"Aged care has traditionally almost carried a stigma in that it is not an area where the best available evidence has been used extensively. Some people have seen it as secondary in terms of nursing, and generally in the past the feeling is that if you don't have any of those specialities then you go into aged care.

"Fellowships are not just open to nurses. Medical staff, allied health and anyone else working in aged care are invited to apply."

## Vale Dr Miriam Hyde (1913 - 2005)

On Tuesday, January 11, 2005, leading Australian composer, pianist and former student and teacher at the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium, Dr Miriam Hyde died just days short of her 92nd birthday at her Sydney home.

Dr Hyde was born in Adelaide in 1913 where she began studies in piano at the Elder Conservatorium, University of Adelaide under William Silver. In 1931, she graduated with a Bachelor of Music and won the Elder Scholarship to London's Royal College of Music where she studied piano and composition and attained the ARCM and LRAM diplomas.

Seeking the wider scope of Sydney, she taught for several years at Kambala School and has lived in Sydney for most of the remainder of her life, active as composer, recitalist, teacher, examiner, lecturer and writer of numerous articles for music journals.

For a period during the War, however, when her husband, Marcus Edwards, was a POW in Germany, she returned to Adelaide and taught piano and musical perception at the Conservatorium. In 1975, Dr Hyde was appointed Patron of the Music Teachers' Association of South Australia (MTASA).

"As a musician, Miriam was without peer, being an acclaimed composer of music, not only for piano, but other



instruments and also voice," MTASA President Malcolm Potter said.

Dr Hyde was a prolific composer of music and words who wrote over 150 instrumental and vocal works in an early 20th-century pastoral style and was an acclaimed international concert pianist and music educator.

"Miriam established the Miriam Hyde Award for the Music Teachers' Association of SA, and many students

have benefited from winning these awards," Malcolm Potter says.

Dr Hyde's own achievements were recognized through several prestigious honours and awards. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire in 1981, made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1991 and received an honorary doctorate from Macquarie University.

The brilliant Adelaide woman was also adept at literary expression, and had two books of poetry published – *The bliss of solitude*, Economy Press, [1941] and *A few poems*, Economy Press, [1942]. Her autobiography, *Complete accord*, was published by Currency Press, Sydney in 1991, with the royalties being devoted to the scholarship that she won in 1931.

"As our Patron, as a wonderful friend and advocate, and as a musician extraordinaire, Miriam Hyde will be sadly missed, but will enter the history books as one of Australia's and indeed Adelaide's worthy ambassadors," Malcolm Potter said.

The Music Teachers' Association of South Australia has dedicated their 2005 Biennial Summer School to Dr Miriam Hyde.

Miriam Hyde was presented with the University of Adelaide's Distinguished Alumni Award in a private ceremony in her home in Sydney on 8 October 2004.

Australian Institute of Political Science invites you to attend the

## Australian Innovation Festival Luncheon



**Special Guest**  
Laureate Professor Peter DOHERTY AC  
Laureate Professor Peter Doherty AC was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology & Medicine with Swiss colleague, Rolf

Zinkernagel, in 1996 for discovering "the nature of the cellular immune defense" and was also awarded the "Australian of the Year" in 1997.

A Laureate Professor at the University of Melbourne and a Burnet Fellow of the National Health & Medical Research Council, Professor Doherty's research focus is defense against viruses. He has led substantial research in viral immunology at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, John Curtin School of Medical Research and St Jude Children's Research Hospital and is currently developing a new research program at the University of Melbourne.

When:

Thursday 28 April 2005  
12.00 - 2.30 pm

Where:

Radisson Playford  
North Tce Adelaide

Enquiries:

Pamela McLeod  
State Manager  
Tall Poppy Campaign  
0402 228 507

Email:

pamela.mcleod@adelaide.edu.au  
Booking Form:  
[www.talppoppies.net.au/whatson/sa.htm](http://www.talppoppies.net.au/whatson/sa.htm)

Deloitte



Department of Education, Employment, Science and Technology, Government of South Australia



TALL POPPY CAMPAIGN

## Public Forum



### The Contradictions of a New Global Empire? US Power and its Challengers

Countries such as Australia, Canada and Mexico are increasingly being drawn into closer economic, political and international relations with the world's predominant global power – the US. However, these relationships are based upon numerous contradictions. To what extent is there evidence of emerging challenges within these countries to US policies?

Moderator:

A/Professor Carol Johnson, Politics, University of Adelaide

**Professor Stephen Clarkson**, Professor of Political Economy, University of Toronto. *Canada and Mexico: Support and resistance to US hegemony.*

**Professor Gordon Laxer**, Director, Parkland Institute, University of Alberta. *US Empire and popular sovereignty.*

**Dr Patricia Ranald**, Principal Policy Officer, Public Interest Advocacy Centre, Sydney and National Convenor of the Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network. *Nothing free about the US free trade agenda: Neoliberal themes in US free trade agreements and resistance to them.*

**A/Professor Richard Leaver**, Reader in International Relations, Flinders University. *Australia's relations with the US and our region: Are there alternatives?*

**Date:** Wednesday 20 April 2005

**Time:** 5:30pm to 7:30pm

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

**Venue:** Union Hall, University of Adelaide (adjacent to Barr Smith Lawns, eastern side, entrance off Victoria Drive, near University footbridge)

**RSVP** Josie Covino, Don Dunstan Foundation  
8303 3364 or [josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au)

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# New centre responds to industry needs

## Finance

The university's recently established International Centre for Financial Services will set the benchmark by providing unique financial services to industry.

The International Centre for Financial Services (ICFS) will differentiate itself from other centres by focusing on areas not offered by the other institutions, such as banking, insurance, funds management, financial planning, superannuation, venture capital, and property market finance.

"Another point of difference is that we will focus on both Australia and the Asia Pacific region, where many countries are looking to Australia as a model in the financial services and retirement incomes areas," said Mr Clive Perring, Director of the Centre and a 20-year veteran in the financial services industry.

Other Australian universities have set up academic centres covering financial services, but predominantly from a technical aspect.

"This is where we are offering a unique product in that we are responding to industry needs by focusing on the delivery and development of

expertise on the operational and regulatory side of the industry," Mr Perring said.

The Centre will provide the following services:

- The delivery of short courses aimed at professionals within the financial services industry with (possible) articulation pathways to postgraduate coursework programs.
- The development and support of postgraduate coursework programs for the industry in conjunction with the relevant schools within the University.
- The development and provision of contract research capabilities for the industry.
- The development and support of academic and academic/practitioner teams to undertake research on key issues in the industry and to apply for research support from various agencies and industry bodies.
- To encourage and support Higher Degree by Research students to undertake doctoral studies in the general area of financial services.

- To provide a focus and administrative base for a new publication – the International Journal of Managerial Finance – that will be launched by Emerald Press this year under the joint editorship of Associate Professor Ralf Zurbrugg.

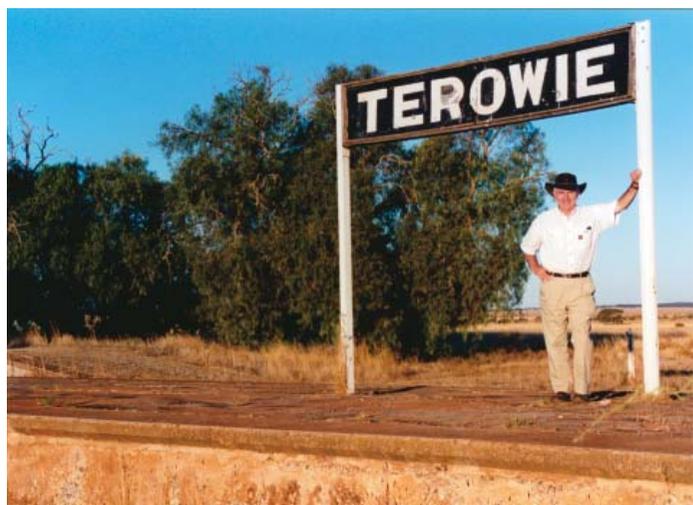
The Centre will also be looking to liaise with a number of bodies within the financial services sector. They include the Australasian Institute of Banking and Finance; the Securities Institute of Australia; the Financial Planning Association; Investment and Financial Services Association; Self Managed Super Funds Professionals Association and the Australian Insurance Institute.

"In adopting an international focus, the Centre will foster excellence in, and improved understanding of the financial services industry by providing strong research, education and training programs and facilities for the industry, its participants, regulators, academia and other interested parties," Mr Perring said.

Story by Howard Salkow

Right: J.P. McGowan in the movie *Cold Steel* (1921)  
Photo courtesy of the State Library of South Australia

Below: John J. McGowan at J.P.'s home town, Terowie



# Hollywood's first Australian celebrated in new book

## History

The little-known story of the first Australian to make a name for himself in Hollywood, J.P. McGowan, will now be told thanks to a new book by a University of Adelaide graduate.

Born in the South Australian mid-north township of Terowie, John Patterson McGowan (1880-1952) became one of the founding fathers of the Hollywood motion picture industry.

Although he was well known during the 1920s and 1930s as a prolific actor and director, his achievements seem to have been forgotten with time.

J.P. McGowan's story is being told by University of Adelaide alumnus John J. McGowan (BA History and Politics, 1974) in the book *J. P. McGowan – Biography of a Hollywood Pioneer*. John McGowan believes he may be a distant relative of J.P.

The book will be launched this month at the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library.

Given that yet another Australian, Cate Blanchett, has recently walked away with an Oscar, John McGowan said it was an opportune time to remember the first local to start the trail of Aussies to Hollywood.

"J.P. McGowan was one of the most significant expatriate achievers never to have been honoured

in his native land. I hope my book will help to redress this situation," Mr McGowan said.

The book recounts the story of J.P. McGowan's amazing life, which included service in the Boer War and several years with travelling theatrical troupes in the United States before he moved into film as an actor in 1909 at the dawn of the Silent Era.

When he retired from the screen in the late 1930s, J.P. McGowan continued to play an influential part in the development of the motion picture industry, becoming the Executive Secretary of the Hollywood Screen Directors' Guild. He held this position for 12 years and helped lay the foundations for today's motion picture industry awards.

In 1950 the Guild recognised McGowan's service with the award of Honorary Life Membership, placing him within a select group of Hollywood luminaries including Walt Disney and Charlie Chaplin. He is the only Australian to have been honoured with this award.

McGowan specialised in action-packed movies and built a reputation as one of the film industry's best directors of this genre. Many of his early productions were railroad dramas and he became known as Hollywood's "Railroad Man".

The biography is the result of many years of research in Australia and the United States by John McGowan, a former producer-director with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation's Education Unit.

"Piecing together the elements of his life, and compiling details of more than 600 productions in which he had been involved, has been time consuming but fascinating," Mr McGowan said.

"Writing the book has involved a great deal of original research because my once-famous namesake had been too busy making movies to record the events of his life in diaries or letters."

*J.P. McGowan – Biography of a Hollywood Pioneer* is published by McFarland & Company, Inc., in the United States and is currently being distributed throughout Australia.

**The University of Adelaide Alumni's Cornell chapter has arranged a book launch in conjunction with the Friends of the Barr Smith Library:**

**6pm Thursday, April 14 in the Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library.**

# Graduate's fate sealed in pewter

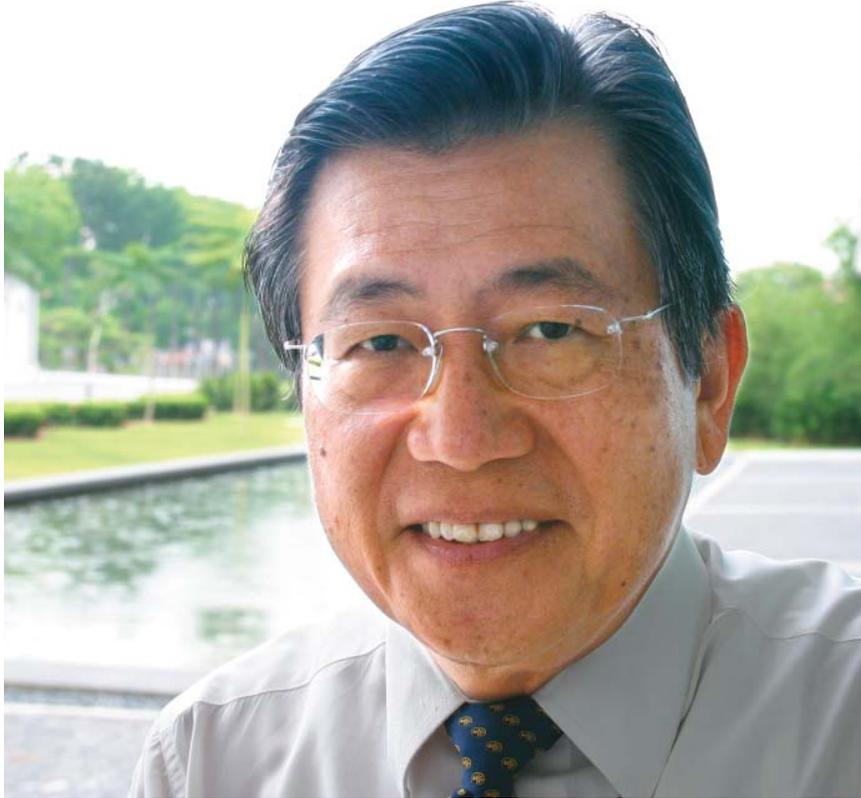
## Alumni

In 1964, Yong Poh Kon was a 19-year-old Malaysian who arrived in South Australia to begin a Mechanical Engineering degree at the University of Adelaide.

Today, he is now known as Datuk Yong Poh Kon and he is in charge of the internationally renowned Royal Selangor International pewter company – but clearly, his university experiences 40 years ago have gone some way to shaping what has become a highly successful career.

Datuk Yong, who gave the graduation address at the University's Malaysian offshore graduation ceremony last month, said his time at Adelaide was beneficial in preparing him for his career at the company started by his grandfather, Yong Koon Seong, in 1885.

"I remember it took a long time to get from Kuala Lumpur to Adelaide – first, we had to fly to Singapore, then from Singapore to Perth, an overnight stay in Perth, and then a flight in a propeller plane to Adelaide," he said.



Datuk Yong Poh Kon,  
Managing Director of Royal Selangor

or five months in Adelaide before I could graduate," Datuk Yong said.

"So I spent a lot of time in the first few months of 1968 with Professor Ross Miller in Chemical Engineering, and he was very generous in letting me use their labs and facilities.

"I did a lot of testing and experiments for the process of manufacturing pewter, such as experimenting with alloys, and so I was able to go back to Malaysia after I graduated with a lot more information and knowledge about how to improve our production processes."

Since Datuk Yong began work at Royal Selangor in mid-1968, he has overseen the rise of the company to be one of the world's finest and largest pewter manufacturers. It produced the medals for the 1998 Commonwealth Games hosted by Malaysia and many other important events and occasions, and has stores across the world.

"When I got there, there were students from the university's Malaysian Students' Association waiting to meet me at the airport and it was nice to know that I wasn't alone."

Datuk Yong went on to complete a first-class honours degree in

Mechanical Engineering by the end of 1967, but said one of the most important parts of his time the University of Adelaide was after completing his scheduled courses.

"Back then the graduation ceremonies were in May, so after I completed my studies I still had four

Story by Ben Osborne

## A new name, a fresh approach!

The Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office will now be known as the Development and Alumni Office.

"The change of name symbolises a new era for the office, with a fresh focus and direction," said Development and Alumni Director Ms Anne Gribbin.

"2004 saw Development and Alumni staff working hard to consolidate past efforts, which have allowed the office to move forward in a positive way. Staff have been exploring a range of ways to add value to the university and its work with students, faculties and alumni.

"The Alumni Association has also welcomed its new chair, Michael Llewellyn-Smith, and has thanked outgoing chair The Hon. Greg Crafter for his efforts and hard work over his term."

For more information about the Development and Alumni Office, please phone Anne Gribbin on +61 8303 4275 or email [anne.gribbin@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:anne.gribbin@adelaide.edu.au), or visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/membership/whatis\\_acro.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/membership/whatis_acro.html)

## Development & Alumni Events

Chapter and Network events provide wonderful networking opportunities and are a great way to stay in touch with other alumni. Visit the Development and Alumni website at [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni), or call the Office on telephone +61 8 8303 5800 for further information.

### Florey Medical Chapter: Film Night

The Florey Medical Chapter presents a screening of Charles Dance's *Ladies in Lavender*, starring Judi Dench and Maggie Smith.

**Date:** Friday, April 8  
**Time:** 7.30pm – 8.30pm showing  
**Venue:** Trak Cinema, 375 Greenhill Rd, Toorak Gardens  
**Cost:** \$15 – includes complimentary glass of wine (7.30pm – 8.15pm)

Bookings are essential and can be made by telephoning Development and Alumni on +61 8303 5800.

### Friends of the Library: Barr Smith Discover Series

Held in conjunction with the Book Collectors Society of South Australia, this one hour lunch time series offers first-hand accounts of Barr Smith Library discoveries, and of the use of the collections for research. The series is free and open to all.

**Session 1:** Reading Baudin's Books, Rediscovering a Discoverer

**Presenters:** Dr Jean Fornasiero and Dr John West-Sooby

**Date:** Tuesday, April 5  
**Time:** 1.05pm - 2.05pm  
**Venue:** Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library Cost: Free!

Further information available at [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/chapters/library\\_chap.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/chapters/library_chap.html)

### MBA Chapter: Network Breakfasts

Purchase your own breakfast, sit amongst your peers and enjoy stimulating conversation and network opportunities. Current students and graduates are all welcome!

**Date:** 1st Wednesday of every month  
**Time:** 7:30am - 8:30am  
**Venue:** East Terrace Café, Adelaide

For information regarding this event, please contact Paul Szuster at [paul@unimeter.com](mailto:paul@unimeter.com), or visit [www.agsb.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/events\\_adel/index.html](http://www.agsb.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/events_adel/index.html)



# Robert can't dodge success in Hollywood

## ● Music

Adelaide music graduate Robert J. Kral has won a major award in Hollywood for his work on an animated children's TV series.

The Annie Awards are Hollywood's leading awards for film and television animation. Mr Kral, a graduate of the University of Adelaide's Elder School of Music, won the award for 'Best Music in an Animated Television Production'.

The award recognises his music for the Warner Bros. series *Duck Dodgers*, which is broadcast to 160 countries around the world (including Australia) on the Cartoon Network.

Mr Kral has made a name for himself in Hollywood, having also worked on the music of acclaimed television series such as *Angel*, *Miracles*, and *Sliders*.

"The Annie award offers me a chance to stand out from the crowd, which is a big one in Los Angeles," Mr Kral told the *Adelaidean*.

The talented South Australian-born composer took an important step in the direction of success when he enrolled in the Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Adelaide's renowned Elder Conservatorium of Music.

Mr Kral attributed the experimental as well as the traditional aspects of his music to veteran musicians like Grahame Dudley, Tristram Cary, Peter Brideoake and Richard Meale, who were all on staff at the university when he was pursuing his studies.



Above: The zany *Duck Dodgers* is a worldwide hit, bringing further recognition to Adelaide graduate Robert J Kral  
Image © & TM 2005 Cartoon Network and Warner Bros. Animation. All Rights Reserved.

Left: Robert Kral with his Annie Award in Hollywood, pictured with actress Christel Khalil

"The University of Adelaide provided particularly important tuition in the areas of orchestration, as was taught by Tristram Cary, and opportunities to experiment with music and film, improvisation and drama in the composer workshops held by Grahame Dudley," Mr Kral said.

"Under Peter Brideoake I studied composition, while under Richard Meale I refined my atonal writing skills which come in handy in today's dramatic film and television scores," he said.

The important contacts that Mr Kral made during his time at the university eventually led him to Hollywood. He met talented Los Angeles-based film and television composer Lolita Ritmanis through then Elder Conservatorium staff member Edgar Kariks, and was thus en route to LA.

Mr Kral also appreciates the music scene in Adelaide, and advised budding University of Adelaide musicians to make the most of their time at the university.

"Adelaide is small enough that it is possible for a composer to have his or her finger directly on 'the pulse', yet it is big enough to generate excitement, and is more than capable of holding very big and exciting events," he said.

"For upcoming musicians studying at the university, the Elder Conservatorium abounds in creative people. Spend time with these people and they will lead you to other opportunities around the nation," he said.

Story by Sukhmani Khorana