

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Scholarships help  
**students to soar**

Story on page 8

# Student choice... more or less

A university's worth, its 'greatness', should be judged by its value to society.

Last month, Deputy Prime Minister Julia Gillard announced the development of a website, building on the MySchool initiative, which aims to increase transparency and accountability in Australia's universities.

I welcomed the concept – anything that helps students gain the best from higher education should be applauded – but this it is tempered with a hint of caution.

Capturing data that is consistent, evidence-based and genuinely representational and constructive, will likely prove a difficult challenge. Shifting the focus from primary and secondary schooling to tertiary studies is more complicated given the absence of standardised testing such as NAPLAN.

The government has already suggested potential indicators for evaluating Australian universities such as student to staff ratios, graduate skills and outcomes and the quality of teaching and learning outcomes.

For a university like Adelaide, internationally recognised for its extensive research capacity, there is a glaring omission relating to research as a measure of institutional quality. The learning experience in a research-intensive university is unique. It offers a richer, more challenging and intellectually stimulating environment to our students at all levels.

Ensuring that research achievement and capacity are core benchmarks of success is fundamental to valuing the greatness of any university.

At present, the proposed website will only scope Australia's 39 universities. This is curious given the number of independent colleges joining the ranks of private universities and TAFEs competing for the tertiary dollar. In South Australia alone, there are 26 degree-awarding institutions. Surely, students stand to gain the most from a more comprehensive review that extends beyond the publicly funded institutions.

If we are to shine the spotlight on the tertiary education sector, we should use a wide-angled lens from the outset.

Choice of further study is extremely subjective. Students come to university for a myriad of reasons, different for everyone. Broadly speaking, we know that prospective students want a quality academic education with top quality staff and state-of-the-art facilities.

We should also make the distinction between perceived prestige and earned reputation. As a Group of Eight (Go8) University, Adelaide is justifiably proud of its long tradition of academic achievement – a track record, including three Nobel Laureates among our graduates, that should inspire and be held in high regard by potential students and the wider community.

However, this is not the time to rest on our laurels. Universities must be responsive. When it comes to student enrolment, we undertake extensive and ongoing research to improve our understanding of what drives student choice and to meet changing needs.

Nor should students be complacent in their decision-making. It is your future. Be proactive and seek out information, ask questions, do your research thoroughly. You are best placed to make the decisions and choices and the more information you have, the better.

The My University website (or preferably My Higher Education), equipped with robust and useful data, will provide another tool to inform choice of further study but remember it is just one other piece of information.

Such an important life decision deserves much more than a cursory glance at a ready-reckoner website.

*These comments were originally published in The Advertiser's EducationNow section.*



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

## Adelaidean

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The Andy Thomas Scholar for 2010, James Francis from Kadina, in the University's School of Mechanical Engineering

Photo by Campbell Brodie, courtesy of *The Advertiser*

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# Online student services are UNIFIED

Students at the University of Adelaide now have a single website from which they can access all of their student systems and personal information.

Called UNIFIED, the site is a gateway (or portal) to a wide range of services, information and resources that students need.

UNIFIED enables students to use their email and calendar, watch and listen to recordings of lectures, view the list of courses they're taking and the grades they've received, search the University's library catalogue and access information about loans they've made, receive uni news feeds and announcements, and use interactive campus maps – with many more services still to come.

Students are able to access all of this and more through a central website with a single login.

UNIFIED was launched on the first day of Orientation Week (O'Week) and has already been visited tens of thousands of times by students.

"UNIFIED, which in simple terms is a portal for students to access a range of services, is a significant change in the way we interact with and deliver services to our students," said Mr Paul Duldig, Vice President (Services and Resources).

"UNIFIED's launch means that new students in 2010 are able to benefit from a cleaner, simpler, and more relevant way of accessing the information and services they need, helping to make their first University experience a truly positive one.

"Today's students are busier than ever – with study, work, sport and social events keeping most students on the move. UNIFIED will help students save time if they're searching for information and accessing resources they need, because that information is now in one place. UNIFIED can also be customised to suit individual students' needs."

Mr Duldig said students were already providing all-important feedback on UNIFIED – "how it's working for them, what else they expect from it and how we can keep meeting their needs".

"With this kind of feedback, students will continue to benefit greatly from UNIFIED," Mr Duldig said.

One student wrote about UNIFIED: "Love this new site! It's so much better to only log in once and have everything I need on that site. Good job! It's easy to read and navigate too. Thank you."

Another wrote: "I'm so impressed with UNIFIED! Why didn't someone think of this earlier!"

**Students can access UNIFIED via the Student Centre webpage or at: <http://unified.adelaide.edu.au/>**

Story by David Ellis

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## News In Brief



### Miles Franklin Literary Award

Novels by two Creative Writing staff members at the University of Adelaide have been selected on the longlist for the 2010 Miles Franklin Literary Award.

*Bath Fugues*, by Professor Brian Castro, Head of the Creative Writing program, and *Figurehead*, the first novel by part-time staff member Dr Patrick Allington, have been selected along with 10 other works for the longlist.

Dr Allington's novel, published last year, formed a major part of his PhD in Creative Writing, which he completed at the University of Adelaide in 2005.

The Miles Franklin Literary Award is Australia's premier literary prize. It is awarded to the novel of the year considered to be of "the highest literary merit and which must present Australian life in any of its phases".

The shortlist will be announced this month, with the winners of the prestigious award announced in June.

### April graduation ceremonies

Around 4200 students are expected to graduate across 12 ceremonies in Bonython Hall at the University of Adelaide this month.

The ceremonies, being held from 12–19 April, feature a number of prominent guest speakers, including environmentalist Dr Barbara Hardy AO, former Supreme Court Judge the Hon. Ted Mullighan QC, arts administrator Libby Raupach OAM, Chair of the South Australian Economic Development Board Mr Bruce Carter, and former Education Minister and current Chair of the Don Dunstan Foundation the Hon. Greg Crafter AO.

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

### Distinguished Alumni Awards – nominations

Do you know someone worthy of consideration for the University of Adelaide's Distinguished Alumni Awards?

Nominations for 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards are currently open.

The awards recognise alumni who have enhanced the reputation of the University of Adelaide and who have either:

- Given outstanding service to the community; or
- Made an outstanding contribution in their chosen fields.

Previous winners of the award include Nobel Prize Laureate Dr J. Robin Warren (1996), science and environment educator and advocate Dr Barbara Hardy (2009), and medical pioneer Dr Basil Hetzel (1995).

To download a nomination form or receive more information, please visit:  
[www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/daa](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/daa)

Applications close 5.00pm Friday 30 April.

# First steps are important

New students at the University of Adelaide are being guided through the first stages of university life – with the help of a semester-long orientation program and an increasing number of peer networking programs.

The University Student Transition Experience Program (UniStep) is a semester-long orientation program that began in Orientation Week (O'Week) with traditional O'Week activities focusing on helping students find their way, providing opportunities to meet other students, attend preliminary lectures and participate in a range of social activities.

"Reality Bites" sessions were also offered in O'Week, giving new students the opportunity to learn about transition issues, the university culture, student support services and to get information and advice about uni life from a panel of experienced students.

UniStep continues throughout the first semester with academic and life skills seminars, events and activities.

A group of more than 135 specially trained students have been adding their support to new students through peer networking (mentoring) programs.

"These mentors provide an invaluable source of information, fostering friendship networks and encouraging a sense of belonging," said Sandra Gault, Coordinator of the University of Adelaide's Transition Unit.

"Transition to university can be a daunting experience and many students underestimate the significant adjustments that need to be made," Ms Gault said.

"Research has demonstrated that the first-year experience, especially the first weeks, can be pivotal in establishing the positive attitudes, approaches to learning and motivation that contribute to students' success.

"The University of Adelaide has recognised the importance of this early experience and is committed to developing innovative approaches to engage and support first-year students."

Ms Gault said many of the student mentors were students who themselves took part in peer mentoring programs as a new student.

"Peer mentoring programs take advantage of the often under-utilised resource of other students. Experienced students are provided with training to develop professional mentoring skills, and they themselves find the experience very rewarding," she said.

Story by Robyn Mills





## Young researchers of the year

University of Adelaide researchers have won two of the five categories in the inaugural Scopus Young Researcher of the Year Awards.

Presented last month by Senator Kim Carr, Federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, the awards aim to recognise and encourage Australia's best researchers aged 40 and under, judged by their research output, the impact of their research and other contributions.

Professor Corey Bradshaw won the Life Sciences and Biological Sciences category and Professor Prash Sanders won the Medicine and Medical Sciences category of the awards.

Another two University of Adelaide researchers, Professor Tanya Monro and Associate Professor Frank Grützner, were also finalists in the awards.

Professor Bradshaw is Director of Ecological Modelling at the University's Environment Institute and holds a joint position with the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

He is a conservation biologist who uses mathematical modelling to understand the complex interactions between plant and animal species within an ecosystem.

His research helps solve complex conservation problems, including the management of pest species, reducing extinction risk and helping preserve biodiversity.

Professor Bradshaw's significant conservation achievements include successful changes to fishing practice, to help conserve endangered grey nurse sharks following his findings on threats to the species; and work detailing the link between loss of natural forest cover and increased flood risk, which has been used in key international reports aimed at helping governments shape conservation policy.

He has published 140 scientific papers and book chapters since completing his PhD just 10 years ago, is Senior Editor of the journal *Conservation Letters*, and established the world's first major blog site on conservation research, ConservationBytes.com.

Professor Prash Sanders, Knapman-National Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology Research at the University of Adelaide, is an internationally recognised heart specialist and Clinical Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH).

He graduated from the University of Adelaide with an MBBS (Honours) in 1994 and was just 34 when he returned to Adelaide in 2005 to take up his present positions.

Professor Sanders established South Australia's first dedicated clinical and experimental electrophysiology laboratories and group, attracting clinicians and researchers from around the world. It is recognised as a leading training centre for electrophysiologists.

Professor Sanders and team are at the international forefront in their research on the understanding and treatment of rhythm disturbances affecting the heart, particularly atrial fibrillation. Up to 300 patients every year at the RAH benefit from his revolutionary new treatments for atrial fibrillation.

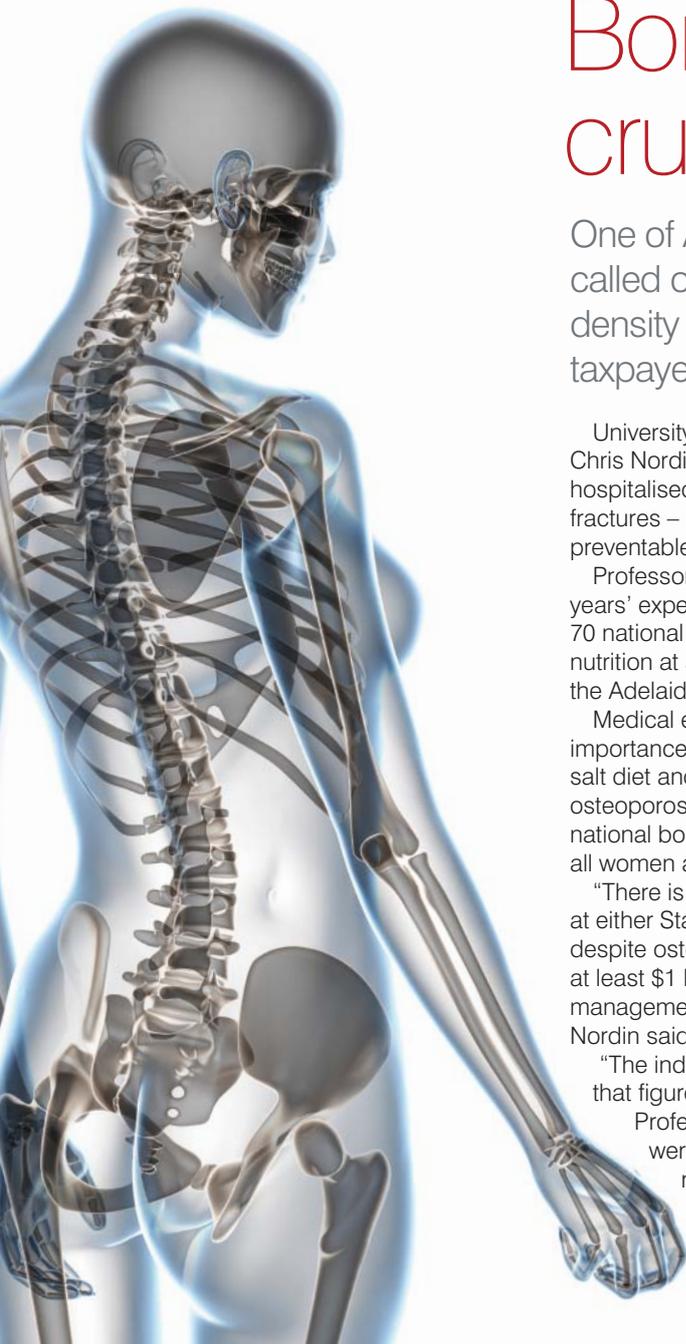
He has published 160 papers in his field, has won numerous awards, and takes an active role in the development of health care services in the developing world.

The Scopus Young Researcher of the Year Awards have been established by Universities Australia and scientific publisher Elsevier.

Story by Robyn Mills

Above left: Professor Corey Bradshaw  
Photo by Chris Tonkin

Above right: Professor Prash Sanders  
Photo by Michael Mullan



# Bone density tests crucial for older women

One of Australia's leading osteoporosis experts has called on the Federal Government to provide free bone density tests to menopausal women in a bid to save taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

University of Adelaide Visiting Professor Chris Nordin AO says 16,000 people are hospitalised in Australia each year with hip fractures – most of which he considers are preventable with diet and lifestyle.

Professor Nordin, who has more than 50 years' experience in his field, was among 70 national experts on osteoporosis and nutrition at a recent two-day workshop at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

Medical experts discussed the importance of calcium, Vitamin D, a low-salt diet and exercise in the prevention of osteoporosis and the urgent need for a national bone density measurement test for all women at menopause.

"There is no public preventive policy at either State or Commonwealth level, despite osteoporosis costing the country at least \$1 billion each year in the management of fractures," Professor Nordin said.

"The indirect costs far exceed that figure."

Professor Nordin said many women were unaware that their calcium requirements rise sharply once they reach menopause, and unless they take more calcium their bone density will fall.

He and his colleagues are pushing for a free bone density test for women at menopause to detect those who are at greatest risk of osteoporosis in the future.

"If the risk is high, these women will be given appropriate advice and encouraged to take responsibility for their own bone health," he said.

"The amount of calcium that people consume on a daily basis through a normal diet is generally not sufficient for post-menopausal women and as they get older they require more Vitamin D as well. Supplements may be necessary to prevent osteoporosis and reduce this scourge of old age."

Professor Chris Nordin is a Visiting Professor of Medicine and Pathology at the University of Adelaide and an emeritus specialist in endocrinology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

Organised by the University of Adelaide's Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Nutritional Physiology (CCRE) and the Royal Adelaide Hospital, the Osteoporosis Prevention workshop is believed to have been the first of its kind in the world.

Story by Candy Gibson

Image by iStock

## Art & Heritage Collections

Mirna Heruc  
Manager, Art & Heritage Collections

Above right: *Dorado*, 1964  
welded steel by Bryan Kneale RA

In 2007, prominent art collector and jazz entrepreneur Kym Bonython, AC DFC AFC, gave the University of Adelaide a special gift – a welded steel sculpture by Bryan Kneale RA.

Bonython purchased the work – *Dorado* (1964) – from London's prestigious Redfern Gallery. *Dorado* is a fine example of 1960s British modernism. Made partly of found materials, it has been fashioned into a combination of soft organic and hard inorganic shapes both complementing and challenging each other.

This work survived the Ash Wednesday bushfire (which sadly destroyed many other works in Bonython's collection held in his Mt Lofty residence) and prior to installation in its current home it was restored with advice from the artist.

*Dorado* now forms part of a significant collection of public sculpture on the University's North Terrace Campus. It can be viewed from the 1st floor of the Napier Building looking into the internal courtyard.

This important gift cements a long relationship between the University and Mr Bonython, who



during the 1960s and 1970s advised the University on art purchases. He was instrumental in the acquisition of some of our most precious artworks, including Arthur Boyd's *Judges* series.

Generosity of this kind contributes greatly to the breadth and depth of our collections. If you, too, would like to contribute, please contact Art & Heritage Collections on +61 8 8303 4031.

# Taking steps towards cheaper space flight

University of Adelaide researchers will help design a hypersonic aircraft as a first step towards cheaper satellite-launching space vehicles.

The University of Adelaide team is part of an international consortium granted \$5 million under the Federal Government's new Australian Space Research Program.

The partners will investigate and develop hypersonic scramjet propulsion technology for a future scramjet-based "access-to-space" industry, rather than just conventional rockets.

A scramjet is an air-breathing combustion engine that can fly faster than the speed of sound (mach 1) and is capable of hypersonic speeds (faster than mach 5). Cost savings can be achieved through the engine's ability to take in air to mix with fuel for combustion.

"Conventional rockets used to launch satellites into orbit or space shuttles have to carry rocket fuel and oxidiser which is very expensive," said Dr Con Doolan, Senior Lecturer in the School of Mechanical Engineering and leader of the University of Adelaide team.

"The air-breathing scramjets still need fuel but don't need the oxidiser, with the potential for substantially reducing the cost per kilogram of transporting payloads into space."

The aim is to produce a hybrid launch vehicle where one stage out of three in a conventional rocket will be replaced with a scramjet vehicle.

"Normally the rocket takes the vehicle to the edge of space and then the second and third stages boost its velocity to put it into orbit," Dr Doolan said.

"We're hoping eventually to be able to replace one stage – probably the second – with a scramjet capable of mach 14 or 15. That's the sort of speed necessary for space flight."

This first-phase project has two parts: a ground test program seeking to extend the potential of scramjets to mach 14 speeds, and designing and building a hypersonic scramjet vehicle with flight testing at mach 8 to take place at Woomera.

The University of Adelaide team, which also includes Associate Professor Ben Cazzolato and Dr Laura Brooks, will be taking the lead on investigating a hypersonic vehicle's dynamics and control.

"We don't really yet understand how to control scramjet-powered vehicles in flight – how to keep them stable and how to execute a manoeuvre," said Dr Doolan. "We'll be leading the research on that aspect."

The mach 8 flight test data will be used to verify ground testing results from wind tunnel facilities. By the end of the three-year project, the researchers should be ready to design and flight test a scramjet at space flight speeds, Dr Doolan said.

The other partners in the program are University of Queensland, the University of New South Wales, the University of Southern Queensland, University of Minnesota in the US, and international aerospace organisations DLR in Germany, the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency and CIRA of Italy, as well as the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Australian Youth Aerospace Forum, BAE Systems Australia, Boeing Research and Technology Australia, AIMTEK Pty Ltd and Teakle Composites Pty Ltd.

Story Robyn Mills



Main image: Image by Bruno Sersocima

Inset: Dr Con Doolan from the School of Mechanical Engineering (far right) and Dr Ian Tuohy from BAE Systems (far left) with students in the control bunker beneath a launch pad at Woomera, prior to the launch of an external burning scramjet



# Scholarships help students to soar

More than 130 of the best new undergraduate students starting at the University of Adelaide this year are sharing in over \$1.5 million worth of scholarships.

The University's range of scholarships is aimed at supporting top students, including those from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds.

Among this year's scholarship winners was James Francis, 18, from Kadina, who was the 2010 winner of the Andy Thomas Scholarship; and Samantha Iannella, 17, from Mt Gambier, who was one of the recipients of the prestigious Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships.

"Scholarships change lives. They are vital in supporting our students, giving them the best possible chance of gaining a quality educational experience," said the University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"Scholarships help to take the financial pressure off students. In some cases it means they don't need to get a job to support themselves while they study, helping them to focus on their education. In other cases it can pay for the essentials of their learning – such as textbooks or a new computer – or to relocate from rural areas to the city.

"Scholarships also act as an incentive for students to achieve excellence in their studies.

"With our range of scholarships schemes, the University of Adelaide is demonstrating an ongoing commitment to educating students based on their ability, regardless of background."

Last month, the University held a special scholarships presentation ceremony for new students in Bonython Hall. The scholarships provided to new undergraduate students at the ceremony were:

- Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships – \$10,000 per year for a maximum of four years to all new University of Adelaide students who receive a TER score of 99.95 (with no bonuses).

This year, 24 Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships were given to new students, with a total commitment from the University of \$960,000 over the next four years.

- Andy Thomas Scholarship – \$6000 per year for a maximum of four years, plus the cost of all Commonwealth contributions (ie, HECS fees) to a maximum of four years.

The Andy Thomas Scholarship – named in honour of University of Adelaide engineering graduate and NASA astronaut Dr Andy Thomas – is offered each year to an outstanding student studying Aerospace, Mechanical or Mechatronic engineering.

The total value of this scholarship is approximately \$55,000 over four years.

- Principals' Scholarships – \$5000 to assist with education/living costs for the first year of a student's program.

These scholarships are available to students who have made a significant contribution to their school and to the wider community. Students must be nominated by their school principal to be eligible, and they must obtain a TER of 80 or greater (including bonus points).

This year, 109 Principals' Scholarships have been awarded, with a total commitment from the University of \$545,000.

At the ceremony, the University also presented the Adelaide Outstanding Achiever Scholarships International, the Adelaide Vietnam Scholarships and the Adelaide Malaysia Scholarships.

Other major scholarships being awarded this year include two schemes aimed at encouraging access to university education for students who suffer some form of disadvantage: the Adelaide Access Scholarships and the Start-Up Scholarships.

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

Story by David Ellis

Main photo by Randy Larcombe

Photo of Samantha Iannella by David Ellis

Photo of James Francis by Campbell Brodie, courtesy of *The Advertiser*



### ADELAIDE UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR

Samantha Iannella, 17, of Mt Gambier in South Australia's south-east, is one of 24 recipients of a prestigious Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarship from the University of Adelaide in 2010.

Samantha is studying for a medical degree (Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery) at the University, pursuing her interests in health care for the benefit of rural communities.

She completed Year 12 at Mt Gambier's Grant High School, studying a total of nine Year 12 subjects, starting when she was only in Year 10. These included dance studies, drama, and English studies as well as specialist maths, maths studies, accounting studies, physics, chemistry and psychology.

"I've always had an interest in the human body, and I'm fascinated by the human interaction between doctors and patients. This was one of the reasons I decided to do medicine," Samantha says.

"Also, there is a real shortage of doctors in country areas. I'm very keen to do my medical training and return to the country so I can help do my part for the community."

Samantha says she is excited about winning an Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarship.

"The scholarship means a lot. It will help out financially so much. Moving from home and relocating to the city, plus ongoing living expenses – these are very real issues that many students have to deal with. I'm pleased that the scholarship will help to give me a high level of financial support during my studies."



### ANDY THOMAS SCHOLAR

James Francis, 18, of Kadina on South Australia's Yorke Peninsula, is the 2010 winner of the prestigious Andy Thomas Scholarship at the University of Adelaide.

James is studying for a Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering at the University, pursuing his love of aircraft and aeronautics.

He completed Year 12 at Kadina Memorial High School and also studied a Year 12 subject at Kadina's Harvest Christian School.

"I've always had a passion for aviation so it's great to be able to study a degree that reflects that interest," James says.

"As a kid I was always building model aeroplanes and boats. I earned my glider pilot's licence by the age of 15 and my light aircraft licence when I was 16, so I could fly a plane before I could even drive a car.

"I'd attended a number of Open Days at the Uni of Adelaide and I remember looking through the jet propulsion labs, the sound labs and at the UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) being built by the students. I thought the odds of me getting into the Aerospace course were probably too high, but I tried anyway and I'm really thrilled with the result.

"To get the Andy Thomas Scholarship is just fantastic," he says. "Many years ago I went to a lecture Andy Thomas gave at the uni – it's an amazing thing that he's done with his career, and to receive the scholarship named after him is a fantastic opportunity.

"The scholarship will help to pay for my living expenses in Adelaide," says James, who has taken up residence at St Ann's College, North Adelaide.

# Peak health body funds key research

Clinical researcher and nuclear medicine technologist Associate Professor Karen Jones has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to medical research by Australia's leading health funding body.



The University of Adelaide researcher is one of nine people across the country to receive a 2010 National Health and Medical Research Foundation (NHMRC) Achievement Award for Career Development.

Assoc. Prof. Jones is currently a Chief Investigator on four NHMRC project grants focused on the role of the gut in postprandial hypotension (low blood pressure after meals) and the management of patients with diabetes. She works in the Centre of Clinical Research Excellence in Nutritional Physiology, Interventions and Outcome (CCRE).

Her award was for the highest ranked applicant for the NHMRC Clinical Senior Career Development Award, which provides her salary as a four-year fellowship.

Over the past 18 years Assoc. Prof. Jones has made significant inroads into the pivotal role of the stomach in low blood pressure (particularly among the elderly) and the management of diabetes.

She was the first nuclear medicine technologist in Australia to gain a PhD (in 1998) and to date has published 89 peer-reviewed papers, 19 editorials and four book chapters.

Four University of Adelaide researchers have also been awarded Training Fellowships from 2010-2013 inclusive, collectively worth more than \$1.25 million. They are:

**Dr Peter Psaltis** (School of Medicine) – \$349,487 Biomedical Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, USA, to research the role of blood vessel stem cells in causing atherosclerosis;

**Dr Adam Elshaug** (Discipline of Public Health) – \$336,170 Public Health Fellowship to work at Harvard Medical School to develop and test a framework for the effectiveness of health care practices;

**Dr Lynne Giles** (Discipline of Public Health) – \$285,000 Public Health Fellowship to investigate the social support structures

needed to maintain women and children's health across their lifetimes;

**Dr Ying Zhang** (Discipline of Public Health) – \$285,000 Public Health Fellowship to develop policies to help the elderly cope with the effects of climate change.

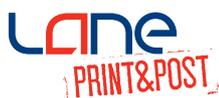
The Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Research) at the University of Adelaide, Professor Mike Brooks, congratulated the five academic staff on their outstanding contribution to medical research in Australia.

"These awards and training fellowships are highly regarded and extremely competitive. It reflects the depth of talent that we have among our researchers and we look forward to the outcome of their individual projects."

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Associate Professor Karen Jones

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# Science is drawcard for agriculture students

Students enrolled in the new agriculture degree offered by the University of Adelaide have endorsed the revised curriculum, which has a greater focus on science and industry experience.

A total of 39 students started their Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree last month, with classes at both the Waite and Roseworthy campuses.

Students will benefit from a substantial investment in facilities at both campuses to keep them at the forefront of teaching and research, according to the Head of the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, Professor Roger Leigh.

"The University is investing \$1 million per annum in new agricultural research activities at the Waite Campus over the next five years. It is also undertaking a major expansion and refurbishment of the Roseworthy Campus to cater for a substantial increase in student numbers there. The students in the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree will benefit from these changes," Professor Leigh said.

The Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree combines science with practical and industry experience, and includes a number of interstate field trips as well as 12-week industry internships.

Enrolments for the combined agricultural degree are as strong as those for the

two former degrees – the Bachelor of Agriculture, based mainly at Roseworthy, and the Bachelor of Sciences (Agricultural Sciences) taught at Waite.

"It shows that students have endorsed a new direction in agriculture education," Professor Leigh said.

A third of the first-year students in the new degree gained TER scores above 80, with one student scoring 96.8 in his Year 12 assessment. Up to 30% of the students also come from metropolitan environments.

"This underlines the fact that agriculture is appealing to a broad range of students, from different backgrounds and academic ability," Professor Leigh said.

"All will graduate with very bright job prospects because Australia desperately needs skilled people in this area. A degree in agriculture also offers a diversity of career options, which is appealing."

First-year student John Swincer has grown up in the city but has always been interested in a career that involves both animals and the land. He said the degree fulfilled these requirements.

Hahndorf resident James Walter lives on a farm in the Adelaide Hills and was prompted to apply for the degree to satisfy his interest in science, plants and genetics.

Romy Bennett of Mundulla in the state's south-east comes from a sheep, cattle and cropping property and said the emphasis on science in the new curriculum proved a drawcard for her: "It is a more appealing degree now and I think the focus on science will broaden our knowledge and improve our job prospects."

Laura Hammond from the Victorian rural town of Lindenow has just finished a gap year and chose the Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences because it combines both her passions: agriculture and science.

This year's cohort comprises 25 males and 14 females, including one international student.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: The majority of the 39 students enrolled in the new Bachelor of Agricultural Sciences degree at the University of Adelaide, flanked by Professor Roger Leigh (far left) and Professor Glenn McDonald

Photo by Chris Tonkin



# Hawker's memory lives on in scholars

Four University of Adelaide students have been awarded the prestigious Charles Hawker Scholarships for 2010.

The Hawker Scholarships, valued at up to \$60,000 over four years, are the most generous privately funded scholarships available to undergraduate and postgraduate students in Australia.

The scholarships are awarded to academically gifted students "of principle and character, who are committed to Australia's future".

Seven Hawker Scholarships have been awarded in Australia in 2010, with four of the scholars enrolled at the University of Adelaide and resident at St Mark's College in Adelaide.

University of Adelaide students Sarah Dickins, Jonathan Hamer, Alicia Hurkmans and Melanie Johnson were presented with their scholarship certificates last month at a function at St Mark's.

Sarah, a former Mt Gambier High School student, is studying Law and Science at the University of Adelaide; Jonathan, from

St Peter's College, is an Arts/Law student; Alicia, who studied at Trinity College, is undertaking a double degree in Chemical Engineering and Science; while Melanie, a former Unley High School student, is studying Law and Health Science.

Since 1991, the Trustees have awarded almost \$4 million to 90 young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. The seven successful candidates for 2010 were awarded a Charles Hawker Scholarship from a strong field of 280 applicants.

"These scholarships have provided opportunities for an increasing number of young Australian students to undertake further studies to achieve their full potential," said former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Member for Wannon and Hawker family member the Hon. David Hawker MP.

"The Charles Hawker Scholarship is one of the most important in Australia. I commend the Trustees for the contribution the scholarship has already made and will continue to make to the education of a number of outstanding young Australians.

"Each of these recipients has already displayed a strong commitment to the ideals upon which the Charles Hawker Scholarship Memorial Trust Fund is founded. They are

gifted scholars with inquiring minds and have already contributed to the wider community."

Mr Hawker said Charles Hawker was "a great Australian who offered his best through his commitment to his country, countrymen and women and democracy".

"These are values that I hope the scholars today take with them into their studies. Through his example and these scholarships it's my hope that public service will be included in the career options of recipients."

The Charles Hawker Scholarship perpetuates the memory and commemorates the achievements of one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers. Born in 1894 at Bungaree homestead near Clare in South Australia, Charles Hawker was educated at Geelong Church of England Grammar School and Trinity College, Cambridge. Student, soldier, pastoralist and statesman, Charles Allan Seymour Hawker died in the Kyeema air disaster in 1938.

**For more information, visit:**  
[www.hawkerscholarship.org](http://www.hawkerscholarship.org)

Above from left: (rear) Hawker Scholar Gigi Cardwell, the Hon. David Hawker MP, Jaan Butler, Jonathan Hamer, Madeleine McCloy; (front) Sarah Dickins and Alicia Hurkmans, following the 2010 scholarship presentation at St Mark's College. Absent: Melanie Johnson. Photo by Rosey Boehm Photography



## Young author makes appeal for library

Meet the public face of the 2010 Barr Smith Library Appeal: highly regarded young author Patrick Allington.

Dr Allington, who has a PhD in Creative Writing from the University of Adelaide, published his widely praised first novel, *Figurehead*, in July 2009.

He also has a Master of Arts (Politics) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University, and in March was awarded the \$15,000 Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship as part of the Adelaide Festival Awards.

*Figurehead* – and the writing process behind it – also formed a significant component of his PhD, which he completed in 2005.

Most recently, his novel has been selected for the longlist of Australia's premier literary prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

After spending many undergraduate and postgraduate hours in the Barr Smith Library, Dr Allington knows the impact it can have on a student's learning and subsequent career path.

"I must have borrowed hundreds of books from the Barr Smith Library in my time, so I'm delighted that *Figurehead* is now on the shelves," Dr Allington said.

"In the digital age, the Barr Smith Library remains a vital part of the student experience at the University of Adelaide. Over the years, it's the diversity of the Library's resources I have most appreciated. I fully endorse the Barr Smith Library

Appeal in its efforts to help keep the Library providing the same resources and support that helped me as a student."

University Librarian Ray Choate said the heart of the Barr Smith Library's purpose now, and into the future, is the enabling of outstanding achievement by University students and staff.

"Our goal is to provide the best possible resources in the best possible environment," he said.

"For example, our Special Collections area has just undergone a significant upgrade and refurbishment and is now on Level One of the Library – and part of that is the University authors collection, which features works by University staff and students such as Patrick's.

"It is my hope that the University community can continue to support the Barr Smith Library Appeal so that many more students, like Patrick Allington, go on to see their own works in the Library."

**To give, or to find out more about the 2010 Barr Smith Library Appeal, please visit: [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl)**

Story by Ben Osborne

Above: Author Patrick Allington in the historic Reading Room at the Barr Smith Library

Photo by Ben Osborne

# Alumni

PRIVILEGES

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: Win an \$80 Haigh's Chocolate Hamper

Haigh's have been very generous by offering Alumni several chances to win throughout 2010. Enter the new competition to be drawn on 30 April for your chance to win a selection of premium mouth-watering chocolates. Increase your chances by entering the other competitions later in the year.

The Haigh's product range varies from tablets of pure chocolate to hand-dipped truffles and presentation boxes. The most popular items include chocolate frogs, apricot fruits, champagne and sparkling Shiraz truffles and the Australian Collection.

For details on how to enter, and check out the full Alumni Privileges Package, logon to: [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges)



# Writing on the Wall

Students are being asked for their feedback about the University's new Student Learning Hub on Hughes Plaza, writes Design Studies student Daniel Brookes.



My name is Daniel, and I like graffiti. And, you know, I'm pretty sure I'm not the only one who does.

Students love defacing things, giving their opinions, discussing, debating, making controversy. And when it comes to the new "Learning Hub" – the \$35 million project being built on Hughes Plaza especially for students – I know a lot of people will want to give their opinion on where those millions are going. Thankfully, a bunch of Architecture students have come up with a solution.

A new student 'consultation wall' has been constructed in the Barr Smith Library, and will provide regularly updated information on the Hub throughout 2010. From concept to completion, the wall will give everyone the chance to provide feedback on the design, from what kind of services are included in the Hub, right through to the interior finishes.

The installation can be found in front of the temporary hoardings on level three of the library. It consists of large floor-to-ceiling acrylic boards which spell out 'WHAT?', and information is printed onto this acrylic.

Permanent markers are supplied so that students can write on the boards, graffiti-style; useful feedback will ultimately inform the final Learning Hub outcome.

The project was created by third-year Design students Mara O'Toole, Tin Do, and myself, and funded by the University's Property Services Department.

"We wanted to make the wall as fun to use as possible," said O'Toole, pointing out the use of bright greens and pinks, and the large, pixelated typography.

The outcome is strongly defiant of the University's typical consultation approach. Whereas in the past, online surveys, application forms and emails have been the traditional student feedback medium, the design team agreed that a back-to-basics approach would be more fun and, crucially, more engaging to students.

"We [as students] don't always want to fill out surveys online... I'm guilty of deleting all of those promotional emails," O'Toole said.

The consultation wall is a non-digital, hands-on installation which encourages feedback written by hand. As Do points out, "It's more personal that way, and you can

see what other people are thinking, too."

The design is an exciting social experiment.

"We're not sure exactly what kind of comments people will be writing," said Do, "but we are pretty certain it will be constructive."

As well as the consultation wall, the Project Development staff have assembled a dedicated Student Reference Group, with students who will continually assess the Learning Hub designs through to its completion, as well as an integrated marketing internship program.

From a student perspective, the new consultation wall heralds the first time in a long time that the University has engaged interested students in a practical, hands-on installation. "We're really grateful for the experience," said O'Toole.

Let's hope the student feedback will be equally positive.

Image courtesy of Daniel Brookes

This article originally appeared in the student publication *On Dit*: <http://ondit.com.au>



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# Our new Fulbright Scholars



University of Adelaide graduates and affiliates will conduct research in the United States on water regulation, particle physics, renewable energy technology and the control of feral pigs, after winning prestigious Fulbright Scholarships.

Graduates Matthew Lee, Lewis Tunstall and Simon Gamble and University of Adelaide affiliate Steven Lapidge were among 25 Australians announced as the latest recipients of the major scholarships – worth up to \$45,000 each – to study in the US over the next year.

Awarded by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, the Fulbright Scholarships give Australian researchers an opportunity to gain an international perspective on their research, and to develop international networks.

**Matthew Lee** is one of two winners of the prestigious Fulbright Postgraduate Alumni (WG Walker) Scholarship, which is funded through donations by Fulbright Alumni and awarded to the highest ranked scholar each year.

Mr Lee, a solicitor with the South Australian Crown Solicitor's Office and a tutor at the University of Adelaide's Law School, intends to study at Harvard Law School focusing on American approaches to

water regulation, water dispute resolution and natural resources management. At Harvard, Mr Lee also intends to participate in interdisciplinary research on water regulation and management with the Harvard Water Security Initiative.

Mr Lee said his experience working on water litigation had made him aware of "the urgent need for Australia to consider alternative approaches to natural water regulation and dispute resolution that offer sustainable outcomes for all Australians".

Mr Lee has Bachelor Degrees in Arts (Politics) and Law, both awarded with First Class Honours.

**Lewis Tunstall** is the inaugural winner of the Fulbright South Australia Scholarship, which is supported by the South Australian Government and the SA-based universities.

A PhD candidate with the University of Adelaide's School of Chemistry & Physics, Mr Tunstall will undertake research in theoretical particle physics at the University of California (UC), Berkeley. His research aims to provide a solution to one of the outstanding problems within the Standard Model of particle physics.

"Despite the great success of this theory, there exist a small number of unresolved issues where the theoretical predictions don't match the experimental results," said Mr Tunstall, who has a Bachelor of Science (Honours) from the University of Adelaide.

His research will lead to increased links between the theory group at UC Berkeley and Adelaide, and it will help to boost Australia's reputation in fundamental science.

**Simon Gamble** is the Fulbright Tasmania Scholar, sponsored by the Tasmanian Government and the University of Tasmania.

The Manager of Technology and Commercialisation with Hydro Tasmania, Mr Gamble will spend four months with the US Government-funded National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). He will study the integration of renewable energy technology in modern power systems, to support the development of a renewable energy power system and research facility for the Bass Strait Islands.

Mr Gamble has a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Masters of Engineering Science from the University of Adelaide.

**Associate Professor Steven Lapidge** has won the 2010 Fulbright Professional Business/ Industry Coral Sea Scholarship.

A Program Leader with the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (IACRC) at the University of Canberra, Associate Professor Lapidge is also an adjunct lecturer with the University of Adelaide's School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences.

"Invasive animals rank only second to land clearing as the biggest threat to biodiversity around the world," Associate Professor Lapidge said.

Through his Fulbright Scholarship, Associate Professor Lapidge will spend three months at the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Wildlife Research Center in Colorado. He will conduct further research in the area of developing sodium nitrite (a common food preservative) for control of feral pigs.

[www.fulbright.com.au](http://www.fulbright.com.au)

Above (from left): Fulbright Scholars Matthew Lee and Lewis Tunstall at the University of Adelaide. Not pictured: Simon Gamble and Associate Professor Steven Lapidge.

Photo by David Ellis



## Research Tuesdays

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH  
WITH THE COMMUNITY



## Defrosting Gondwana

How electromagnetic “eyes” are piercing the Antarctic ice to reveal a former supercontinent’s deepest secrets

Gondwana was the Earth’s last great “supercontinent” – a vast tectonic amalgamation that included Australia, Antarctica and India juxtaposed in East Gondwana around 500 million years ago.

Although East Gondwana’s amalgamations have been broadly understood for some time, the dense Antarctic ice cap has kept many details well hidden. Research at the University of Adelaide, however, appears to be changing that.

Using the remote-sensing technique magnetotellurics, the team recently “looked through” the ice to image a massive proposed suture zone extending deep into the Earth’s crust.

In this fascinating presentation, ARC Post-Doctoral Fellow Dr Kate Selway reveals their findings and explores the ways in which they’ve enhanced understanding of the geological history of our planet.

**WHEN:** 5.30-6.30pm Tuesday 13 April

**WHERE:** Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, North Tce Campus

**ADMISSION FREE, RSVP ESSENTIAL**  
email: [research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au)  
phone: +61 8 8303 3692

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays)

Kate Selway is an ARC Australian Post-Doctoral Fellow in the University of Adelaide’s School of Earth and Environmental Sciences. She was named the 2008 South Australian Young Achiever of the Year for her work in promoting the magnetotelluric method.



### Northern Lights

Three of the University of Adelaide’s historic architectural icons are again featured in this colourful display as part of the official program of the Adelaide Festival.

**When:** From dusk until 1.00am, daily until Monday 5 April

**Where:** Mitchell Building, Elder Hall and Bonython Hall, North Terrace Campus

**Cost:** Free – all welcome

### Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words of Christ*

Performed by the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra with conductor Keith Crellin.

**When:** 3.00pm Friday 2 April (Good Friday)

**Where:** St Peter’s Cathedral, King William Road, North Adelaide

**Cost:** Free

### MBAAA (MBA Alumni Association)

Networking breakfast

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

**Where:** East Terrace Continental café, 6 East Terrace, Adelaide

The MBAAA Executive Committee welcomes contact from MBA alumni and current MBA students in other Australian states or other countries as to your interest in coordinating or participating in networking gatherings with MBA alumni colleagues living in the same city.

Contact the Executive Committee if you are interested and we will coordinate contact between alumni in the same city.

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

### Lunchtimes at ELDERHALL

Adelaide’s favourite lunchtime series of music concerts continues in April. Concerts this month include performances from Jessica Dean and Anthony Hunt, Tessa Miller, Ben Dollman, Graham Strahle and Glenys March, the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra with Conductor Robert Hower, and Dorian LeLjak.

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

**When:** 1.10pm every Friday from 9–30 April

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

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

### Fridays Uncorked 2010

The National Wine Centre of Australia invites you to celebrate the end of the week with a series of Fridays Uncorked. Sponsored by Bremerton Wines (9 April).

[www.wineaustralia.com.au](http://www.wineaustralia.com.au)

**When:** 4.30pm Friday 9 April

**Where:** National Wine Centre of Australia, corner of Hackney and Botanic Roads, Adelaide

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



### Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Anthony Steel, author of *Painful in daily doses: an anecdotal memoir*, in conversation with Ewart Shaw

**When:** 6.00pm for 6.30pm Thursday 15 April

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

**Cost:** Free and open to the public – gold coin donation invited

**RSVP:** Bookings by Tuesday 13 April to [robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au) or phone +61 8 8303 4064

### Student Exchange Fair

Are you thinking about studying abroad? The Exchange Fair is designed to give University of Adelaide students a glimpse into the international learning options available to them. Come along and talk to Adelaide Abroad staff, returned Adelaide Abroad students, and overseas visitors from some of our partner universities.

[www.adelaide.edu.au/student/study\\_abroad](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/study_abroad)

**When:** 10.00am–2.00pm Tuesday 27 April

**Where:** Barr Smith Lawns, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

**Cost:** Free



### Centre for Automotive Safety Research seminar series

*Young Drivers* by Research Officer Dr Lisa Wundersitz

The Centre for Automotive Safety Research invites you to a series of seminars addressing major topics in the fight to reduce road trauma and highlighting the latest research.

<http://casr.adelaide.edu.au>

**When:** 4.00pm Wednesday 28 April

**Where:** Art Gallery Auditorium, Art Gallery of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide

**Cost:** Free

**RSVP:** Please register your attendance with Leonie Witter on +61 8 8303 4114 or email: [leonie.witter@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:leonie.witter@adelaide.edu.au)