

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

May 2009 | Volume 18 | Number 3 | Free Publication



## How one cow will change the world's food supply

Story on page 5

# Going for gold

As a nation, Australia was collectively appalled by its performance at the 1976 Montreal Olympics when it achieved no gold medals.

The Fraser Government created the Australian Institute of Sport and successive governments have invested heavily in sporting development and facilities. Consequently, this country constantly punches above its weight in sporting endeavour and it was not too long ago when, almost simultaneously, Australia held the world titles for cricket, rugby league, rugby union, netball, the men's no. 1 tennis ranking, numerous swimming world records and so on.

Sport is clearly a national priority. When the will exists, we can become the best. We've made a judgement about what we could be good at, and we've invested accordingly.

But what of universities?

On the world stage, investment is focused squarely on the development of higher education systems that are responsive to the challenges of the 21st century.

Across the world, governments are acknowledging the need for rapid and major diversification if universities are to be truly competitive. But in Australia, after years of crippling under-funding, and a clear indication that the higher education system is losing ground, government policy must not just favour specialisation, but must actively drive it, if Australia is to attain the highest levels of excellence on the world stage.

In France, the Operation Campus program announced last year sees investment of €5 billion in the creation of centres of excellence, some of which will include confederations of existing universities but others, significantly, will be new. Germany has increased its R&D funding by a third in three years, with nearly €2 billion alone for improvements in university-based research and

innovation in the five years to 2011. The Canadian Research Chairs program, established in 2000 to fund 2000 research chairs over seven years, has now been permanently established, with competitive annual funding of CA\$300 million.

In China, the Project 211 infrastructure program has seen something like US\$15 billion invested in infrastructure since 1995; or Project 985, which has funded an initial group of 9 universities to the tune of US\$1 billion each, and now includes around 40 universities, each of which receive tens and in some cases hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding in an explicit investment in the future of the nation.

Last year India announced a 21% funding increase to double the number of top-tier institutions in the short to medium term. Indeed, there is speculation that some 1500 new universities will need to be created in the next 5–10 years. The funding needed to support an expansion of this kind will be unprecedented.

And what of Australia? Most of our mainland capitals have several universities. Many of them duplicate programs, service and infrastructure, and there is much that the Government could do to drive reform where the benefits are obvious, like facilitating the transfer or exchange of disciplines, rationalising campus sites (or providing new ones), and even assistance with mergers. Through creating more rational concentrations we can move to more effective specialised institutions or centres of excellence.

I'm not proposing a sort of Stalinist rationalisation here. I'm talking about clear policy incentives to enable our universities to position themselves profitably in the increasingly free market. And we must ensure that, competitive though we will be, there is enough room in our market place for most to thrive.

University funding should follow the strategic choices we make to promote excellence. The system must provide the mechanisms for supporting that goal, unconstrained by methodologies that dilute resources and talent through institutional equalisation. While I don't discount the importance of Olympic Gold medals, perhaps in a rankings list that included both academic stars and sports stars, the former should rightly lead the field.

*This has been edited from the Vice-Chancellor's presentation to the Higher Education Summit in Melbourne in April.*



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

## Adelaidean

*Adelaidean* is the official newspaper of the University of Adelaide.

It provides news and information about the University to the general public, with a focus on Life Impact.

**Circulation:**

11,500 per month  
(March to December)

**Online readership:**

140,000 hits per month (on average)

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

**Editor:**

David Ellis

**Design:**

Chris Tonkin

**Writers:**

Candy Gibson  
Robyn Mills  
Sandhya Rughoo

**Contributors:**

Claire Oremland  
Lana Guineay  
Olivia Jones

**Cover photo by:**

iStock

**Deadline for June issue:**

Friday 8 May 2009

Do you receive too many *Adelaideans*? Not enough? Want to be added to our mailing list?

Contact us to let us know.

**Editorial/Advertising enquiries:**

Phone: +61 8 8303 5414

Fax: +61 8 8303 4829

Email: [adelaidean@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:adelaidean@adelaide.edu.au)

**Mailing address:**

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

**Printed by:**

Lane Print & Post

**Distribution:**

Lane Print & Post  
Passing Out Distribution Co.

Registered by Australia Post

No 565001/00046



*Adelaidean* is printed on 100% Carbon Neutral Paper that is derived from sustainably managed forests and is certified by the Australian Government's Department of Climate Change. *Adelaidean* is printed using vegetable-based inks and is Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF). The paper stock and the printing process are ISO 14001 certified.

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

[www.climatechange.gov.au/greenhousefriendly](http://www.climatechange.gov.au/greenhousefriendly)

[greenhousefriendly](http://greenhousefriendly)



# Our Young Achiever

A young University of Adelaide researcher has taken out one of the major prizes at this year's Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards.

Cadence Minge, who studied the effect of obesity on female reproductive health for her PhD, has won the University of Adelaide Faculty of Sciences Science and Technology Award.

Ms Minge's research discovered a link between obesity and infertility, with the eggs suffering damage because of excessive bodyweight.

"At Adelaide's IVF clinics, a disproportionate percentage of women seeking assisted reproduction are overweight or obese. The research carried out by our group has dramatic implications for such overweight women of reproductive age, as it reveals that excessive body weight is responsible for the release of eggs of severely impaired quality, and indicates long-term adverse consequences for the offspring such eggs produce," Ms Minge said.

Using mice as a model for obese people, she carried out her research at the University's Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

"Winning the award was very humbling as I was nominated with many other impressive PhD candidates. I was just delighted to receive this significant recognition and I am appreciative of the opportunity to talk even more about the science I love," Ms Minge said.

Her PhD research also earned her the Young Investigator Award in 2007 and she was selected as a "Fresh Scientist" in a national competition which identifies new and exciting research.

Ms Minge's research was published in *Biology of Reproduction, Endocrinology and PPAR Research*.

She has also been involved in articulating the importance and direct benefit of medical research to the public as SA Chair of the Australian Society for Medical Research and was responsible for the coordination of the South Australian Medical Research Week events.

Ms Minge is currently working for the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Sciences Marketing and Outreach team, enjoying the experience of sharing new discoveries with the public.

Story by Sandhya Rughoo

From left: Cadence Minge with Professor Bob Hill, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, at the Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards



## Contents

- 4 Vet school underway at Roseworthy
- 5 **COVER STORY** How one cow will change the world's food supply
- 6 Quartet shows true dedication
- 7 New research swots mosquitoes  
Medical Students' Society celebrates 120 years
- 8 Women turning to "untested" HRT alternatives
- 9 Students aim to crack 60-year-old mystery
- 10 The Roof of the World Adelaide's farming research travels to Tibet
- 12 Taking Chinese studies to schools  
Top athletes are new faces of campus sport
- 13 Medicos get a blast from music
- 15 Jazz legends in the making
- 16 Politicians show bipartisan support
- 17 Barr Smith Library Appeal
- 18 Joint call for improved student income support
- 19 Rising stars shine at night  
Music masterclasses not just for students
- 20 Coming Events

# Vet school underway at Roseworthy

The University of Adelaide and the State Government have turned the first sod at the site of South Australia's inaugural Veterinary Science School, at the University's Roseworthy Campus.

The \$37 million Vet School, to be completed in 2010, will address the serious shortage of vets in South Australia and provide local students with some of the best teaching resources anywhere in the world.

Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha and the new Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, the Hon. Michael O'Brien, turned the first sod at a ceremony at Roseworthy in March.

The project is jointly funded by the Commonwealth (\$15m) and State (\$5m) governments and the University (\$17m).

It involves construction of a new 5000-square metre building that will house teaching laboratories, a clinical skills laboratory, an e-learning centre, a pathology teaching and diagnostic suite and a veterinary teaching hospital at the University's Roseworthy Campus. The

project also includes the refurbishment of existing lecture theatres, laboratories and offices.

"Adding veterinary science facilities to the Roseworthy Campus helps cement its place as a leader in science, research and innovation for the State's animal health and agricultural industries," Professor McWha said.

"This building project is a significant part of the University's development program, which will see more than \$400 million being invested in state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities on the North Terrace, Waite and Roseworthy campuses by 2010."

The new Vet School had its first intake of 47 students in 2008 for its three-year Pre-Veterinary undergraduate Science degree and received about 400 applications for places in the 2009 intake. To complete their training, graduates of this degree program will then study for a three-year postgraduate veterinary science degree. There will be 70 places a year for the postgraduate veterinary science degree starting in 2011.

The Head of the School of Veterinary Science, Professor Gail Anderson, said veterinary students at the University of Adelaide would have a broad exposure to all aspects of veterinary science, including livestock production, equine health, aquaculture and biosecurity, companion and exotic species.

"South Australia offers alternative opportunities for veterinarians, including involvement in the vital and expanding aquaculture industry," Professor Anderson said. "In particular, we hope this School will address the serious shortage of vets in South Australia.

"The new facilities will enable students to utilise teaching resources that are among the best of their kind anywhere in the world.

"Connection to the SABRENet network will facilitate video link learning with various regional partners, while world-class audio visual facilities in our labs and surgery suites will enable remote teaching throughout the facility for students and continuing education vets.

"Our curriculum is integrated to allow early introduction of clinical material to the students so they see the relevance of their basic science training from early on in the course."

Story by Olivia Jones

Below (from left): Roseworthy Campus Director Professor Phil Hynd, Member for Light Mr Tony Piccolo MP, Head of the Vet School Professor Gail Anderson, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences Professor Bob Hill, Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education the Hon. Michael O'Brien MP and Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha at the sod turning event  
Photo by Nigel Parsons





# How one cow will change the world's food supply

A US\$52 million international project to sequence the genetic blueprint of a female Hereford cow will revolutionise the world's dairy and beef cattle industry.

That's according to genome expert Professor David Adelson from the University of Adelaide, who is one of more than 300 researchers from 25 different countries who have spent six years mapping the bovine genome, the first mammalian livestock animal in the world to be sequenced.

The results of the project were published last month in the internationally prestigious journal *Science*.

Professor Adelson, Chair of Bioinformatics and Computational Genetics at the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, said the genetic sequencing of "Dominette" would pave the way for more sustainable food production around the world.

"This will have a significant impact on genetic selection for dairy production, for meat production and for food efficiency," he said.

"It will mean that livestock producers will not only be able to breed superior animals but they will be able to assess the genetic potential of the animals they have."

The authors of the paper said the bovine genome, containing between 22,000 and 26,835 genes, was more similar to that of humans than mice or rats, although the DNA of cattle chromosomes is rearranged in some areas.

"During evolution, domesticated cattle and other mammals diverged from a common ancestor that gave rise to humans about 95 million years ago, yet cattle and humans still share a high degree of commonality in the organisation of their chromosomes."

The knowledge gleaned from sequencing a single Hereford cow could lead to more efficient beef and milk production, Professor Adelson said.

He said the cattle and dairy industry would soon be able to use a relatively cheap test, costing several hundred dollars, to assess the genetic potential of their animals at birth.

"This will tell them which livestock will produce superior meat or milk output without investing too much money to improve their condition.

"With the right kind of genetic testing, dairy producers in particular will be able to predict – with a high degree of accuracy – the animal's genetic potential. This will speed up and lower the cost of their genetic improvement programs considerably," he said.

Professor Adelson started work on the sequencing project in 2003 as a consortium member of the Baylor College of Medicine Human Genome Sequencing Centre in Texas, which has led the international project.

He joined the University of Adelaide in 2007 and has led one of the key teams analysing the sequencing data for the past 12 months. Dr Stefan Hiendleder from the University's Roseworthy Campus is also a co-author on the manuscript for his work on annotating imprinted genes.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above (main): the Hereford cow "Dominette", officially known as L1 Dominette 01449, which was used for the genome sequencing

Photo by Dr Michael D. MacNeil, USDA-Agricultural Research Service

(inset): Professor David Adelson

# Quartet shows true dedication



From left: The Australian String Quartet: Rachel Johnston, Sophie Rowell, Anne Horton and Sally Boud  
Photo by Jacqui Way

The Australian String Quartet returns to Adelaide this month as part of its second national tour of the year.

Their 18 May concert, *Dedication*, features the winner of the 2008 Sydney International Piano Competition, Konstantin Shamray, who will join the ASQ in a performance of Schumann's Piano Quintet.

The concert program begins with Australian composer Gordon Kerry's *Variations*, chosen as part of ASQ's ongoing and dedicated commitment to supporting Australian works. With its light and delicate textures, *Variations* will contrast with the

following work, Brahms's dramatic and passionate String Quartet in c minor.

"The first half of this program features works that showcase completely different musical thoughts," said ASQ violinist Sophie Rowell.

"Gordon's *Variations* beautifully uses the delicate balance of conversation that it is uniquely possible to create within a string quartet, whereas Brahms is at his most romantic in this wonderful, turbulent Quartet in c minor."

This tour also welcomes violist Jürg Dähler to the stage, who is sitting in for ASQ member Sally Boud while she is on maternity leave.

"We are really looking forward to incorporating Jürg's distinctive musicality into our quartet sound," Rowell said.

Established in 1985, the ASQ is Quartet in Residence at the University of Adelaide's

Elder Conservatorium of Music and is supported by the Government of South Australia and the Australia Council.

The current membership of Sophie Rowell and Anne Horton (violins), Sally Boud (viola) and Rachel Johnston (cello) was established in 2006.

The group will tour Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth before returning to their hometown of Adelaide for the 18 May concert. The quartet will then present an extensive regional tour throughout South Australia presented by Country Arts SA.

*Dedication* is at 7.00pm 18 May in the Adelaide Town Hall. For more information about the ASQ phone 1800 040 444 or visit: [www.asq.com.au](http://www.asq.com.au)  
Bookings at BASS: 131 246 or [www.bass.net.au](http://www.bass.net.au)

## Art & Heritage Collections



This beautiful stained-glass window by artist Edith A Lungley was commissioned by the University of Adelaide in memory of Thorburn Brailsford Robertson (1884–1930), Professor of Biochemistry and General Physiology at the University of Adelaide.

Robertson championed biochemistry and was the first professor of the subject in Australia. He pioneered the production of insulin in Australia, with insulin first produced by his research team in the University of Adelaide's Darling Building in 1923.

Mirna Heruc, Manager, Art & Heritage Collections

Edith Lungley trained in glass painting at the Royal College of Art, London. Her artwork, which uses Christian imagery, is situated in the University's Mitchell Building and can be viewed from the back stairwell.

Anyone who would like to see the work can contact Mirna Heruc on +61 8 8303 4031 or email: [mirna.heruc@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:mirna.heruc@adelaide.edu.au)

Right: Detail of *Knowledge*, stained-glass panel created in 1931 in London by Edith A Lungley (1876–1939 Australia/Great Britain)





# New research swots mosquitoes

University of Adelaide researchers have shown they can predict the biggest population peaks of disease-carrying mosquitoes up to two months ahead.

This should help the fight against outbreaks of serious mosquito-borne disease like dengue and Ross River fever by allowing efficient and cost-effective mosquito control, according to ecologist Associate Professor Corey Bradshaw.

"The risk of disease transmission is highest when mosquitoes are at their most abundant," said Associate Professor Bradshaw, who is from the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and also employed as a Senior Scientist by the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI).

"This model is a tool that helps predict when there is going to be a higher-than-average outbreak so that population control efforts can be implemented when they are going to be most effective and are most needed."

The University of Adelaide researchers analysed 15 years of population data of *Aedes vigilax*, the northern Australian mosquito that transmits the Ross River and Barmah Forest viruses, and compared it with environmental factors affecting populations, including tides and rainfall.

"We found that basic environmental monitoring data can be coupled with

relatively simple population models to assist in predicting the timing and magnitude of mosquito peaks which lead to disease outbreaks in human populations," Associate Professor Bradshaw said.

In salt-loving species like the *Aedes vigilax* mosquito, populations tend to peak after very high tides. But the frequency of high tides and the amount of rainfall in the preceding months when mosquito numbers are low are the critical elements dictating the magnitude of eventual peaks.

"Previously, we didn't know how big that peak would be," Associate Professor Bradshaw said. "With this model, mosquito control efforts can be scaled according to the expected size of a future peak."

He said the same model could be applied to other mosquito species, such as dengue- or malaria-transmitting species, and others in tropical regions worldwide.

The research is detailed in a paper published online in the Public Library of Science journal *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*.

Story by Robyn Mills

Photo by Gabor Bibor



## Medical Students' Society celebrates 120 years

The University of Adelaide's oldest student society, the Adelaide Medical Students' Society (AMSS), recently celebrated its 120th anniversary with coffee, cupcakes and casual fun.

"We wanted to have a casual Friday afternoon affair to allow students and staff to celebrate this milestone in the society's history. It was a great success, as we had an attendance of around 150 people," said Sophie Nelson, the current Vice-President of the AMSS.

Formed in 1889, the AMSS is responsible for the representation of medical students at the University. In its 120th year, the Society comprises around 600 members, or approximately three-quarters of all medical students studying at the University of Adelaide.

"The Society provides students with a myriad of sporting, philanthropic, social, and educational opportunities. Moreover, it provides for the welfare of its members through the AMSS Benevolent Fund, which assists both medical students in financial need, and those seeking to expand their personal and professional horizons," Ms Nelson said.

The AMSS also provides regular insights into student and Society news, and showcases a mix of topical and educational articles, through its quarterly publication, *[stimulus]*.

In 2008, the AMSS donated almost \$25,000 to charitable causes like Oxfam's "Close the Gap" campaign, the Women's and Children's Hospital and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The Society's other main celebration of its 120th anniversary, a Gala Dinner, will be organised at the National Wine Centre on Friday 18 September and will be directed towards medical school alumni.

"At this landmark anniversary, the AMSS aims to launch its newest initiative, the 'AMSS Foundation'. After a significant period of investment, this is envisaged to eventually become an alternative income stream for the society, enabling AMSS to further increase its contribution to medical student life at the University of Adelaide," Ms Nelson said.

For more information about the AMSS and its 120th anniversary celebrations, please email the current President of the Society, Mark Hassall, at: [president@amss.org.au](mailto:president@amss.org.au)

Story by Sandhya Rughoo

Above (from left): Jessica Conway and Lucy Buchanan were among the many AMSS members at the celebratory high tea

# Women turning to “untested” HRT alternatives

University of Adelaide researchers have expressed concern over the number of women turning to alternative therapies for relief of menopausal symptoms.

Hormone replacement therapy (HRT) use is declining, but women still need relief from menopausal symptoms and are turning to ‘alternative’ hormone therapies, despite such therapies being unproven for safety and effectiveness.

That’s the finding of a review carried out by Australian researchers – led by the University of Adelaide – using data from the South Australian Health Omnibus Survey (HOS).

The results were published last month in the international journal *Climacteric*.

The HOS is a regular survey of health-related issues in South Australia. The survey interviewed 953 women over the age of 40, which included 688 women over the age of 50. Women were asked about various health-related issues, including HRT use.

The main findings were:

- In 2004, 15.8% of women above the age of 50 were using HRT, a fall from 22% in the year 2000. In 2004, use of ‘alternative hormonal therapies’ was rare;
- In 2008, conventional HRT use over age 50 had dropped further to 11.8%, and the number of women taking alternative untested hormonal therapies had risen to 4.0%;

- Women wrongly identified alternative therapies such as ‘bioidentical hormone therapies’ as a safe hormonal alternative to conventional HRT.

Menopause specialists say the best and safest period to commence HRT is near the menopause. In 2008, 13.4% of women aged 50-59 years used HRT, compared with 7.7% in this age group who use unconventional, unregistered alternative hormones.

The lead researcher, Professor Alastair MacLennan, Head of Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide, said he was concerned that women were turning to alternative therapies for relief of menopausal symptoms without knowing the facts.

“Alternative practitioners are capitalising on women’s fears by promoting ‘bioidentical’ hormones, and herbal remedies,” Professor MacLennan said.

“‘Bioidentical’ hormones are untested for long-term safety and efficacy and no herbal medicine has a greater effect than the normal placebo effect on menopausal symptoms.

“Most objective observers would agree that the risks of HRT were overstated following the early results of part of the US Women’s Health Initiative study in 2002. HRT is still the best way to treat debilitating menopausal symptoms for the vast majority of women.

“These scares have led to HRT use dropping, but for many women, the need for help through the menopause has not gone away, and so women are turning to those selling unproven and possibly dangerous alternatives.

“It is important that women suffering from menopausal symptoms discuss evidence-based management with a qualified doctor before choosing treatment,” he said.

The Chair of the International Menopause Society, Dr David Sturdee, said: “It’s extremely important that women receive the correct treatment, rather than try something which may have no effect or may even be harmful. I’d urge women to contact their doctor before starting any treatment for menopause symptoms.”

Story by David Ellis



## Students aim to crack 60-year-old mystery

A mysterious death that took place in Adelaide more than 60 years ago is being used as the basis for an undergraduate project for two Electronic Engineering students.

Honours students Andrew Turnbull and Denley Bihari are trying to crack a secret code associated with the dead man, who was found slumped on a seawall at Somerton Beach in December 1948. The man was initially believed to be poisoned, but a post mortem examination could not establish a cause of death.

During the coronial inquest a year later, pathologist Professor John Cleland from the University of Adelaide was assigned to re-examine the evidence.

He found a piece of paper tightly concealed in a fob pocket in the man's trousers, with the words "Tamám Shud" printed on it. This is the only clue police have to solving the identity of the unknown man, thought to be aged about 45 at the time.

The phrase means "ended" or "finished", and was found on the last page of a collection of poems called *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*. Coincidentally, an unnamed man found a translated copy of the book in the back seat of his car parked on Jetty Road, Glenelg, the night before the man's body was found.

The book was missing the words "Tamám Shud" on the last page and microscopic tests indicated that the colour and texture of the piece of paper matched the book.

In the back of the book, faint pencil markings of a few lines of capital letters were found. Initially the letters were thought to be words in a foreign language before it was realised it was a code.

Code experts were brought in to decrypt the letters without success.

Six decades later, police are no closer to solving the mysterious death.

Professor Derek Abbott from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering believes his students may have the best chance yet of cracking the case.

Using their knowledge of information theory and statistics, the students are taking a structured approach to studying different coding schemes, termed 'cipher cracking'.

The students will use a process of elimination to determine whether particular coding systems were used or not.

"While this project has an added excitement factor, due to a mysterious death, it also has a serious, hard-core engineering side," Professor Abbott said.

"Andrew and Denley will use techniques in information theory, probability, statistics, encryption, decryption and data mining. The project will also improve their software skills."

The Somerton man, of European appearance, carried no identification and his dental records did not match any known person.

An autopsy revealed that his stomach was highly congested with blood and his

heart had failed, traits consistent with poisoning. However, tests failed to reveal any foreign substance.

Scotland Yard was called in to assist with the case but with little result. Despite a photograph of the man and his fingerprint details being circulated throughout the world, no positive identification has ever been made.

Rumours that the dead man was a Russian spy, poisoned by unknown enemies, have been fuelled by the mysterious nature of the case and the secret code.

"This was a significant time in Cold War history," Professor Abbott said. "The Prime Minister, Ben Chifley, was confronted with an embarrassing situation because the Americans had banned all classified information to Australia in 1948 due to a suspected leak from Australia to Moscow via the Russian Embassy in Canberra."

In the 61 years since the Somerton death, numerous efforts have been made to crack the code, including efforts by military intelligence and mathematicians.

Andrew and Denley will spend the remainder of this year working on the code cracking aspects of this project. They are being supervised jointly by Professor Abbott and Dr Matthew Berryman from the University of South Australia.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Professor Derek Abbott flanked by Electrical & Electronic Engineering students Denley Bihari and Andrew Turnbull, with the code they are hoping to crack

Photo by Candy Gibson

# The Roof of the World

## Adelaide's farming research travels to Tibet

A University of Adelaide-led project to help Tibetan farmers increase their grain, fodder and milk production is helping to drive agricultural development in one of the world's poorest countries.





The project, now in its fifth year, has introduced new cropping practices into Tibet and trained young scientists from the Tibet Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) in techniques aimed at increasing farmers' average income of about \$2 a day.

Led by Agronomy Chair Professor David Coventry and Dr Nick Paltridge from the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, the project has also resulted in the University welcoming its first – and believed only – Tibetan student in its 135-year history.

Pebu Drolma is studying for her Masters of Plant Health and Biosecurity at the Waite Campus after winning a prestigious John Allwright Scholarship from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR).

The 33-year-old from western Tibet has an undergraduate degree in agronomy from the Southwest Agricultural University in China and is in the first year of her Masters, specialising in plant diseases.

Her home town is Ngari, located 4500 metres above sea level and inhabited by yaks, Tibetan antelopes and wild donkeys. Often referred to as the "Roof of the World", Nagari is the homeland of the Tibetan religion Buddhism. Prior to starting her Masters degree, Drolma undertook five months of intensive English language training in Adelaide.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for me," Drolma said. "I hope to learn as much as possible about plant diseases so I can work directly with Tibetan farmers and improve their crop yields."

Also benefitting from the University's research work in Tibet is recent Bachelor of Agriculture graduate Tim Heath, who has won an Australian Youth Ambassador

for Development award to work in Tibet for several months.

Tim, 21, will work alongside Dr Paltridge in Tibet for part of this year, helping to combat weeds which compete with arable crops in that region.

Around half of Tibet's 2.7 million people practise intensive agriculture and keep livestock in a network of valleys located at between 3500 and 3950 metres above sea level.

"Farming systems are heavily focused on the production of spring barley and winter wheat and current levels of production provide sufficient grain for human needs," Dr Paltridge said. "However, the existing system provides little fodder for animals and, consequently, livestock – in particular dairy cattle – do not produce much milk and often die in Tibet's harsh winters."

In the first stage of the project, existing agronomy systems in Tibet were reviewed, providing a foundation for additional agricultural research and development, both locally at TARI and with international collaborators.

Working in tandem with the University of Adelaide on this project are the NSW Department of Primary Industries, Rural Solutions SA and the University of Queensland. The project is being funded by ACIAR.

The team of researchers is now working on the second stage of the project, which presents some daunting challenges.

"Over the next three years we want to increase household income and industry productivity in Tibet," Dr Paltridge said. "This will be done by developing community-based initiatives in dairy, crop and fodder production for farmers in the central valleys of Tibet."

Eight Australians and up to 20 Chinese and Tibetan researchers are involved in the project, predominantly from TARI, with several undertaking training at the University of Adelaide over the past four years.

"We have helped to identify new fodder crops that are suitable for growing in Tibet and introduced systems for fodder production that do not have adverse impacts on grain production.

"Cereal crops are the staple food for Tibetan farmers so we can't substitute them for fodder crops, but we can intercrop wheat with vetch and lucerne crops.

"The end result is that you can feed both humans and livestock," Dr Paltridge said.

Professor Coventry said the majority of grain produced in Tibet is for household use, but any surplus is a welcome outcome as it helps to boost farmers' incomes.

"They may not be driven by a profit motive the way we are in the developed world, but if they can produce more grain and fodder without extra labour they are happy to sell the surplus and improve their income.

"Tibet has rich soils, sufficient moisture and a lot of sunshine – great conditions for growing crops and fodder. Our job is to help optimise output from these conditions," Professor Coventry said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Opposite page: Professor David Coventry and Dr Nick Paltridge with Tibetan locals and colleagues

Photo courtesy of Dr Nick Paltridge

Above left: Professor David Coventry, Tibetan student Pebu Drolma and Dr Nick Paltridge in Adelaide

Photo by Candy Gibson

Above right: Farming in Tibet



## Taking Chinese studies to schools

The University of Adelaide's Confucius Institute will play a key role in Chinese language and cultural studies in South Australian Government schools, thanks to a new agreement between the University and the State Government.

Under the agreement, the Confucius Institute will provide input into the development and implementation of quality Chinese language and cultural studies programs for teachers, principals and school communities throughout the State.

The main focus for the Institute will be on assisting the Department of Education and Children's Services to further develop the language proficiency, cultural awareness and understanding, and language teaching methods of Chinese language teachers.

The Institute will provide a range of support to foster the study of Chinese in South Australian Government schools, including input on resources that teachers can use with students in the classroom.

The agreement was signed recently by the Minister for Education and Children's Services, the Hon. Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, and the Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha (pictured).

"There is already a very good working relationship between the Confucius Institute and the Department of Education and Children's Services. This formal agreement will enable us to work even more effectively together to promote learning and understanding of Chinese language and culture in schools," Professor McWha said.

The Confucius Institute, established at the University of Adelaide in 2007, aims to increase the understanding of Chinese language and culture, and help build and strengthen economic and business links with China.

Chinese (Mandarin) is one of nine key non-indigenous languages offered in South Australia's public education system.

Students learning Chinese can already benefit from language and cultural programs offered by the University of Adelaide's Confucius Institute, such as calligraphy, and school visits by visiting educators from China.

"We have been organising Chinese cultural programs in schools, starting with our artist-in-residence program, and this year we will be running an art competition for school students," said the Director of the Confucius Institute, Professor Mobo Gao.

Story by David Ellis



## Top athletes are new faces of campus sport

Two leading athletes have been appointed as Sports Development Officers to promote sports and recreation at the University of Adelaide.

They are Holly Noack, a prominent 800m Australian runner, and Caitlin Stanley, one of the State's top 400m specialists.

Holly, a University of Adelaide graduate in Health Sciences, has just started her fifth season in competitive athletics.

She said that her love for sport led her to study Health Sciences.

"My fascination with the body comes from being very active from high school, pushing the boundaries as far as fitness is concerned and understanding the body," she said.

Before becoming a professional athlete, Holly was an A-grade netball player. While she was still a university student, she played centre for the South Australian netball team.

Caitlin, who has graduated in Social Work from the University of South Australia this year, said she loves sport and people.

"I love sport but there is more to me than sport. I am a pretty intuitive person, so I love walking in a room and knowing how to talk to people. I think that's a strength of mine," she said.

While she has been running since she was little and played A-grade softball during high school, she decided to turn professional 12 months ago.

"Sport is so much fun and I love the feeling that I get when I run."

Both Holly and Caitlin come from very sports-oriented families. They think that it has contributed to their enthusiasm for sport, which they want to pass on to university students.

They believe that they will be able to provide a link between the University of Adelaide Sports Association and the different sports clubs of the University.

"The sports are fairly established here. We want to create a culture and make people proud of being involved in the University of Adelaide as far as sport is concerned," Caitlin said.

Holly and Caitlin also hope their appointment will give a boost to elite athletes studying at the University.

They believe that the future of sport at the University of Adelaide is looking bright, with increased participation at the recreational and competitive levels.

"There is so much potential. We have great facilities as far as the lawns and gyms go. Now we want to create an environment where people get excited about sport and I believe that we are going in the right direction," Holly said.

On a more personal level, Holly is aiming for Commonwealth Games selection in 2010 in 800m, while Caitlin has similar ambitions for the 2014 Games in 400m.

The Adelaide University Sports Association is currently seeking nominations to its Board, with nominations closing on 15 May. For more information contact the Sports Office on +61 8 8303 5403 or visit the website: [www.theblacks.com.au](http://www.theblacks.com.au)

Story by Sandhya Rughoo

Above (from left): Athletes Holly Noack and Caitlin Stanley will promote the sports culture at the University

Photo by Sandhya Rughoo



# Medicos get a blast from music

Fancy listening to an orchestral rendition of Justin Timberlake and Michael Jackson's music? Or a different arrangement of Coldplay's hit *Viva La Vida*?

The 100-plus members of the Adelaide University Medical Orchestra (AUMO) will present a recital at the Scott Theatre on Sunday 24 May that redefines the boundaries of orchestral music.

Titled "AUMOGENESIS: The Birth of Sound," the recital will showcase an artistic style that encompasses both classical and contemporary works, along with innovative projects.

A medley of songs from Michael Jackson, Justin Timberlake, R&B artist Usher, hip hop ensemble Fort Minor and American rapper Soulja Boy will be premiered, featuring hip hop dancers, vocalists and the full orchestra. Students Amanda Lim and Paaree Senguttuvan will arrange this medley.

The orchestra will also present arrangements of Coldplay, Christina Aguilera and Super Mario video game music in their concert repertoire.

Violist and 3rd year medical student Clarissa Darmasetiawan said there would be something for everyone in the recital,

including the Vocal A Cappella group, a stage band performing classic big band and swing numbers, various pieces from the dance crew and a plethora of classical masterpieces by Saint Saëns, Brahms and Liszt.

"There are no limitations to the music we play," Clarissa said. "We aim to challenge and broaden the musical perspectives of both the musicians and the audience."

The AUMO was formed in July 2008 and numbers more than 100 medical students and staff. It incorporates an orchestra, stage band, vocal ensemble and dance crew.

Under the direction of conductor Bryan Griffiths, an Honours student at the Elder Conservatorium, the ensemble is believed to be the world's first single faculty medical student orchestra.

In 2008 the student musicians performed at various medical and charity functions, including events held for the Fred Hollows Foundation, the University of Adelaide's global health group Insight, and the Royal Adelaide Hospital and Women's and Children's Hospitals over the Christmas period.

This year they kicked off their program in March, performing at the annual Anatomy Memorial and Dedication Service in Bonython Hall to commemorate donors who have bequeathed their bodies to medical science.

Prior to their 24 May recital they will provide the musical entertainment for

the opening night of the Insight Photo Exhibition on 14 May, which showcases photographs and stories of student medical placements both here and abroad.

Later this year the AUMO will perform at the National Doctors Conference in Adelaide from 3-5 September, sharing their music with the medical fraternity from around Australia.

Several AUMO members will also join doctors and medical students from across the country in the Melbourne Town Hall on 13 September for a performance with the Australian Doctors Orchestra to raise funds for cystic fibrosis.

"The purpose of the orchestra is two-fold," Clarissa said. "It provides students with an outlet from their studies and an opportunity to express their creativity. Through performing we also share our music with the wider community and raise awareness and funds for medical charities."

**The Sunday 24 May recital will be held from 7pm in the Scott Theatre on the North Terrace Campus.**

**Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by emailing [medorchestra@gmail.com](mailto:medorchestra@gmail.com) or phoning 0422 467 708.**

Story by Candy Gibson

Above (from left): Medical students and trumpet players Scott Schoeman, Lyall Henderson and Yang Timothy Du  
Photo by Daniel Chanisheff



**“Laugh-out-loud funny”** *New York Times*

The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild  
by special arrangement with  
Dominie Pty Ltd presents

The South Australian  
premiere of

**Carl Sternheim's**

# the under- pants

ADAPTED BY  
**STEVE MARTIN**

a seriously silly  
comedy about love,  
lust & loose knickers

Directed by  
John Wells

## Little Theatre

The Cloisters,  
(off Victoria Drive)  
Adelaide University

**Sat 9 May '09**  
Tues-Sat 12-16 May  
Tues-Sat 19-23 May  
at 7:30pm

**Tickets \$25**  
**Concession \$20**

Bookings Theatre Guild  
+61 8 8303 5999  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild)  
Bass 131 246

# Jazz legends in the making

One of Adelaide's best nights of jazz music is here again.

The University of Adelaide's top jazz students will be acknowledged – and will perform – at the 2009 Jazz Awards this month.

Nine of the best jazz musicians from the Elder Conservatorium of Music will share in a prize pool of \$6500, with awards presented to the top performing students in the disciplines of piano, trombone, voice, trumpet, drums, bass, guitar and saxophone.

Hosted in the majestic Hyatt Regency Ballroom, this black-tie gala event will feature special guest performer Paul Grabowsky, Artistic Director of the 2010 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts.

"The past 20 years in Australia has seen an emergence of a jazz culture which is equal to any other jazz culture in the world – and one which we can very much call our own," Grabowsky said.

"Young musicians of today have the legacy of Australian-made jazz music to listen to and use as models, alongside the great traditions which exist – this was not the case when I started.

"It's a real pleasure to collaborate on the work of the next generation of music leaders in our country, particularly in Adelaide which has produced some very important jazz musicians stretching right back to the 1940s – and Adelaide's tertiary institutions have been largely responsible for the staggering numbers of very proficient young players emerging on to the scene."

The Elder Conservatorium first presented the Jazz Awards in 1997 to encourage emerging jazz musicians and to showcase their talents to the Adelaide community.

"All of this year's prize winners are putting together a unique program of entertaining jazz," said Bruce Hancock, Head of Jazz Studies at the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

"We are particularly pleased to be welcoming Paul to play for us at this year's awards. To have an Australian jazz pianist of his calibre join us is a rare treat – it promises to be a fantastic night!"

## 2009 Jazz Awards

Guest performer: **Paul Grabowsky**, Artistic Director of the 2010 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts

**7.30pm Thursday 14 May**

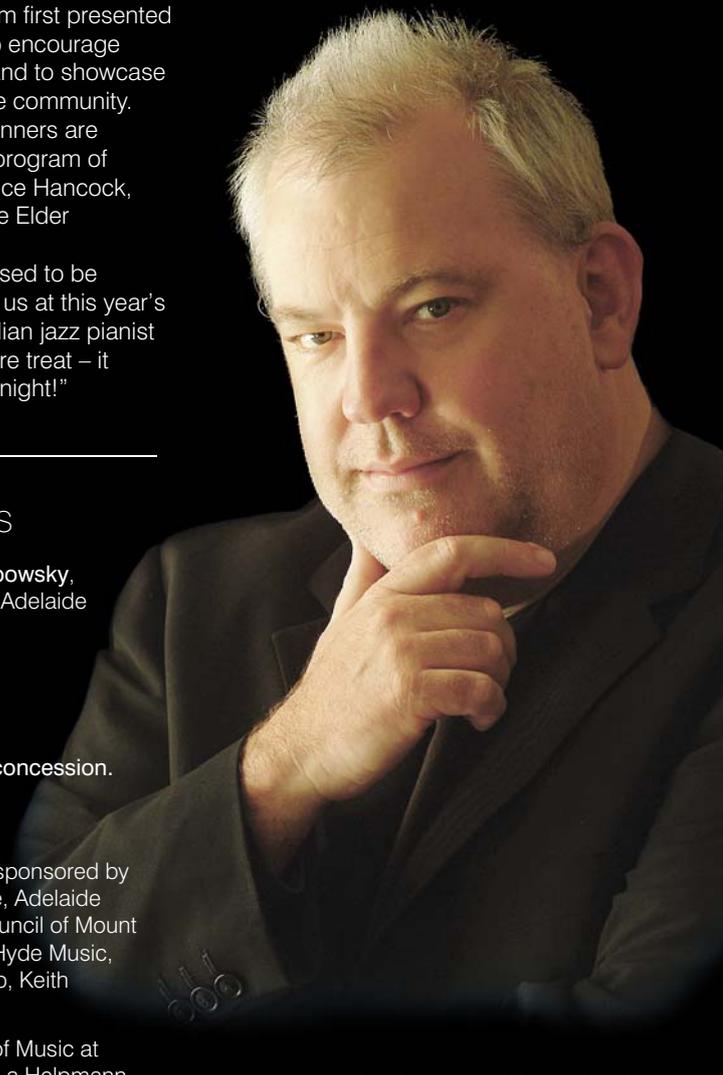
Hyatt Regency Ballroom  
North Terrace, Adelaide

**Tickets are \$20 adult/\$12 concession.**

Bookings can be made on  
+61 8 8463 5014.

The 2009 Jazz Awards are sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Adelaide, Adelaide City Council, the District Council of Mount Barker, dB Magazine, Billy Hyde Music, Tommy Norman Scholarship, Keith Langley and Mitzi Craig.

The Elder Conservatorium of Music at the University of Adelaide is a Helpmann Academy partner school.



Paul Grabowsky, Artistic Director of the 2010 Adelaide Bank Festival of Arts



# Radio Adelaide 101.5 FM

[radio.adelaide.edu.au](http://radio.adelaide.edu.au)



**White on White for Reconciliation**

Breakfast with Peter Godfrey

Wednesday 27 May - Wednesday 3 June, 8.45am

**Subscribe to Radio Adelaide in May**

annual - \$52 or \$26 concession  
lifetime - \$500  
and you'll go into the draw to win

beautiful hand-made jewellery, featuring precious metals, glass and gemstones by *Briana Lawrence*



Valued at \$450

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

**Roundabout meets the Governor of South Australia**



**7 May 1-3pm**

# Politicians show bipartisan support

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha addressed some of Australia's most senior politicians recently when he hosted an alumni function at Parliament House, Canberra.



Deputy Opposition Leader the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Senator Nick Xenophon and former Democrats leader Natasha Stott Despoja were among those present at the University's first Federal Parliamentary Alumni Network gathering for 2009.

All three are graduates of the University of Adelaide who have made their mark in Australian politics, along with fellow alumni Labor frontbencher Senator Penny Wong, Australian Ambassador to the United Nations the Hon. Robert Hill, and Australian Ambassador to Italy Ms Amanda Vanstone.

Addressing some of the country's most influential people, Professor McWha outlined the University's recent developments and discussed the challenges and opportunities facing the higher education sector.

Earlier in the day Professor McWha

hosted a lunch for about 80 University of Adelaide alumni currently living and working in the nation's capital.

Among those present at the luncheon was one of Australia's most acclaimed scientists, Professor Frank Fenner, who is credited with overseeing the global eradication of smallpox and controlling Australia's rabbit plague through the introduction of myxomatosis. Professor Fenner graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1938 with a medical degree.

The Director of the National Gallery of Australia, Ron Radford, who holds a Doctor of Letters from the University of Adelaide, also attended the luncheon, along with award-winning young scientist Dr Ines Atmosukarto, who last month won the 2009 Australian Alumni Award for Research and Innovation in Jakarta.

The Federal Parliamentary Alumni Network, instigated by arts graduate Natasha Stott Despoja, is believed to be the first established by an Australian university. It provides an opportunity for federal Members of Parliament and key parliamentary staff to re-engage with fellow University of Adelaide graduates on a semi-regular basis.

Ms Stott Despoja is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide in the School of History and Politics. Former Foreign Affairs Minister in the Howard Government, Alexander Downer, is a Professor at the University.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young (centre) with two of her staff, Gemma Clark and Emily Johnson, flanked by Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor John Taplin and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Fred McDougall  
Photo by Kim Harvey

## Print & Post quality clean fast



South Australia's largest privately owned dedicated Printing, Mailing and Distribution Company.

CALL 08 8179 9900 and speak to an Account Manager about your next print project. [www.laneprint.com.au](http://www.laneprint.com.au)



### Our commitment to the environment

Lane Print & Post is committed to the care and protection of the environment. We have long been certified to world's best practice standards ISO9001:2000 and are in the process of conforming to ISO14001:2004 Environmental Management Systems Certification.

- ✓ sustainable offset paper products
- ✓ ctp water saving technology
- ✓ 55% less energy use through perfecting printing
- ✓ vegetable based inks
- ✓ varnish free print
- ✓ 100% degradable food grade mailing plastic
- ✓ full plant recycling
- ✓ personal ownership and staff commitment to the environment



## Barr Smith Library Appeal

The University's annual Barr Smith Library Appeal has taken on greater significance in light of the current economic climate.

The dramatic drop in the value of the Australian dollar has increased pressure on the Library's ability to purchase books and journals.

The Barr Smith Library is the University's main library, serving more than 20,000 students, as well as academics, researchers and the general public, with more than 2.2 million hardcopy items and electronic resources.

The Barr Smith Library Appeal – held annually to raise funds for the Library – is again calling for support from the wider community.

"Through the quality of items and services on offer, the Library continues to provide young people with opportunities to help jump-start their careers, and give them a strong foundation to build upon for the future," said University Librarian Ray Choate.

"However, meeting the costs of maintaining the Barr Smith Library collections has become more and more challenging in the current economic climate.

"Now more than ever, the generosity of donors and friends will make a difference to the resources the Library can offer to the students, staff and members of the wider community who come through our doors, or visit online, every day.

"The 2009 Appeal will be used as a crucial source of funds to cover priorities in all areas," he said.

Last year's Appeal enabled the Library to purchase more than 800 new titles and expand its virtual collection of electronic books available at all hours to students and staff.

"The 2009 Appeal will underpin the Barr Smith Library's future as the premier research library in South Australia, and ensure that we continue to foster first-class learning, teaching and research," Mr Choate said.

"Many members of the community – including past and current students and staff – understand and appreciate the important role that libraries play in the lives of both students and society. We are extremely grateful for their donations."

Photo by Randy Larcombe

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, or to make a donation, please contact Development and Alumni

Email: [development@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:development@adelaide.edu.au)  
Phone: +61 8 8303 5800  
Web: [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl)

## Alumni

MEMBERSHIP

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



### Special Offer of the Month: Haigh's Chocolates

Alumni have the chance to go in the running to win a \$100 Haigh's chocolate hamper and enjoy a selection of their premium range of mouth-watering chocolates.

The name Haigh's has been synonymous with fine chocolates since 1915. They are proud to be the oldest family-owned chocolate manufacturing retailer in Australia. Their 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.

Haigh's are pleased to be in partnership with the University of Adelaide to provide this special competition to alumni – drawn on 31 May, so get in quick!

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



# Joint call for improved student income support

The University of Adelaide, the staff union and the student union have joined forces to raise awareness of the difficulties students face in financially supporting themselves.

The recent Review of Australian Higher Education has raised a number of key issues about student income support that Australia's universities have been urging for the past decade.

The University of Adelaide, the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and the Adelaide University Union (AUU) have thrown their support behind the Review's recommendations on student income support, which they believe will have great benefits for students, the higher education sector and the future of the Australian economy.

In a joint statement, University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha, NTEU Adelaide Branch President Dr Rod Crewther and AUU President Lavinia Emmett-Grey said student income support required urgent attention from the Federal Government.

The University, staff and students alike agree with the range of recommendations on student income support in the Higher Education Review. These recommendations would help ease the financial pressure on students, and include:

- changes to the Parental Income Test;
- changes to the Personal Income Test;
- changes to eligibility for recognition of "independence";
- provide eligibility to Masters by coursework students;
- enhance the Commonwealth Scholarships program; and
- ensure regular reviews of student income support.

"Students face many additional costs associated with study – such as books, printed material, equipment and other teaching resources – let alone the cost of living itself. The result is that current levels of income support do not reflect actual needs of students," said Professor McWha.

"Many students have to undertake excessive part-time work to supplement their income, and this can have a substantial impact on their educational experience. This in turn puts pressure on students and their families.

"If we are to increase access to higher education and ensure Australia benefits from its intellectual talent, we must resolve these issues," he said.

Dr Crewther said: "Living costs are also an increasing challenge for many students. Many students have inadequate food and/or housing, which is made worse by increasingly strict eligibility criteria for student support.

"Providing adequate educational and financial support for students is crucial to ensuring students, particularly those traditionally excluded from entry, are able to participate and succeed at university," he said.

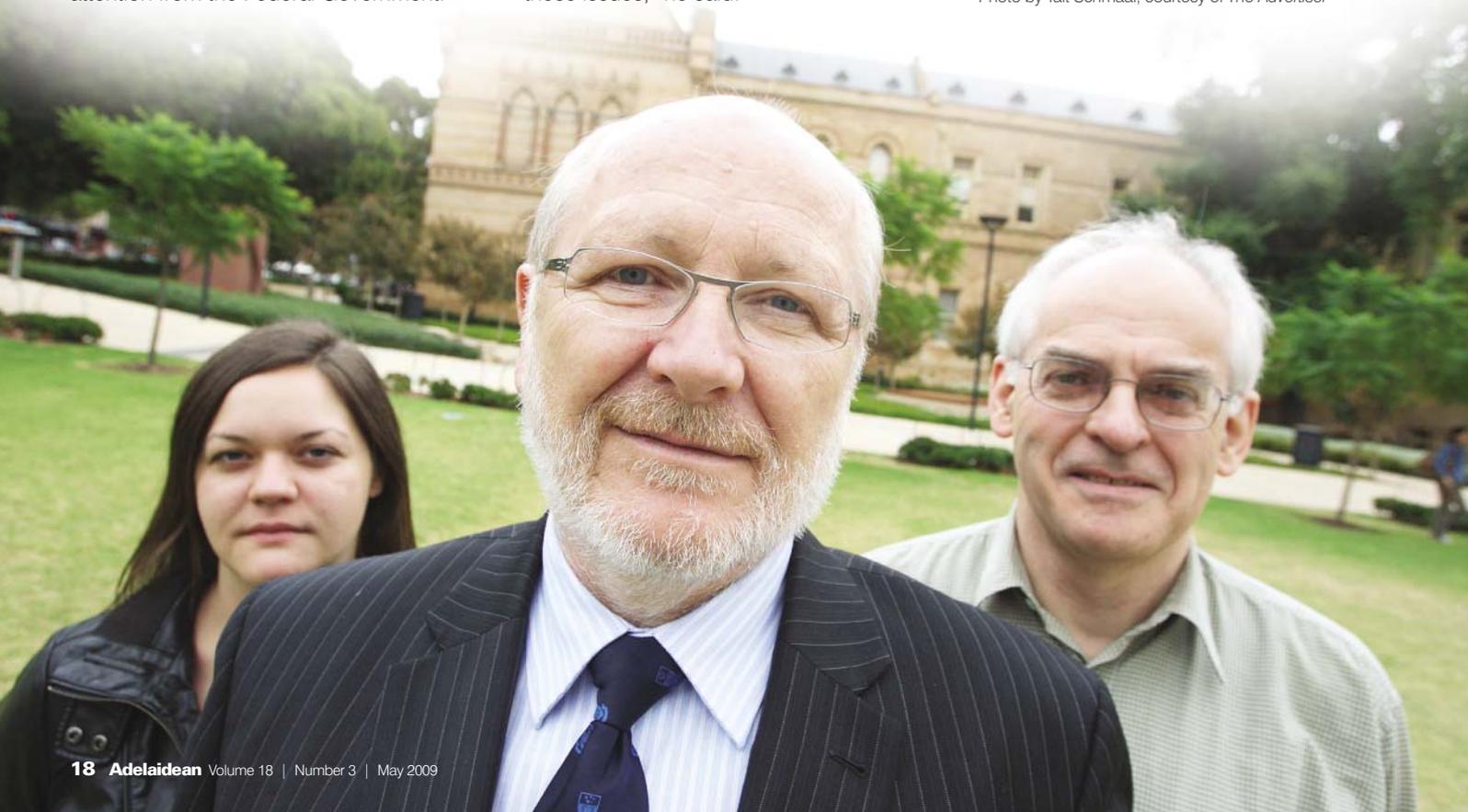
Ms Emmett-Grey said: "The Federal Government has made a commitment to have 20% of undergraduate students from poorer backgrounds by 2020. This commitment must have the backing of substantial adjustments to the current student income support system if it is going to be a sincere one.

"Education is supposed to be the great equaliser. How can it be, if students cannot get fair and accessible financial support for basic survival?"

"The single unemployment benefit is greater than most student income support payments that are available. The whole system is geared against students. In a time of financial uncertainty, we should be encouraging people to return to study, rather than penalising them," she said.

---

Below (from left): Lavinia Emmett-Grey, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha and Rod Crewther  
Photo by Tait Schmaal, courtesy of *The Advertiser*





## Rising stars shine at night

The 2009 season of Evenings at ELDERHALL begins this month, showcasing the musicians and ensembles of the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music.

With six concerts from May to November, this year's program will "travel through different eras and styles, across continents and cultures, with wonderful artists from here and abroad". "There will be a treat for everyone," said Elder Hall Manager Claire Oremland.

Concerts start on Saturday 16 May with the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra. Featuring rising stars Robbie Macfarlane and Bryan Griffiths in Britten's beloved *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*, it also includes Greig's ever popular *Holberg Suite* and Mahler's sublime *Adagietto*.

Other highlights include the much anticipated return of New York trumpeter Ray Vega for Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* and a glorious celebration of choral music at St Peter's Cathedral.

Both the Elder Brass and Wind ensembles are featured in October and, in an exciting new collaboration, the Conservatorium will present a Hellenic-flavoured concert as part of the 2009 Odyssey Festival starring violinist Niki Vasilakis.

Finally, under the baton of guest conductor Arvo Volmer, chief conductor of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, all the Elder Conservatorium musicians will come together for the first performance of Carl Crossin's *Requiem* and Tchaikovsky's great Symphony No. 6, the *Pathétique*.

The Elder Conservatorium of Music has also announced its new sponsors for 2009. As new principal sponsor, the Greek Orthodox Community of South Australia will support Evenings at ELDERHALL in an ongoing partnership, especially during the Odyssey Festival. Barossa Valley Estate are new and exclusive wine sponsors, with such wines as E Bass and E Minor creating 'musical' links with the Conservatorium, and Robinson Liuteria Artistica has become 'Official Restorer for the Elder Conservatorium's String Collection'.

### Evenings at ELDERHALL – series of six concerts

Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus,  
University of Adelaide  
St Peter's Cathedral, King William Road,  
North Adelaide (12 September only)  
16 May – 28 November  
All concerts at 6.30pm  
\$25 adult; \$20 concession; \$15 student  
Special subscriptions available – for free  
brochure and more information contact the  
Concert Office on (08) 8303 5925

For full program details visit:  
[www.music.elderhall.adelaide.edu.au](http://www.music.elderhall.adelaide.edu.au)

Above: French horn player Bryan Griffiths will be among the rising stars to perform on Saturday 16 May  
Photo by David Ellis

## Music masterclasses not just for students

In a first for the Elder Conservatorium of Music, members of the public now have the opportunity to attend a masterclass series being presented in 2009.

At the masterclasses, international musicians of the highest standing will work with students from the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium.

The series gives members of the public the chance to see and hear students being instructed by some of the best musicians in their fields.

"Many music lovers are fascinated by the process behind the art, and masterclasses are a perfect example of how someone who is highly skilled in music imparts their knowledge and fine-tunes others' ability," said Elder Hall Concert Manager Ms Claire Oremland.

"We hope this will become another exciting and regular part of what we offer music lovers in our yearly season of events at Elder Hall," she said.

The first masterclass will be held in Elder Hall from 1.00-3.00pm on Monday 18 May and features Imogen Cooper (pictured). Recognised worldwide as a pianist of virtuosity and poetic poise, Cooper has established a reputation as one of the finest interpreters of the classical repertoire.

The Head of Keyboard Studies at the Elder Conservatorium, Lucinda Collins, said this was "an incredible opportunity for students to work with such an inspirational artist as they begin their own journeys in music".

Other artists in the series include violinist Adele Anthony, New York trumpeter and jazz musician Ray Vega, and chamber music with the Elias String Quartet.

Admission is just \$10, or subscribe to all four masterclasses and get one free.

For a brochure or further enquiries, call Claire on +61 8 8303 5925 or email: [claire.oremland@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:claire.oremland@adelaide.edu.au)



## Research Tuesdays

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH  
WITH THE COMMUNITY



## It takes two: How analysis of mum's and dad's DNA can predict and enhance pregnancy success

The University of Adelaide's Robinson Institute is on the brink of enabling a quantum leap forward in the care of pregnant women and their babies.

The Institute's research has revealed that subtle variations in specific gene sequences in a mother, father or their baby indicate the mother is more likely to suffer pregnancy complications.

As a result, work is underway to create a genetic test that will – for the first time – identify a couple's risk of complications before

symptoms arise, allowing potentially life-saving tailored antenatal care.

In this fascinating presentation, Associate Professor Claire Roberts will explain her team's exciting progress, and will discuss many other known pregnancy risk factors.

Claire Roberts is a Senior Research Fellow and leads the Placental Development Laboratory in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide, where she has worked for the past 13 years. She is Scientific Director of the SA SCOPE study.

**WHEN:** 5.30-6.30pm Tuesday 12 May

**WHERE:** Lecture Room G04, Napier Building, North Terrace 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)

### Fridays Uncorked '09

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

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

**When:** 4.30pm Friday 1 May  
4.30pm Friday 15 May

**Where:** National Wine Centre of Australia

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

### 2009 Australian Innovation Festival

The 2009 Australian Innovation Festival showcases innovation in Australia's economic, social and cultural environments. The University of Adelaide's Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre (ECIC) will present five free and fascinating events.

**"Digital Identity as an Emergent Legal Concept: The Opportunities and the Threats"**

**When:** 12.00pm to 1.00pm  
Monday 4 May

**"Putting Innovation and Social Enterprise into Action"**

**When:** 11.00am to 12.30pm  
Thursday 7 May

**"Sustainable Construction – A Systems Approach to Issues Analysis"**

**When:** 6.00pm to 7.00pm  
Tuesday 12 May

**"Foresight for Social & Technological Change"**

**When:** 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
Wednesday 20 May

**"Reinvest in Yourself – the Best Asset You've Got! An ECIC information and Careers Presentation"**

**When:** 5.30pm to 7.30pm  
Tuesday 26 May

For more information, contact Julia McCarron at [ecic@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:ecic@adelaide.edu.au) or visit: [www.ecic.adelaide.edu.au/industry-comm/aif.html](http://www.ecic.adelaide.edu.au/industry-comm/aif.html)

### Climate Futures

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

**6 May:** People, culture and religion

**13 May:** Impacts of climate change – Challenges for rural communities

**20 May:** The carbon economy

**27 May:** Emergency Response – Can we cope

**When:** 5.00pm Wednesdays

**Where:** Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus

**Cost:** Free

**Information:** [www.adelaide.edu.au/climatechange](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/climatechange)

### Music: Evenings at ELDERHALL

Featuring rising stars Robbie Macfarlane and Bryan Griffiths in Britten's *Serenade for Tenor, Horn and Strings*, the concert also includes Greig's *Holberg Suite* and Mahler's *Adagietto*.

**When:** 6.30pm Saturday 16 May

**Where:** Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus

**Cost:** \$25 adult; \$20 concession; \$15 student

**Contact:** Concert Office, +61 8 8303 5925.

### Music: New Masterclasses

This Elder Conservatorium Masterclass series gives members of the public the chance to see and hear students being instructed by the best musicians in their fields.

**When:** 1.00-3.00pm Monday 18 May

**Where:** Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** Claire Oremland +61 8 8303 5925.

### John Bray Law Network

Chief Justice's Shield Quiz Night

**When:** 7.00pm to 11.00pm Saturday 23 May

**Where:** Brookman Building, Corner North Terrace and Frome Road

**Cost:** \$25 per person; \$250 per table of 10

BYO Wine/Soft drinks and Supper

**RSVP:** Contact [gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au) or call +61 8 8303 6356

### Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

"Plodding: Walking into fiction" – an author event by Steven Conte, winner of the Prime Minister's Literary Award 2008

**When:** 6 for 6.30pm Thursday 28 May

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

**Cost:** Free and open to all; gold coin donation invited

**RSVP:** By no later than Tuesday 26 May to [robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au) or call +61 8 8303 4064

### Verdi's Requiem by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra

One of the greatest works in classical music will be reprised by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra 15 years after the ASO performed the work with the legendary Luciano Pavarotti. Featuring the Adelaide Symphony Chorus directed by Carl Crossin from the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music.

**When:** 8.00pm Friday 29 May and Saturday 30 May

**Where:** Festival Theatre, Adelaide Festival Centre

**Cost:** \$51.90 adult, \$18.00 child (2-14 years), \$46.90 concession – booking fee applies. Tickets from BASS at 131 246 or [www.bass.net.au](http://www.bass.net.au)

### Cornell Chapter – early advice

Recitals and Lunch with Leslie Howard, Australian pianist and composer. Violin prodigy and Young Australian of the Year 2007 Niki Vasilakis will also be performing.

**When:** Recital at 1.10pm and Lunch at 2.10pm Wednesday 8 July

**Where:** Recital: Pilgrim Church 12 Flinders Street, Adelaide

**Lunch:** The Ambassador's Hotel 107 King William Street, Adelaide

**Cost:** \$30 and BYO drinks at lunch

**RSVP:** By no later than 2 July to [gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au), call +61 8 8303 6356 or visit Development and Alumni, Level 1, 230 North Terrace, Adelaide