

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Rebecca's Rhodes one of a kind

Story on page 7

Doing what we can

I often say that a university should be a part of its community – not apart from it.

This stems from my firm belief that universities are not only here to serve the research and education agendas but also to contribute to the fabric of the society in which they operate. Invariably, this means looking beyond our campus walls and in some cases much further.

This year has tested the most resilient of communities, both here in Australia and overseas.

We watched with the rest of the nation as the floods swept through major areas of Queensland and Victoria. Particularly close to home was the significant impact on a number of universities and other educational institutions including the University of Queensland.

Then only a matter of weeks later, earthquakes devastated Japan and left much of Christchurch in rubble.

When it became clear that the University of Canterbury had been badly affected by the New Zealand disaster, the immediate question was: how could we help?

We have many ties with Canterbury – Christchurch is a sister city to Adelaide, we conduct collaborative research and our two universities are involved in benchmarking processes aimed at providing the best possible education to our students.

With that in mind, we quickly extended an offer to have Canterbury's students study their first semester at the University of Adelaide. Within days, the first group of nearly 170 students and accompanying staff arrived in Adelaide.

I want to share with you an excerpt from a letter I received recently from a Christchurch parent:

"...our house was only 600 metres from the September 7.1 earthquake and we lost everything; our house is to be pulled down soon because of the damage. Our daughter narrowly missed being hit by falling debris and was very upset for a long time; she was also in a building in Christchurch in the February earthquake and the roof started to cave in.

"When she heard about the Adelaide Exchange she was thrilled, especially as Adelaide is a very special place to her. Being away from home for the first time it has taken her out of her comfort zone, but it has been fantastic.

"So thank you personally for putting a huge smile on our daughter's face and the continuing support you are giving the Canterbury students, it is very much appreciated."

A simple but practical gesture of help has had a profound impact on the communities of both Christchurch and Adelaide. It has reinforced the value of our many networks and partnerships and created opportunities to really make a difference at a time of such adversity.

Above all, it has shown the great community spirit that underpins our University.

I am immensely proud of our staff and students, our alumni and the many, many South Australians who have offered their support to the visiting students. The goodwill has been tremendously heartening and will endure long after our young Cantabrians have returned to their homes and campus across the Tasman.



JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

Adelaidean

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Grand music in May

The University of Adelaide's Elder Hall concerts offer something for everyone in May, from jazz to classical and even a taste of Brazil.

National jazz icon Allan Browne and acclaimed trumpeter Eugene Ball will play at the University's first *Evenings at Elder Hall* concert for 2011 on Thursday 5 May.

Browne, a jazz drummer with a career spanning 50 years, will make his only Adelaide appearance at Elder Hall, performing with the Elder Conservatorium Big Band 1 and special guest artist, trumpeter and music composer Eugene Ball.

The Ages of Jazz concert will feature authentic arrangements from the Duke Ellington and Louis Armstrong eras of the late 1920s and early 1930s, including such classics as *Main Stem*, *Harlem Air Shaft*, *Mood Indigo* and *Mahogany Hall Stomp*.

The evening will trace jazz from its beginnings in 1900, through the many different phases of Dixieland, swing, mainstream, bebop, cool, modal, free and fusion, post bop, acid jazz, smooth and retro to today.

On Saturday 28 May, classical music lovers will also be in for a treat when the University of Adelaide's two new Steinway grand pianos feature in their first public evening performance at Elder Hall.

Head of Keyboard at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Lucinda Collins, and Russian pianist Konstantin Shamray will perform Mozart's *Concerto for 2 pianos*, Stravinsky's *Pulcinella Suite* and Mendelssohn's deeply moving *Reformation Symphony*.

Conductor Keith Crellin and the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra will accompany the pianists in *In Celebration of Two Steinways*, starting at 6.30pm.

Meanwhile, *Lunchtimes at Elder Hall* presents acclaimed chamber music

group the Benaud Trio on Friday 6 May, performing an all-Russian program that includes Rachmaninov, Rodion Shchedrin and Alfred Schnittke.

The following week, Friday 13 May, will see vocalist Lauren Sturdy, saxophonist Dusty Cox, pianist Bruce Hancock, John Aué on bass and drummer Jamie Jones entertain audiences with the music of Antonio Carlos Jobim.

The Australian String Quartet also returns on Friday 20 May with guest pianist Albert Tiu for Brahms' powerful *Piano Quintet in F minor*.

Robert Hower will conduct the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra in a lunchtime concert on Friday 27 May, including works by composers Mark Camphouse and Percy Grainger.

Evenings at Elder Hall

Tickets: \$25 adult; \$20 concession; \$15 student. To discuss a special Family Ticket deal, contact the Elder Hall Concert Manager.

Lunchtimes at Elder Hall

Tickets: \$7, available at the door from 12:30pm.

For more information or bookings, call the Elder Hall Concert Manager on: 08 8303 5925 or email: claire.oremland@adelaide.edu.au

www.music.adelaide.edu.au/elderhall

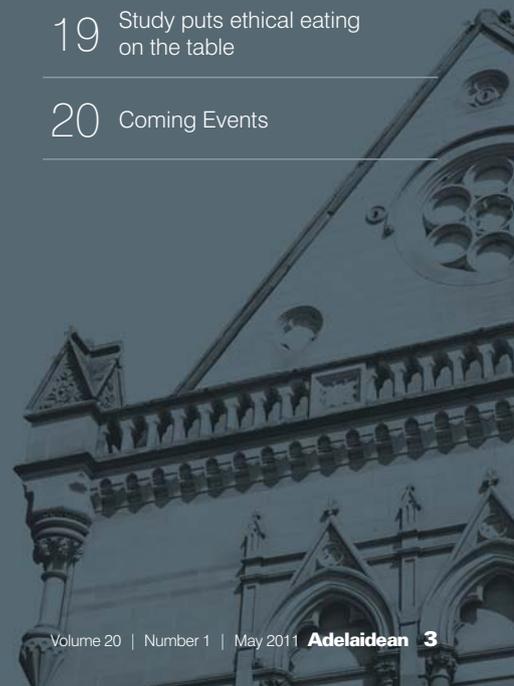
Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Lucinda Collins, Head of Keyboard at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, with one of the University's two new Steinway pianos

Photo by Chris Tonkin

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Uni's key role in law reform

A new South Australian Law Reform Institute has been established in a collaboration between the University of Adelaide, the State Attorney-General's Department and the Law Society of SA.



The Attorney-General, the Hon. John Rau, said the Institute will assist in the streamlining of South Australian laws and management of justice in this state.

South Australia hasn't had a Law Reform Commission since the late 1980s and is the only jurisdiction in Australia not to have one.

"The South Australian Law Reform Institute, and its members, will play a key role in improving the administration of justice in South Australia," Mr Rau said.

"The Institute will help modernise, simplify and consolidate laws and the administration of the justice system and, in doing so, improve access to justice for the community.

"The Institute's work will also lead to the repeal of laws that are obsolete or unnecessary for the community today.

"In addition, the new body will consult and collaborate with law reform agencies in other states and territories on proposals to reform laws in other jurisdictions or within the Commonwealth."

Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, said he welcomed the establishment of the new Law Reform Institute, which recognised the University's 127-year leadership in the area of legal education and research in this State.

"The University is renowned for the quality of its legal scholarship and has contributed to the development of the law in Australia and beyond. The new institute will complement our prestigious Law School and provide integrated learning opportunities for students at the undergraduate and postgraduate level," Professor McWha said.

"Law reform helps us look well beyond where we are today. We want to look to the future and the needs of our changing community. The institute will allow us to explore our legal framework and seek opportunities to improve it for the good of all South Australians."

"The new Law Reform Institute will provide a much-needed service to the State and the people of South Australia.

"It will strengthen ties between the Adelaide Law School, Attorney-General's Department and the Profession."

The Dean of the Law School, Professor John Williams, said: "A unique aspect of the Institute is its relationship to an elective course, Law Reform, in the undergraduate law degree. Students will work closely on law reform projects and assist in the preparation of reports."

The South Australian Law Reform Institute is governed by an Advisory Board, which will consider, recommend and review proposals for projects to be undertaken by the Institute. The Advisory Board held its first meeting in April.

www.law.adelaide.edu.au

Photo by: Randy Larcombe

Life Impact.
Smoke-free air.
Our University is now smoke-free.

 THE UNIVERSITY of ADELAIDE



Life Impact | The University of Adelaide

New deputy appointed

Professor Pascale Quester will be the University of Adelaide's new Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic).

Professor Quester will take up the position in June following the retirement of Professor Fred McDougall.

Professor Quester has been Executive Dean of the University's Faculty of the Professions since 2005.

Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, said Professor Quester had earned an enviable reputation in tertiary education in Australia and overseas, with a strong background in leading major university-wide initiatives in addition to academic and research endeavours.

"The higher education sector is facing unprecedented change.

Student needs are quite different now from even five years ago. The combination of increasingly flexible learning environments, a diverse student population and ambitious enrolment targets offer great opportunities,"

Professor McWha said.

"This appointment will play a crucial role in leading the University through this period by shaping our teaching and learning agenda and by delivering a high-quality student experience," Professor McWha said.

"Professor Quester clearly has the experience and foresight to advance the University's international standing as a world-class research and teaching institution."

Following a worldwide search, Professor Quester was chosen from a highly competitive field, which included strong local and international candidates, by demonstrating her capacity to drive a number of student-centric initiatives such as the redevelopment of the business school precinct and the \$41.8 million Learning Hub to be opened later this year.

Professor Quester is also an active researcher in the area of consumer behaviour with more than 150 refereed publications and book chapters to her name.

"I am really excited to be taking on this role," Professor Quester said. "There is just so much potential in this institution. It is a privilege to be one of the people that will determine the direction and strategy of the University. I am confident that staff and students alike will embrace, and indeed, value the changes that will be required of us as we respond to a highly dynamic environment."

Professor Quester said her own experience as a foreign student and teacher had helped her to understand the way the education world operates.

"To be part of the journey that will make the University of Adelaide as successful in the future as it has been in the past is an opportunity I know I shall relish."

French born, Professor Quester holds a Bachelor of Business from Audencia, one of the top French Business Schools, and a Master in Marketing from Ohio State University. She subsequently moved to Massey University in New Zealand where she earned a PhD specialising in sales promotion.

Appointed in 1991 as a lecturer in the Graduate School of Management at the University of Adelaide, she became a Senior Lecturer in the School of Commerce in 1992, was promoted to the rank of Professor in 2002 and then Associate Dean (Research), Faculty of the Professions in 2004 before taking on her current role as Executive Dean in 2005.

Professor Pascale Quester

Scholarships make a difference

The University of Adelaide has awarded \$2.3 million in scholarships to more than 170 new students this year.

The scholarships are aimed at supporting the best students, including those from rural or disadvantaged backgrounds.

“We are committed to giving able students real opportunities to succeed,” said the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

“This year our commitment to scholarships has increased by more than half a million dollars to \$2.3 million, which means we are now providing vital support to more students than ever before.

“Scholarships offer a range of benefits to students. They take the financial pressure off, helping students to focus on their education. In some cases, receiving a scholarship means students don’t need to get a job to support themselves while they study. They can help to pay for textbooks, a new computer, or relocation costs from country areas to the city. Scholarships also act as an incentive for students to excel in their studies.”

The main scholarships provided to new undergraduate students are:

- **Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarships** – \$10,300 per year for a maximum of four years (indexed annually), awarded to all new University of Adelaide students who receive an ATAR score of 99.95 (with no bonuses). This year, 29 of these scholarships have been awarded to new students, with a total commitment of \$1.19 million over the next four years.
- **the 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 scholarship is named in honour of University of Adelaide engineering graduate and NASA astronaut Dr Andy Thomas and 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.
- **University of Adelaide 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, and they must obtain an ATAR of 80 or greater (including bonus points). This year, 144 of these scholarships have been awarded, with a total commitment of \$720,000.



David and Michael Brown, 18, (pictured above) of Beaumont, have become the first twins to both receive the University of Adelaide’s prestigious Adelaide Undergraduate Scholarship in the same year.

David is studying for a double degree – Bachelor of Engineering (Civil & Structural) and Bachelor of Finance – while Michael is studying for a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery.

Having completed Year 12 at Prince Alfred College together, each of the twins knew all too well what the other was going through. “For the most part we tried to study separately, but each of us has strengths in different areas and we were able to help each other out in that way,” said Michael.

Callum Agnew, 17, from Karkoo – a small, remote town north of Cummins on the Eyre Peninsula – is the 2011 winner of the prestigious Andy Thomas Scholarship.



Callum has received his scholarship for a Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical & Aerospace) degree, and he is also studying for a Bachelor of Science degree, both at the University of Adelaide.

He completed his Year 12 at Cummins Area School, where he was dux of the school.

“I love physics and space and I have an interest in aviation, both the design and aerodynamics of it,” said Callum.

He said winning the Andy Thomas Scholarship was a great feeling. “It’s awesome. The double degree will be fairly demanding – this should make things a bit less stressful,” he said.

Damir Duvnjak, 17, from Birkenhead, was nominated for his Adelaide Principals’ Scholarship by Le Fevre High School, where he was dux for 2010.



Damir has pursued his love of computers, physics and maths to study for an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Science in High Performance Computational Physics. “I love computing, I love maths, and in this degree I’ve chosen everything I wanted to do. It’s the kind of degree that can take you anywhere,” he said. “I had put medicine as my first preference and I was offered a place in medicine, but maths and physics is so interesting to me. I think I’ve made the right choice to go with what I love.”

Sarah Petrou, 18, of Salisbury North was nominated for her Adelaide Principals’ Scholarship by Parafield Gardens High School, where she was dux for 2010.



She is the first person in her immediate family to study at university and has chosen the Bachelor of Psychological Science at the University of Adelaide.

“I’m very much interested in social work, in helping people, and psychology is something that really appeals to me,” she said. “Child psychology in particular is something that interests me – I think that would be really rewarding.”

Story and photos by David Ellis



Rebecca's Rhodes is one of a kind

A 23-year-old University of Adelaide anthropology graduate has made history by becoming Australia's first Indigenous Rhodes Scholar.

Rebecca Richards, the daughter of a Leigh Creek stockman and a primary school teacher, will further her passion for indigenous history and culture when she enrolls at Oxford University in September this year.

Rebecca has been awarded an Australia-At-Large Rhodes Scholarship, which will enable her to study for a Masters of Philosophy in Material Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

"I am just stunned," Rebecca said after receiving the award. "This is an amazing honour and I can't wait to study in the oldest and most established anthropological museum in the world."

The University of Adelaide Bachelor of Arts (Honours) student was raised in South Australia's Riverland and is a member of the Adnyamathanha and Barngarla peoples of the Flinders Ranges. She grew up on her family's fruit block, riding horses and dirt motorbikes, and swimming in the Murray River.

Her interest in anthropology was sparked at age 14 when she did some fieldwork in her native Adnyamathanha lands in the Flinders Ranges with her father and the Head of Anthropology at the South Australian Museum, Dr Philip Jones.

"The information gained on this fieldwork was later used in the determination of native title of those lands," Rebecca said. "I am also passionate about the repatriation of indigenous objects, languages and associated knowledge to indigenous communities."

Rebecca has custodial responsibilities for her family site, Pukatu, and for women's sites in the Flinders Ranges.

"These formative experiences helped me realise that the indigenous knowledge of the ecology and history of South Australia and this continent is priceless. My fight for its recognition has fuelled my academic achievements."

Rebecca is currently employed as an Indigenous Cadet Project Officer with the National Museum of Australia in Canberra. This year she also undertook an internship at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, working in its National Museum of Natural History to help digitise the 1948 Arnhem Land Expedition.

After completing her postgraduate studies, Rebecca hopes to help digitally repatriate objects and knowledge from the Pitt Rivers Museum and Bodleian Library at Oxford to the relevant indigenous communities in Australia.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said Rebecca's Rhodes Scholarship was "an outstanding result" and would hopefully inspire many young indigenous people to pursue higher education.

"The University currently has nearly 200 indigenous students, which is a 60% increase over the past five years. This demonstrates our commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, who I believe should not only have access to high-quality education but be actively encouraged to undertake university studies," Professor McWha said.

Rebecca is the 104th Rhodes Scholar from the University of Adelaide and the 37th from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. She is the first indigenous Australian to receive the Rhodes Scholarship in its 108-year history.

In March, Rebecca was also named the Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year for South Australia (see story on page 10).

Story by Candy Gibson

Above: Rhodes Scholar Rebecca Richards
Photo courtesy of the National Museum of Australia

Sinus gel improves healing

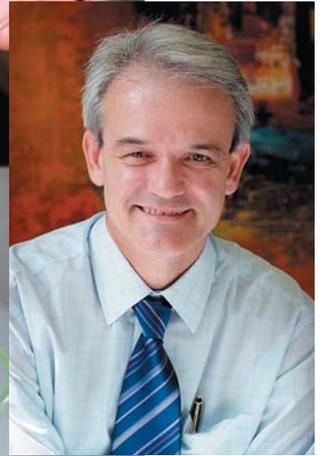
Sinus sufferers around the world could benefit from a new gel co-developed by the University of Adelaide, which prevents scarring after surgery.

The wound dressing, which improves healing, controls bleeding and prevents adhesions (scars that can form at the surgical site) following sinus surgery, is the brainchild of medical researchers from the University of Adelaide, University of Otago and Wellington-based Robinson Squidgel.

The world's largest medical technology company, Medtronic, purchased the patent for the nasal dressing in a deal with the three entities.

World-renowned ENT surgeon Professor PJ Wormald from the University of Adelaide has led the development of the product alongside his New Zealand colleagues Emeritus Professor Brian Robinson from the University of Otago and his son, ENT surgeon Mr Simon Robinson.

The gel, derived from a polymer named chitosan and extracted from crab shell and squid, has been successfully trialled in sheep and humans over the past four years.



Professor Wormald said the medical gel, which has important blood clotting abilities, formed a coating over the wound to prevent scarring.

"Currently, up to one third of all people who undergo sinus surgery experience blocked nasal passages afterwards due to scarring and this requires further surgery to correct," Professor Wormald said.

The new gel was expected to benefit millions of people around the world who undergo endoscopic surgery for blocked sinuses.

Professor Wormald said 18% of the general population suffers from chronic sinusitis, many of whom undergo surgery to correct the problem.

"In the past, surgeons would pack the nose with ribbon gauze to stop the bleeding and prevent adhesions. Unfortunately, this was very uncomfortable and painful for patients. This new gel is placed into the sinuses after surgery and is very effective

in controlling bleeding. The gel slowly dissolves over two weeks, allowing the sinuses to heal properly, preventing scar tissue from forming in the nose."

Professor Wormald said the new product marked a significant advance for ENT surgeons and their patients. "It ticks all the boxes and will improve a huge number of surgical outcomes in the years ahead," he said.

The Director of Adelaide Research & Innovation, Mr Robert Chalmers, said the extensive clinical trials were funded by ARI's Commercial Accelerator Scheme.

"This is an outstanding result for the University of Adelaide and its New Zealand colleagues and demonstrates the power of collaborative expertise," Mr Chalmers said.

Story by Candy Gibson

Above (inset): Professor PJ Wormald;
(main): a sample of the new gel
Main photo by Sharron Bennett,
courtesy of the University of Otago

Art & Heritage Collections

Mirna Heruc
Art & Heritage Collections Manager

Right: The John Ridley Testimonial Candelabrum (1860) made from silver, gold, malachite and blackwood, by Julius Schomburgk (1812–1893)
Photo by Grant Hancock

To mark the 175th anniversary of South Australia, this month we are highlighting one of the treasures of the University of Adelaide Visual Art Collection – a testimonial candelabrum designed by Julius Schomburgk and presented to John Ridley for his generous contribution to the colony in 1860.

Ridley was the inventor of an agricultural reaping machine, which helped save South Australia from financial troubles in the 1840s. His machine enabled crops to be reaped mechanically, making harvest more efficient. Ridley declined to take out a patent on his invention thereby allowing the colony to receive its financial benefits and to prosper.

Schomburgk emigrated to South Australia from Prussia in 1850 and soon established a solid reputation for his silversmithing and design skills. A committed exponent of Victorian naturalism, he incorporated in his designs a vast range of sculptural motifs representing Australian flora and fauna in combination with figures of Aborigines.



This work is one of the most spectacular examples of his oeuvre.

In 1930 Ridley's daughter, Miss J T Ridley, gave the candelabrum to the University's Waite Agricultural Research Institute. It is now on display in the Mitchell Building, North Terrace Campus. If you wish to see it, please contact Art & Heritage Collections on 08 8313 3086.

Research results are world class

The University of Adelaide's position as an Australian leader in research has been confirmed with the results of the first Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) process.

ERA is a Federal Government initiative to assess the research quality at universities across Australia, using a combination of measures on researchers, research outputs, research income, reputation and other measures.

At the University of Adelaide, 19 out of 22 research discipline areas (86% of them) have been rated at or above world standard by the ERA.

"This is an outstanding result for the University that confirms our position as an Australian leader in research," said the University's Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

"Our well-recognised status as a world-class centre for agricultural science, focused at the Waite Campus, has been further verified by the ERA process, along with our research in physical and medical/health sciences," he said.

Specific research areas at the University of Adelaide that have been rated at the highest level include: Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine, Oncology and Carcinogenesis, Geology, Astronomical and Space Sciences, Evolutionary Biology, Nutrition and Dietetics, Plant Biology, Optical Physics, and Performing Arts and Creative Writing.

Other areas that have performed highly include: Law, Philosophy, Civil Engineering, Pure Mathematics, Dentistry, Anthropology, Immunology and Genetics.

"As one of the smaller research-intensive universities, we have clearly shown our capacity to generate high-quality research outcomes that are commensurate with our Group of Eight (Go8) status," Professor McWha said.

"Our ERA results are well in line with the University's understanding of and investment in our research strengths. Establishing dedicated research Institutes and Centres and building on our strengths has ensured that the University is well placed to continue as a powerhouse of research.

"Many of our research programs are also integrated into learning and teaching, giving our students the opportunity to work beside and learn from some of our most respected and innovative researchers.

"A key to our success is the University's ability to attract the best researchers from Australia and overseas and provide them with the infrastructure and support to achieve great research outcomes," he said.

www.adelaide.edu.au/research

Story by David Ellis



Research areas at the University of Adelaide rated well above world standard:

- Astronomical and Space Sciences
- Optical Physics
- Geology
- Soil Sciences
- Evolutionary Biology
- Plant Biology
- Crop and Pasture Production
- Horticultural Production
- Cardiovascular Medicine and Haematology
- Medical Microbiology
- Nursing
- Nutrition and Dietetics
- Oncology and Carcinogenesis
- Paediatrics and Reproductive Medicine
- Medical Physiology
- Performing Arts and Creative Writing

Research areas at the University of Adelaide rated above world standard:

- Pure Mathematics
- Atomic, Molecular, Nuclear, Particle and Plasma Physics
- Environmental Science and Management
- Biochemistry and Cell Biology
- Ecology
- Genetics
- Animal Production
- Artificial Intelligence and Image Processing
- Civil Engineering
- Clinical Sciences
- Dentistry
- Immunology
- Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Anthropology
- Law
- Applied Ethics
- Philosophy

Research areas at the University of Adelaide rated at world standard:

- Applied Mathematics
- Statistics
- Quantum Physics
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Medicinal and Biomolecular Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry (Incl. Structural)
- Geophysics
- Microbiology
- Physiology
- Zoology
- Veterinary Sciences
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Resources Engineering & Extractive Metallurgy
- Neurosciences
- Public Health and Health Services
- Architecture
- Applied Economics
- Demography
- Political Science
- Sociology
- Other Studies In Human Society
- Psychology
- Linguistics
- Literary Studies
- Historical Studies

Young achievers' time to shine

Rhodes Scholar and University of Adelaide graduate Rebecca Richards has been named the 2011 Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year for South Australia.

Rebecca was presented with her award by South Australian Premier the Hon. Mike Rann at the awards ceremony in March.

The 23-year-old Adnyamathanha woman has a passion for anthropological research. Last year she completed her Bachelor of Arts with Honours at the University of Adelaide, majoring in Anthropology, and also has undertaken three cadetships at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Last December Rebecca made history by becoming Australia's first indigenous Rhodes Scholar (see story on page 7).

As well as being named Young Achiever of the Year, Rebecca also won the Office for Youth Aboriginal Achievement Award for 2011.

A total of 32 finalists vied for the various Young Achiever Awards, including other University of Adelaide students and graduates. Among the other winners on the night were:

Suzanne Mashtoub Abimosleh – RAA Driving Force Leadership Award

Suzanne, 23, is a PhD student at the University of Adelaide. She has a Bachelor of Science (Biomedical Science) majoring in Physiology and Pharmacology, and First Class Honours in Physiology from the University.

Suzanne is researching the application of emu oil for the treatment of acute inflammatory bowel disease. She has made national and international presentations and her work has been published.

She organises events during National Science Week and is an executive committee member of the Young Australian Lebanese Association. She is Chairperson of the Young Druze Professionals of SA and is also on the Multicultural Education Advisory Committee.

Laura Brooks – University of Adelaide Faculty of Sciences Science and Technology Award

Dr Brooks, 28, has a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering with Honours and a PhD in Engineering from the University of Adelaide and is a lecturer within the University's School of Mechanical Engineering.

She spent two years at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California, as a Fulbright Scholar and 18 months as a postdoctoral research fellow at the Victoria University of Wellington.

Dr Brooks has been successful in attracting \$5 million in research funding, and her numerous publications include underwater acoustics, active noise control, signal processing, geophysics and engineering education. She has presented her work

at conferences in Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Europe.

Grace Bowman – Worldwide Online Printing Sports Award

A horse-riding accident in 2002 resulted in Grace becoming a paraplegic but she worked extremely hard to get back into the saddle and pursue her equestrian goals.

Grace has won five consecutive Riding for the Disabled state dressage titles and two national titles. In 2008 she made history as the first South Australian Para-Equestrian to be selected to represent Australia at a Paralympic Games, finishing 7th in her event. Grace placed first at a Para-Equestrian event last year and attended the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky.

She is ranked number one in Australia and number four in the world in her sport.

Grace, 20, is also studying for a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) at the University of Adelaide.

Main picture: Dr Laura Brooks with Professor David Adelson (Head, School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide)

Below: Grace Bowman with Rob Dallimore (Managing Director, Worldwide Online Printing)

Bottom: Suzanne Mashtoub Abimosleh with Malcolm Butcher (General Manager, Human Resources, RAA)

Photos courtesy of the Channel 9 Young Achiever Awards





Helping hand for NZ quake students

The academic year is well underway for students from the earthquake-affected University of Canterbury who are studying at the University of Adelaide for the first half of 2011.

The University of Adelaide offered Canterbury students the chance to undertake their first semester studies at Adelaide while their university recovered from the 22 February earthquake which devastated Christchurch.

The University of Canterbury is undergoing a "progressive restart" as its buildings are structurally assessed, and much of the teaching is taking place in temporary marquees on campus, off-site premises and online.

The 170 students who have come to Adelaide are studying Arts, Commerce or Sciences as part of the study abroad program and their studies will be credited towards their degree at Canterbury.

"The University of Adelaide has a special relationship with the University of Canterbury," said Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

"Christchurch is a sister city to Adelaide and our two universities are involved in a range of collaborations, such as in research. I have myself spent more than 20 years working in the New Zealand university system and, in fact, my first academic appointment was at Canterbury.

"Our sympathy and understanding extends to the people of Christchurch, and we see this as an opportunity to strengthen the ties between our two institutions at a time when it is most needed."

Professor McWha, together with other staff and a big contingent of student ambassadors from the International Student Centre, was at Adelaide Airport on 6 March to welcome the students who flew in on a specially chartered Qantas jet. They were bussed to the campus for a barbecue and welcome put on by the Adelaide University Union before meeting their homestay families or being taken to other student accommodation, including Adelaide's new Urbanest facility.

Their first morning at the University saw them officially welcomed in Bonython Hall, a ceremony attended by the Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann.

"The support from University staff, alumni and the Adelaide community for this initiative has been tremendous," said Professor McWha. "Staff across the University have put in an enormous effort in working through all the logistics of bringing such a large group of students to the campus in a very short time.

"These students are being welcomed with open arms and I think all of Adelaide is determined to ensure they enjoy their stay with us and find it personally and academically very rewarding."

The students have been overwhelmed by the support and interest they've received from the community and have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity they've been given.

On Friday 18 March they took time out from their studies to take part in a memorial event to coincide with the National Christchurch Earthquake Memorial Service in Christchurch, joining family and friends at a live screening of the service to acknowledge the lives lost and other devastation.

Following this private event, a service was held in St Peter's Cathedral attended by the Governor of South Australia, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, Premier Rann, Lord Mayor of Adelaide Stephen Yarwood and the University of Adelaide's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Mike Brooks.

A student from the University of Adelaide joined Canterbury students in lighting candles in memory of those who had died in the earthquake, and the bells tolled following two minutes silence.

University of Canterbury Vice Chancellor Dr Rod Carr said: "We are grateful to our sister city of Adelaide and our academic family at your university."

Story by Robyn Mills

Above (from left): Canterbury students Josh Wood, Ryan McMahon and Zoe Porter with New Zealand Rugby Sevens player Scott Curry in Adelaide in March. The students are among 170 from earthquake-affected Christchurch who are studying for their first semester at the University of Adelaide.

Photo by Calum Robertson, courtesy of *The Advertiser*



Two millionth milestone for blog

A blog on climate change and energy options run by one of Australia’s leading environmental experts has achieved a major milestone – more than two million page hits.

The blog by Professor Barry Brook from the University of Adelaide – called Brave New Climate – has been running since August 2008. Professor Brook uses the blog to update the public on the latest thinking on climate science and policy, to promote events such as public talks and seminars, and to seek feedback from the community.

By mid-March of this year, Brave New Climate had attracted one million page views and more than 28,000 comments from people engaging in the climate change debate.

Less than a week later, it had attracted another 1.3 million page views and a further 5000 comments, fuelled by his comments on the events at the Fukushima nuclear reactor in the wake of the Japanese earthquake and tsunami.

“I started the blog over two years ago to discuss the problem of climate change,” said Professor Brook, who is Director of Climate Science with the Environment Institute at the University of Adelaide.

“It evolved to deal with issues of energy and what the future might bring. Eventually this led me to look seriously at nuclear

power as one of the major solutions to addressing climate change.

“The reaction to the discussion about the events at Fukushima – and nuclear energy in general – has been enormous. I wasn’t expecting to have so much interest from people all over the world within such a short space of time, but that’s a good thing – it means people are interested in the issues and hungry for informed opinion,” he said.

As well as tackling key topics such as the use of nuclear power and a proposed carbon tax, Brave New Climate also provides up-to-date information and analysis about the latest developments in science and policy, and it deals with climate change sceptics head on.

“Brave New Climate is a journey, a conversation, and an exploration of a potentially bright and prosperous future. That conversation is bright and lively. It gives the community their say on climate change and energy, and it allows us to help push the agenda forward, to lead Australia and the world to a low-carbon future that will deliver prosperity and also long-term sustainability for the planet,” he said.

The University’s Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Mike Brooks, said Brave New Climate was an outstanding example of researchers engaging with the community.

“Barry Brook is a highly regarded scientist but he’s also brilliant at conveying that science and the message behind it to a much wider audience. Being able to succeed on both levels enables Barry to show the relevance of science to our society, and he deserves to be applauded for it,” Professor Brooks said.

“This is a reflection of the kind of commitment being made by researchers within the Environment Institute – one of our world-class research institutes – who are genuinely working towards a better future for us all.”

Brave New Climate can be found at:
<http://bravenewclimate.com>

Story by David Ellis

Above (inset): Professor Barry Brook

Photo by Jennie Groom

(main): The Temelín Nuclear Power Station, Czech Republic

New lab has road safety impact

A new University of Adelaide laboratory to help improve pedestrian and road vehicle safety has been opened by Road Safety Minister Tom Kenyon.

The Centre for Automotive Safety Research's new Vehicle Safety Laboratory has been purpose-built in Kent Town and is the only facility of its kind in Australia.

The laboratory focuses on pedestrian crash impact testing and is the official testing facility for the pedestrian component of the Australasian New Car Assessment Program (ANCAP).

"Pedestrians make up a significant proportion of all road casualties, accounting within Australia for 16.5% of all road fatalities and 8.5% of all serious injuries," said Professor Mary Lydon, Director of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR).

"This testing will assist the design of more pedestrian-friendly vehicles. It puts the spotlight on protection offered to pedestrians by different vehicle structures and means we can measure improvements and differences in safety."

Mr Kenyon said: "The State Government has provided substantial investment in CASR over a number of years. The new facilities will allow CASR to expand the range of testing carried out and to supervise postgraduate students in the vehicle testing area."

ANCAP Chair Lauchlan McIntosh said the opening of the new CASR facility in Adelaide would improve ANCAP's internationally recognised crash testing regime in the interests of all Australian road users, including pedestrians and other vulnerable users.

"Pedestrian testing is a major part of ANCAP's crash testing process, and these new CASR facilities will provide a better amenity for the pedestrian tests, which form a part of the overall ANCAP safety rating," Mr McIntosh said. "ANCAP has worked closely with CASR for some years now in testing and providing vehicle safety ratings, and these new premises will only strengthen our relationship."

Mr Tom Phillips, Chair of the CASR Reference Board said: "CASR appreciates the support provided by ANCAP in setting up the new laboratory and is looking forward to continuing to support ANCAP in its excellent work."

The laboratory testing meets global and European regulations, directives and protocols, and includes bull bar testing and development, impact testing of energy-absorbing materials, vehicle interior impact testing, crash reconstruction, high-speed film capture and high-resolution data acquisition.

The University of Adelaide's Centre for Automotive Safety Research is a world-renowned specialised centre for road safety research, carrying out multi-disciplinary research into all aspects of road safety with the aim of reducing the human and social costs of road trauma.

Story by Robyn Mills

Below: A crash test using a simulated adult leg on a car travelling at 40 km/h
Image courtesy of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research



Measuring the threat to species

A new index has been developed to help conservationists better understand how close species are to extinction.

The index, developed by a team of Australian researchers from the University of Adelaide and James Cook University, is called SAFE (Species Ability to Forestall Extinction).

The SAFE index builds on previous studies into the minimum population sizes needed by species to survive in the wild. It measures how close species are to their minimum viable population size.

"SAFE is a leap forward in how we measure relative threat risk among species," said co-author Professor Corey Bradshaw, Director of Ecological Modelling at the University of Adelaide's Environment Institute.

"The idea is fairly simple – it's the distance a population is (in terms of abundance) from its minimum viable population size. While we provide a formula for working this out, it's more than just a formula – we've shown that SAFE is the best predictor yet of the vulnerability of mammal species to extinction."

Of the 95 mammal species considered in the team's analysis, more than one in five were close to extinction, and more than half of them were at 'tipping points' that could take their populations to the point of no return.

"For example, our studies show that practitioners of conservation triage may want to prioritise resources on the Sumatran rhinoceros instead of the Javan rhinoceros. Both species are Critically Endangered, but the Sumatran rhino is more likely to be brought back from the brink of extinction based on its SAFE index," Professor Bradshaw said.

"Alternatively, conservationists with limited resources may want to channel their efforts on saving the tiger, a species that is at the 'tipping point' and could have reasonable chance of survival."

The SAFE index is detailed in a paper published in the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Environment*. It is co-authored by Reuben Clements and Professor Bill Laurance (James Cook University) and Professor Corey Bradshaw and Professor Barry Brook (University of Adelaide).

www.adelaide.edu.au/environment

Story by David Ellis
Photo by Juliane Riedl



Giving the Internet a boost

Mathematics researchers at the University of Adelaide are leading a new project aimed at improving the reliability and efficiency of Internet services.

The team includes researchers from AT&T Labs Research, the research arm of US-based global telecommunications company AT&T. They will synthesize Internet traffic matrices – based on the patterns of real network traffic – allowing network researchers to test designs of communication networks.

“People use the Internet for a range of purposes, from business to entertainment, and they want a reliable 24-hour service at reasonable cost,” said Chief Investigator Associate Professor Matt Roughan, from the University’s School of Mathematical Sciences.

“Internet traffic is complicated and all the different applications produce different types of traffic. It is like our road and freeway networks with a complex system of arterial and feeder routes. In traffic management and road planning, we need to know not just how much traffic there is, but where it’s going and how a new road or block in an existing road may affect that traffic.

“A traffic matrix looks at the volume, movement and type of data traffic over all starting points and all destinations. There is a big array of numbers but, despite this complexity, Internet traffic displays simple patterns.

“This work is about discovering the mathematical underpinnings of these patterns and using them to generate new traffic matrices, against which network designs can be tested.”

The project, *Internet traffic-matrix synthesis*, was awarded Discovery Project funding of \$425,000 over three years from the Australian Research Council (ARC). The co-researcher is Dr Walter Willinger, from the Information and Software Systems Research Center at AT&T Labs Research in Florham Park, New Jersey.

Associate Professor Roughan said the issue that network researchers had was not being able to use real Internet traffic data to test their designs because of commercial sensitivity and privacy issues.

“I must have seen 1000 research papers optimising designs of communication networks but this large area of research has been hampered by lack of data,” he said. “If we can overcome this and have an agreed method for generating traffic matrices, this research will leap forward.”

Associate Professor Roughan said this research will have significant implications for network providers who need to be able to make traffic predictions to build efficient reliable networks; for network researchers who need traffic matrices to test their

designs; and in scientific understanding of what makes up traffic matrices.

“When we compare our synthetic traffic matrices with real matrices, we will be able to pick apart what’s going on, which will help lead to new developments in terms of our understanding.”

Story by Robyn Mills

Photo by Randy Larcombe



Did you know?

The University of Adelaide has more than 6000 followers on Facebook and more than 2300 followers on Twitter.

To hear more about what’s happening at your University every day, you can follow us at:

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twitter.com/uniofadelaide

You can also keep up-to-date with the latest news and events at our website:

www.adelaide.edu.au/news

Robotic surgery future for scholar

University of Adelaide
medical graduate
Tom Cundy has
been awarded
a \$150,000
Federal
Government
scholarship
to study for his
PhD in robotic
surgery in
London.



The 25-year-old from College Park, who has begun a surgical residency at the Women's and Children's Hospital, is the only South Australian to be awarded a General Sir John Monash Scholarship in 2011.

He will explore new frontiers in modern surgery – minimally invasive techniques – under one of the world's most eminent academic surgeons, Professor Lord Ara Darzi, at Imperial College, London, later this year.

Dr Cundy has recently completed his 12-month internship at the Royal Adelaide Hospital after graduating from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Medical Science (First Class Honours) as well as a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery.

In 2010 he was named the South Australian Junior Doctor of the Year for his contribution to teaching, his extensive research portfolio and his voluntary work with St John Ambulance.

Considered the Australian equivalent of the Rhodes Scholarship in the UK and the Fulbright Scholarship in the US, the General Sir John Monash Scholarship will fund Dr Cundy's PhD at the Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery.

"Robotic surgery technology offers some of the most innovative and exciting opportunities in modern surgery," Dr Cundy said.

"I'm looking forward to exploring new concepts in computer-assisted surgery, which bring the united benefits of biomedical engineering,

imaging and information technologies into the operating theatre to allow surgeons to go beyond what is possible in terms of human performance.

"The robotic system acts as an extension of the surgeon's eyes and hands, enabling highly manoeuvrable and precise levels of dexterity," Dr Cundy said.

Since the first robotic surgical system was introduced in Australia in 2004, its use has blossomed across surgical specialties and the number of patients undergoing robotic-assisted procedures continues to expand.

Worldwide, robotic surgical techniques are established in urology, gynaecology, cardiac and general surgery.

Imperial College, where Dr Cundy will be based for his PhD studies, pioneered the development of laparoscopic 'keyhole' surgery and subsequently was the first centre in the world to explore the clinical application of robotic surgery in the 1980s.

"This leading research paved the way for the evolving era of minimally invasive surgery, which delivers better operative results, quicker recovery times and improved long-term outcomes in selected settings," Dr Cundy said.

Aside from his work commitments, Dr Cundy is also a Clinical Associate Lecturer in the School of Medicine at the University of Adelaide.

He will start his PhD in London this October. Dr Cundy is one of eight 2011 Monash scholars selected in Australia from a field of approximately 200 applicants.

Story by Candy Gibson

Left: Dr Tom Cundy at the presentation of his General Sir John Monash Scholarship

Photo courtesy of the General Sir John Monash Foundation

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Identity expert wins Fulbright

A research fellow in the University of Adelaide's Law School has won a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United States.

Dr Clare Sullivan has been named the 2011 Fulbright South Australia Scholar, which will enable her to spend four months at George Washington University to conduct research into the nature of digital identity.

Dr Sullivan has practised law for 30 years and has published widely on the relationship between the law, identity and changing technology.

She has international experience in private practice, teaching law, and has been a research analyst with the Australian Institute of Criminology and a consultant to its Global Electronic and Economic Crime Unit.

Through her Fulbright, Dr Sullivan will examine whether the digital identity that people use for transactions online is emerging as a new legal concept in the US and, if so, what the legal nature of digital identity is and how it can be legally protected.

"The concept of digital identity provides a new perspective for the analysis and classification of identity crime, particularly in distinguishing identity theft from fraud," Dr Sullivan said.

"It also leads to consideration of whether intentional or reckless misuse of an individual's identity can be considered criminal damage."

Dr Sullivan's research in the United Kingdom and Australia will provide the framework for this analysis.

"Typically, the identity information required for transactions consists of full name, gender, date and place of birth, a signature or PIN and often, a social security number. It may also include photographic and biometric comparison. This set of information is used for transactions with government and with private sector organisations," she said.

"Although identity has been used in commercial dealings for some years, my research shows that a legal concept of identity for transactions has now clearly emerged in the United Kingdom as a result of the *Identity Cards Act 2006* (UK) and the national identity scheme it establishes.

"The emergence of a similar concept is also evident in Australia, particularly as a consequence of the federal health registration scheme proposed in 2007. These developments are based on the premise of one person: one identity which, of itself, constitutes a major change to the law."

The nature of digital identity has been designated as a priority area in both Australia and the US. Dr Sullivan's research will be able to inform both governments about this emerging area of law.

Dr Sullivan is a graduate of the University of Adelaide with a Masters of Laws (LLM), an MBA and a PhD in Law.

In November 2010 the University of Adelaide Press published her book, *Digital Identity*, and she has authored a trade-based money laundering report for the Australian Institute of Criminology, to be published this year.

The prestigious Fulbright program is the largest educational scholarship of its kind, created by US Senator J. William Fulbright and the US Government in 1946. Aimed at promoting mutual understanding through educational exchange, it operates between the US and 155 countries.

The Fulbright South Australia Scholarship is supported by the South Australian Government and South Australian-based universities.

Applications for Fulbright Scholarships in 2012 open on 1 June 2011. For more information, go to: www.fulbright.com.au

Digital Identity can be found at the University of Adelaide Press website: www.adelaide.edu.au/press

Above (inset): Fulbright Scholar Dr Clare Sullivan; (main): the cover of Dr Sullivan's book, *Digital Identity*



Barr Smith Library has appeal for donors

The annual appeal to raise much-needed funds for one of the State's greatest assets is underway for 2011.

Playing a key role in the educational experience of both students and academics, the Barr Smith Library now has collections of 2.3 million items and offers global access to resources through an ever-growing virtual presence.

While the Library now provides more than 20,000 electronic journals and approximately 80,000 E-Book titles, it still manages 400,000 loans per annum.

The 2011 Barr Smith Library Appeal will provide vital support to ensure the Library continues to cater to the changing needs of students, staff and the community, and provide the best possible range of resources.

"The funds from the 2010 Appeal allowed the Library to acquire and enrich the collections with over 1400 additional titles," said University Librarian Ray Choate.

"Many of these are in areas of interdisciplinary interest which do not otherwise get selected – the need for good current collections to support understanding of Islamic culture and history in our world is one example. We have also been able to acquire extra resources in more expensive specialised areas – such as Art and Art History.

"It is important for a research library of the Barr Smith's status to hold new scholarly editions of seminal authors in Arts and Sciences – an example acquired on 2010 Appeal funds is the modern scholarly edition of the works of Robert Boyle, the 17th century chemist of Boyle's Law fame. Such editions are generally only accessible in special research libraries such as our own Barr Smith Library."

Donations to the 2011 Appeal will assist the Library to continue to expand the collection for the benefit of students, staff, graduates and the general community.

Support can also be provided by joining the Friends of the University of Adelaide Library network which promotes the interests of the Library and offers its members a range of benefits.

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, the Friends of the University of Adelaide Library, or to make a donation, please contact Development and Alumni on 08 8303 5800, email: development@adelaide.edu.au or go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl_appeal

Story by Genevieve Sanchez

Photo by Randy Larcombe

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.



Adelaide Festival Centre

The Adelaide Festival Centre is the newest member of the Alumni Privilege Program and alumni of the University of Adelaide are entitled to discounts on selected 2011 performances.

Some of the performances on offer at the special alumni price include: *Africa* (11-13 May), *Katie Noonan & Katie Schaupp* (27-28 May), *African Grace* (1 June only), *Side to One* (27-30 July), *Paco Pena* (28 July) and *Worldhood* (10-13 August).

In order to access the special University of Adelaide Alumni price, please quote the codeword 'AlumniAU' when you are purchasing tickets from BASS, either on the phone, in person or by typing the code word online.

For more information about all of the Adelaide Festival Centre performances and the full alumni privileges package, including terms and conditions, go to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges



Art meets science



Unique glass works representing the cutting edge of art and science have gone on display in an exhibition in Adelaide.

A Fine Line is a collaborative exhibition between the Institute for Photonics & Advanced Sensing (IPAS) at the University of Adelaide and the artists at JamFactory's Glass Studio.

Incorporating video footage and examples of the works created by both artists and scientists, *A Fine Line* showcases the technique and process behind the making of both glass art and the glass that underpins new technologies.

The exhibition features works by glass artists Nick Mount, Danielle Rickaby and Janice Vitkovsky, and also shows new classes of optical fibres designed and manufactured by scientists at IPAS.

At IPAS, novel glasses shaped into new forms of optical fibres and sensors that are being used to create tools to help solve problems in areas such as defence, medical diagnostics, remote environmental monitoring, and food and wine production.

"In this exhibition, glass becomes the connective line between nature, science and art," said Margaret Hancock, Curator and Exhibitions Manager at the JamFactory. "Located at opposite ends of the city square, our organisations work at the cutting edge of glass design and manufacture."

The exhibition was opened in March by Professor Tanya Monro, IPAS Director and ARC Federation Fellow at the University of Adelaide, and SA Australian of the Year 2011.

"With glass, there is a very strong link between science and art," Professor Monro said. "While glass artists use traditional methods to create their works, there is a great deal of science behind the work they do; and in our scientific work, we are creating unique forms of glass fibres and patterns that in themselves have artistic merit."

Professor Monro said there had been a series of visits by artists and scientists at both the IPAS science laboratories and at the JamFactory glass studios.

"These visits have established strong interactions between the glass art and glass science communities and I hope that in time this will enrich the practices of both groups. I'm also particularly keen to see whether people can pick which works are from science and which are works of art," she said.

A Fine Line – Glass Meets Art Exhibition
JamFactory, 19 Morphett St, Adelaide
Open to the public until Sunday 8 May

www.jamfactory.com.au
www.adelaide.edu.au/ipas

Photo by Jennie Groom


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Study puts ethical eating on the table

How much of a part do ethics play in Australians' food choices?

Do we care about how animals have been treated in the production of our food, or how much jet fuel has been burned in moving food from paddock to plate?

These questions and more will be answered by a new University of Adelaide project looking at the ethical reasons that come into play for many Australians on their weekly visits to the supermarket or greengrocers.

Associate Professor Rachel Ankeny, a University of Adelaide researcher in the school of History & Politics who studies bioethics, history and food, has won a \$155,000 Federal Government grant to investigate food ethics in contemporary Australia over the next three years.

"Increasingly, people are making decisions about what they buy and what they eat, based on what they consider to be ethical reasons," Associate Professor Ankeny said.

"These can include a whole range of factors, such as the impact of food production on the environment, the importance of buying local produce, religious reasons, health considerations and animal welfare."

The latter is emerging as a powerful consumer influence, with Australia's two major supermarket chains responding to public concern about what is perceived to be inhumane treatment of animals in the production of some foods.

The massive growth in free-range eggs, chicken and pork on the supermarket shelves and the phasing out of cage eggs in some outlets is testament to the growing awareness of animal welfare.

"Organic produce is also becoming more widespread, but this does not appear to be as popular among consumers as many other countries, such as the United Kingdom," she said.

"People in Australia are more focused on the 'buy local' message, for several reasons, which are not always ethically motivated. They are keen to support their local retailers in an economic sense, but they also believe food grown closer to home is fresher and of higher quality."

Associate Professor Ankeny says the project will try to "disentangle" the motivations behind why people make the food choices they do.

"Sometimes they are not necessarily ethical. People are vegetarian, for instance, for a whole range of reasons, such as health and cultural reasons and the fact they just don't like the taste of meat. It's not always tied to ethical beliefs."

The project will also look at the historical development of our food culture and the close relationship between meat and Australia's national identity, as well as the economic value of the meat industry to our nation.

"How did we get to this point today where there are a small percentage of people

who are vegetarians, and an even smaller percentage who are vegans, compared to some other places in the world?"

Focus groups will be recruited mid-way through 2011 to define not only the ethical factors that come into play in food purchases, but also the impediments to making these choices, including cost, time, skills, lack of information, poor food labelling and limited choices.

"The project has a number of goals," Associate Professor Ankeny said. "One is to get to a point where we have a clear definition of what ethical consumption is, according to consumers, and the obstacles they face in pursuing it. Indirectly, the results of this project should be useful for marketing purposes as well."

"Another goal is to incorporate these concepts into food policy. I think most Australians would like a more transparent process when it comes to the food they consume."

This includes better labelling, showing how food is produced, and the distance it has travelled during various phases of production from paddock to plate.

"This information should allow consumers to better gauge whether the ethical choices they wish to make in regards to food purchases actually have the desired effect."

Story by Candy Gibson

Photo by iStock



Research Tuesdays

SHARING GREAT RESEARCH WITH THE COMMUNITY



The Discriminating Female

How the choosy female immune system exercises reproductive quality control

The success or failure of human reproduction has been thought to depend on many things over the years, but the female immune response isn't one of them. In fact, it was widely believed to remain passive throughout the process.

Recent research at the University of Adelaide's Robinson Institute, however, is turning the conventional wisdom on its head.

The woman's immune system has been shown to play a critical role from conception to embryo implantation to placental development, actively assessing sperm quality, embryo viability and embryo-maternal compatibility, then "deciding" whether or not to proceed.

Professor Sarah Robertson will discuss these fascinating insights and explore their exciting implications for the treatment of many fertility disorders.

WHEN: 5.30-6.30pm Tuesday 10 May

WHERE: Horace Lamb Lecture Theatre, North Terrace Campus

ADMISSION FREE, BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

Register online:

www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays or call: 08 8303 3692

Evenings at Elder Hall

Concert 1: The Ages of Jazz

When: 6.30pm Thursday 5 May

Concert 2: In celebration of two Steinways

When: 6.30pm Saturday 28 May

Where: Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus

Cost: (per concert) \$25 adult, \$20 concession; \$15 student. For a special Family Ticket deal, contact Elder Hall Manager Claire Oremland.

To book: call 08 8303 5925 or email: claire.oremland@adelaide.edu.au www.elderhall.adelaide.edu.au



University of Adelaide Theatre Guild

Arthur Miller's *A View from the Bridge*, directed by John Graham.

www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild

When: 7.30pm Saturday 14, Tuesday to Saturday 17-21 and 24-28 May

Where: Little Theatre, The Cloisters, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Tickets \$25 full, \$20 concession

To book: Tickets available by calling 08 8303 5999 (fee applies for credit card bookings) or on the door, subject to availability

The following University of Adelaide events are part of *About Time: South Australia's History Festival* being held throughout May. For full details of all events, go to: www.abouttime.sa.gov.au

Archival allsorts: digitised records from the archives

Launching the new University of Adelaide Archives Blog.

When: 10.30am-12 noon Tuesday 3 May

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

RSVP: by Friday 29 April to archives@adelaide.edu.au or phone 08 8303 5184

Gown and Town: University engagement with South Australia

A Cultural Conversation with historian Rob Linn, author of an upcoming book on the history of the University of Adelaide, with an accompanying exhibition.

When: Cultural Conversation: 1.00pm Wednesday 18 May
Exhibition: 2-29 May, open during Barr Smith Library hours

Where: Cultural Conversation: Special Collections, Level 1, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus
Exhibition: Levels 1 and 3, Barr Smith Library, and Mitchell Building Foyer, North Terrace Campus

RSVP: to Mirna Heruc 08 8303 4031 mirna.heruc@adelaide.edu.au, or Cheryl Hoskin 08 8303 5224 cheryl.hoskin@adelaide.edu.au

Cultural tour with Keith Conlon

Join a special cultural tour of the University's heritage-listed Mitchell Building and Elder and Bonython Halls. Tour limit: 30. Bookings required.

When: 9.30am-11.00am Wednesday 18 May

To book: contact Gaynor Tyerman 08 8303 6356, gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

History and heritage tour

Visit the University's historic buildings. Bookings required.

When: 10.30am every Tuesday in May and 2.00pm every Thursday in May

Where: Meet outside the Mitchell Building, North Terrace Campus

To book: contact Gaynor Tyerman, 08 8303 6356, gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

For bookings to all of the following events at Urrbrae House, contact: Amanda Jackson 08 8303 7497, amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au or Lynette Zeitz 08 8303 7425, lynette.zeitz@adelaide.edu.au

Breeding new cereals and legumes at the Waite, 1955-2005

Hear about the work of Waite scientists in developing the new wheat, barley, triticale and faba bean varieties that have transformed our farming landscape. Bookings required.

When: 5.00pm (for a 5.30pm start) Monday 2 May

Where: Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae (enter from Fullarton Road)

Guided tours of Urrbrae House

Historic Urrbrae House is one of the most significant private houses built in South Australia. Bookings required.

When: 2.00pm-3.15pm Sunday 1 May and Sunday 22 May

Where: Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae (enter from Fullarton Road)

Recreating the gardens of Urrbrae House

Tour one of Adelaide's most innovative, distinctive and beautiful gardens. Tour limit: 30. Bookings required.

When: 11.00am Sunday 15 May

Where: Tour departs front steps of Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae (enter from Fullarton Road)

Trees for the future from successes of the past

A guided tour of the Waite Arboretum. Bookings required for groups only.

When: Sunday 22 May, Wednesday 25 May and Sunday 29 May, 11 am - 12.30 pm

Where: Tour departs from the front steps of Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae (enter from Fullarton Road)

Afternoon tea with Mr and Mrs Waite in 1892

Learn about the Waite family, the life of the household and see inside Urrbrae House. Not suitable for children under seven. Tour limit: 22. Bookings required.

When: 2.30 pm-4 pm Sunday 29 May

Where: Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, Urrbrae

Cost: \$11 per person