

# Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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## Our healthy dose of research funding



Adelaide researchers have crowned a successful year by securing almost \$30 million in Federal Government funding.

In the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) round, 26 new project grants were awarded to University of Adelaide medical, dental and biomedical researchers totalling more than \$11m over four years.

And the university received a further \$18.7m over five years from Australian Research Council (ARC) grants for new research projects and infrastructure.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) Professor Neville Marsh was full of praise for the researchers.

“We have experienced a stellar performance, especially in terms of the ARC Discovery grants. Thanks to the combined efforts of our researchers, we have significantly improved our success rate which is extremely encouraging for the university,” he said.

Professor Marsh said the University's ARC Discovery Project success rate was not only 33.8% compared to the national rate of 30.8%, but has doubled last year's funding.

“It is a stunning success and reflects our ability to attract large research funding. What is particularly significant is that of our 48 successful ARC Discovery Projects, Early Career Researchers won 12 or 25%.

“This is a great indication of the kind of encouragement being given to our ECRs. Their ability is complemented by the achievements of long-standing

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### Life Impact



THE UNIVERSITY  
OF ADELAIDE  
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www.adelaide.edu.au



## McWha's Words

### Developing the Future

The North Terrace redevelopment has now moved inside the fence, and the front of the Mitchell Building has been invaded by bobcats and their enthusiastic drivers who delight in breaking up cement blocks by brute force. There is noise, there is dust, there is disruption – and the water main has just been cut through for the second time in a week. Yes, I've been finding it hard to concentrate for the past week or so: things get buried in the welter of noise.

One thing that certainly did get my attention, though, was our outstanding performance in the recent Australian Research Council and National Health and Medical Research Council grants. We have secured nearly \$30 million in funding from these two sources this year, with grants spread across the fields in which we have established research strength, and in newer ventures such as the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics.

Also demanding more than a passing glance was the *Times Higher Education Supplement* World University Rankings, which ranks the University of Adelaide 56th internationally, and 17th among universities outside North

America and Europe. While I am habitually cautious in approaching "league tables", this is an important and prestigious list, compiled using a methodology which if not perfect, is better than most, with a notable emphasis on peer review and citations. The relative "scores" for Australian universities suggests that we are reaping the rewards of the recruitment, both nationally and internationally, of quality staff and students that has been a hallmark of Australian universities for 50 years and more.

Turning to the future, the first week of December sees me presenting our plans and targets for 2005 to the year's final meeting of Council. My thanks to all those who have provided input into this process, and especially into preparation of the budget, which has been compiled in close consultation with the faculties and divisions. 2005 will bring new and, I am sure, unexpected challenges to the University, as the Federal Government pushes ahead with new reforms, emboldened by their control of both Houses of Parliament. The very nature of what is required for designation as a university has already been identified as a key issue for

discussion with the release of the Guthrie Report, while other vital matters including the provision of essential student services in the light of a certain move towards Voluntary Student Unionism need to be thoroughly analysed. These and many other issues suggest that 2005 will, indeed, be an interesting year.

We have had a good year in 2004, meeting most of our objectives and significantly exceeding many of them. This is your achievement and reflects a vibrant university community. In thanking you for your commitment and hard work in the past year, I wish you an enjoyable and refreshing break over Christmas and the New Year, and look forward to continuing our work together in the coming year.

JAMES A. McWHA  
Vice-Chancellor

### Adelaidean

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## Media exposure for Natalie

Natalie De Nadai's work in the media has started – while she's still at university!

The third-year Bachelor of Media and Diploma in Languages student is an aspiring journalist, and work experience with the University of Adelaide's Marketing and Strategic Communications media team has given her worthwhile exposure to the industry.

Natalie has been coming into the media office twice a week since early May and has experienced first-hand the duties of a journalist.

"To be a journalist it is very important to have experience, so I thought the uni newspaper would be the best place to start," she said.

"Working on the *Adelaidean* has given me so many valuable opportunities – finding my own stories, having my articles published, putting together media releases and meeting interesting people.

"I've learnt a lot about the media industry, and as well as helping me build up a portfolio, I think I've developed into a more confident writer.

"In my last year of uni next year I definitely will be seeking to get more experience so I can broaden my employment opportunities."



Natalie De Natalie with her front-page story in the October issue of the *Adelaidean*  
Photo by Ben Osborne



# Green light for automotive degree

A new degree at the University of Adelaide will put its graduates on the fast track to a successful career in the automotive industry

The Bachelor of Automotive Engineering is the first degree of its type in South Australia, and will be offered from next year. It aims to give students the skills and qualities needed for a successful career in the automotive industry.

Coordinator of the degree and Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide Dr Colin Kestell said the local automotive industry and the State Government have both made substantial contributions to the new offering.

“We are very excited to be offering this degree, because it is the degree that the automotive industry – the biggest employer in this State – has been asking for,” Dr Kestell said.

“Industry wants graduates who are up to date with the latest developments in the field and who

can come in and make an impact straight away – and this is what our degree will offer them.

“Automotive engineering is so far removed from most people’s stereotype of a mechanic getting covered in oil and grease in a dark and dingy workshop.

“It is actually the leading pioneer for new technology and hi-tech engineering. Automotive engineers design state-of-the-art products and manufacturing systems, and lead the way for others to follow.”

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said the degree further underlines the University of Adelaide’s burgeoning partnership with industry.

“Our industry partners have proven their enthusiasm for what we are

doing by sponsoring an additional lecturer position, who will help with the more specialised courses in the degree,” Professor McWha said.

“These partners will also provide experts to be guest lecturers, and will keep in close contact with the university to ensure the degree is as relevant and timely as possible.”

Industry Minister Mr Paul Holloway said the State’s car manufacturing industry will benefit enormously from a further influx of high-calibre graduates.

“Over many years, the industry has made significant contributions to the State’s economy,” Mr Holloway said.

“Of the 350,000 cars made every year in Australia, about half are manufactured here in Adelaide,” Mr Holloway said.

“As well as the two major manufacturers located here, around 40 components producers are also located within the State.

“The initiative to establish this automotive engineering degree was

Engineering students (from left) Radoslaw Kochanawski, Marcus Boyd and Paul Caffin with the Formula SAE car they helped to design and build as part of their final year  
Photo by Ben Osborne

prompted by the recognition that the automotive industry, like many others, was beginning to experience a skill shortage.

“The skill shortage is the result of significant new vehicle programs by all four of Australia’s manufacturers as well as escalating market demand for new vehicles both locally and internationally.

“As a result, it was clear that automotive engineering skills development needed to be recognised and addressed by the South Australian community.

“This new degree is another step towards ensuring that the South Australian industry remains at the forefront of world automobile manufacturing.”

Story by Ben Osborne

# Saving lives on a global scale

Adelaide is at the forefront of worldwide efforts to reduce injury and death caused to pedestrians in road accidents.



According to World Health Organization figures, around 1.2 million people were expected to die this year as a result of road crashes. Of those, 90% of deaths would likely be among pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists.

A group involved in helping to influence the world's road safety regulations met earlier this year in Adelaide to discuss major issues affecting pedestrian safety.

The Pedestrian Safety Expert Group, part of the global International Harmonised Research Activities (IHRA) program, includes representatives from the Japanese Government, European Union, United States Government, Australian Government, and industry leaders from Japan, Europe and the US.

Representing Australia is Professor Jack McLean, Director of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research at the University of Adelaide.

Professor McLean has an international reputation for the quality of the work of his centre. The centre was instrumental in the introduction of 50km/h speed limits throughout Australia, and Professor McLean has been working with world leaders in the field of pedestrian and vehicle safety for almost 40 years.

"The Pedestrian Safety Expert Group meets twice a year to work through major issues and discuss the latest research," Professor McLean said.

Above: the Chairman of the Pedestrian Safety Expert Group, Mr Yoshiyuki Mizuno (left), with Australian representative Professor Jack McLean  
Photo by David Ellis

Right: an image being used by the World Health Organization in posters aimed at raising awareness of deaths on the roads  
Photo courtesy of the World Health Organization, Geneva

"The meeting in Adelaide was the sixteenth time our group has met, and we share those meetings right across the globe.

"The group's work feeds into the wider efforts of the IHRA program, which influences decisions made by automotive industry bodies in the US, Japan and Europe, and United Nations safety and environmental regulations."

Among the research discussed at the Adelaide meeting was the latest work conducted by the university's Centre for Automotive Safety Research, including simulations of pedestrian head injuries caused by vehicle accidents and potential safety measures.

The quality of the work conducted at the University of Adelaide was praised by the Chairman of the Pedestrian Safety Expert Group, Mr Yoshiyuki Mizuno (Executive Director, Japan Automobile Standards Internationalization Center).

"Australia has a problem, just as all countries have problems with pedestrian accidents," Mr Mizuno said.

"Professor McLean is working seriously for this field and providing good suggestions with backup data to support his arguments. We very much appreciate his dedication to this work."

Mr Mizuno said the group's work would feed into Australian

regulations, just as it would into automotive regulations in the US, Japan and Europe.

"I give thanks to the University of Adelaide and the Australian Government for their support of this activity," Mr Mizuno said.

"I stress that this is a very important activity... that can help not only governments but also industry.

"Our one major purpose is to reduce injury. Our activity can contribute to the improvement of this situation," he said.

The next meeting of the Pedestrian Safety Expert Group will be held in Japan this month.

Story by David Ellis



# Nobel launch for student body

University of Adelaide creative writing students recently hit the jackpot when Dr JM Coetzee launched their publication *The Body: an anthology*.

The winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize for Literature and dual Booker prize winner, Dr Coetzee is an Honorary Visiting Research Fellow in the university's Discipline of English, and was forwarded an early proof of the book by its four co-editors.

"We were hoping he might give us an endorsement," Amy Matthews, one of four co-editors, told *The Advertiser* recently. "He replied quickly with a page of notes and comments, and agreed to launch the book."

Each year, students of the University of Adelaide's Masters Degree of Creating Writing compile an anthology surrounding a chosen theme, which this year was "the body".

*The Body: an anthology* is a diverse collection of short stories and poetry written by 27 new writers whose work delves into the depths of the body, reflecting not only on what the body is, but also looking at the various forms it inhabits.

Together they have created a mysterious, sensual and occasionally tormented journey through the body in all its forms. Their work pushes the boundaries far from traditional concepts and perceptions of the body. The body is life, landscape, movement and so much more. It is constantly changing shape, unravelling its many disguises and hidden meanings.



Co-editors Chelsea Avard (left) and Amy Matthews (right) with Dr JM Coetzee at the book launch  
Photo by Campbell Brodie, courtesy of *The Advertiser*

Each author offers a remarkable and distinct approach to this body of work bringing a range of different experiences and expressions to life.

The South African-born Coetzee, who settled in Adelaide in 2002, is regarded as one of the greatest living writers, and has the distinction of being one of only two people to win the Booker Prize twice.

*The Body: an anthology* is edited by Henry Ashley-Brown, Chelsea Avard, Amy Matthews and Stephanie Thomson, and is published by Wakefield Press with a RRP of \$19.95.

Story by Howard Salkow

# Recognising human rights

A new book co-authored by an Adelaide academic could not be better timed.

Human rights issues did not feature in the recent US presidential election, "yet," says *Human Rights and Narrated Lives: The Ethics of Recognition* co-author Professor Kay Schaffer, "there has never been a greater threat to a global order of human rights than now".

The book, which Professor Schaffer (from the university's Discipline of Gender and Labour Studies) co-wrote with Professor Sidonie Smith from the University of Michigan, links the effectiveness of storytelling to social

movements and the advance of human rights.

The authors mount a timely argument that storytelling remains a vital and potent force connecting victims and listeners in ways that extend human rights, freedom and dignity.

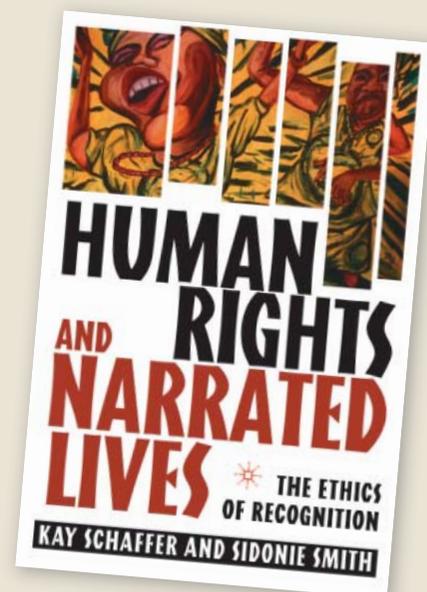
They compare the demise of a human rights agenda today with successful campaigns in the 1990s, a decade of reconciliation.

The book features South Africa's Apartheid era and the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission that evolved following election of the first multi-racial government.

The South African story is one of five case studies chosen by the authors, which enabled them "to consider the conflicted and indeterminate ways in which storytelling connects to human rights campaigns that have been and are taking place around the globe".

The others are Australia and the National Inquiry into the Forced Separation of Indigenous Children from their Families; East and Southeast Asia and the belated narratives of World War Two sex prisoners; the United States and prison rights narratives; and China in the wake of the Tiananmen Square massacre.



*Human Rights and Narrated Lives: The Ethics of Recognition* is published by Palgrave MacMillan, and has a RRP of \$52.

# Lifelong learning for a new Korea

The University of Adelaide stands to gain from South Korea's recent decision to reduce its workweek from six to five days.



Along with the introduction of the shorter workweek, the South Korean Government and industry are now promoting lifelong learning with the prime objective of cultivating job skills.

And in an attempt to better explain and articulate the concept of lifelong learning, Australian educational institutions were recently afforded the opportunity to promote their professional continuing education programs at a series of seminars in South Korea.

"At present, lifelong learning is a new concept to South Koreans," said Ms Liz Pryzibilla, Director of the University of Adelaide's Centre for Professional and Continuing Education and the English Language Centre, and a seminar presenter.

"Historically, Koreans undertake university study going all the way to obtaining a PhD, rather than

participating in independent short courses to improve their skills.

"In capitalising on this change of approach to learning, we used the visit to promote our model and vision of lifelong learning. In addition, we also provided opportunities for them to undertake short courses overseas, promote professional continuing education opportunities and position the University of Adelaide as a leader in this regard," she said.

Ms Pryzibilla said the universities of Adelaide and Korea also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the major objective of "establishing a framework within which cooperation may develop between the two institutions".

The MOU will enable academic staff from each university to visit each other and participate in

Above: the night skyline of South Korean capital Seoul  
Photo courtesy of Korea National Tourism Organisation

Above left: the university's Liz Pryzibilla and Matthew Rawes with Seoul National University's Joseph Cabuay. Negotiations are underway to sign a MOU with SNU similar to that already signed with Korea University.

joint teaching, research, conferences and cultural programs. It will also offer admission to qualified students from each university to enable them to participate in undergraduate and graduate courses at the respective universities.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the University of Adelaide and I have recommended that Korea be added to our priority list for marketing purposes," Ms Pryzibilla said.

Story by Howard Salkow



## December graduations

The grand setting of Bonython Hall will once again be host to the University of Adelaide's December graduations.

Spread across 12 ceremonies from December 16 to 23, more than 3700 students are expected to graduate with over 2800 of those attending in person.

### Thursday, December 16 – 10am

Faculty of Health Sciences (MBBS and other Medicine programs)

### Thursday, December 16 – 2.30pm

Faculty of Health Sciences (all Dentistry programs, all Adelaide Graduate School of Business and other medicine programs)

### Friday, December 17 – 10am

Faculty of the Professions (all school of Commerce programs)

### Friday, December 17 – 2.30pm

Faculty of the Professions (all programs in School of Economics and Graduate School of Education)

### Monday, December 20 – 10am

Faculty of Science (Science programs)

### Monday, December 20 – 2.30pm

Faculty of Science (all Agriculture programs)

### Tuesday, December 21 – 10am

Faculty of Engineering (all Engineering Programs except B.Eng (Mechanical, Mechatronic, Petroleum))

### Tuesday, December 21 – 2.30pm

Faculty of Engineering, Maths and Architecture (B. Engineering (Mechanical, Mechatronic, Petroleum) all Maths Programs, all Architecture Programs)

### Wednesday, December 22 – 10am

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (all programs; family names A-K)

### Wednesday, December 22 – 2.30pm

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (all programs; family names L-Z)

### Thursday, December 23 – 10am

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (all Grad Cert, Grad Dip, Honours, Masters, Prof. Cert.), Wilto Yerlo

### Thursday, December 23 – 2.30pm

Elder School of Music and Faculty of Professions (Law School programs)

For more information about the December ceremonies, visit:  
[www.adelaide.edu.au/student/graduations/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/student/graduations/)



Remarkable Rocks, Kangaroo Island  
Photo courtesy of John Jennings

# Our new research site – all 440,000 hectares of it!

The whole of Kangaroo Island has become a major new ecological research site, with the University of Adelaide leading the way.

The Kangaroo Island Long-Term Ecological Research Site (or KI LTER) is a joint project between the university and other key institutional and government partners, and is believed to be the biggest of its type in the world.

The fifth Long-Term Ecological Research Site in Australia, it encompasses all of Kangaroo Island's 440,000 hectares, as well as nearby islands and seaways.

By comparison, probably Australia's best-known LTER – the Warra LTER in Tasmania – is about 15,000ha, and no other LTER worldwide is believed to cover anywhere near the same amount of area.

Coordinator of the KI LTER and University of Adelaide lecturer Dr John Jennings says Kangaroo Island was chosen because of its relative isolation and unique environment.

“What we are trying to do with the Kangaroo Island LTER is understand what has happened ecologically across the island over time, which helps us to better plan for the future,” Dr Jennings said.

“KI is a unique location, and importantly for us it is unique even in the context of the Australian environment.

“It has been isolated from the mainland for some 10,000 years and has not suffered vegetation clearance

to the same extent as the mainland. It has not had the same association with Aboriginals and fire that the mainland has, and it has avoided some of the major environmental pests on the mainland like the rabbit and the fox.

“The island represents a fantastic opportunity for the LTER partners to learn more about the Australian environment, focusing on such areas as dryland salinity, biodiversity, the impact of tourism, fire management, and looking after threatened species like the Sooty Dunnart and the Glossy Black Cockatoo.

“With its links to a network of national and international LTER sites, the KI LTER will be a vehicle to promote and coordinate ecological research on the island.

“We will also have a strong focus on education, with a focal point being the new Flinders-Baudin Research Centre set up by David Paton from the University of Adelaide.”

In launching the project, Environment and Conservation

Minister Mr John Hill said it was an extremely valuable project for Kangaroo Island and South Australia.

“The data that will be collected through the study will help us understand the island's ecological history – but also assist better planning in the future,” he said.

“Kangaroo Island is regarded as being unique as it was untouched for so long and is isolated, so it makes an ideal location for this project.

“I look forward to watching progress with this exciting and innovative program.”

The LTER partners are: the University of Adelaide, Department for Environment and Heritage, the South Australian Museum, the Royal Society of South Australia, South Australian Research and Development Corporation, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, and the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Board.

Story by Ben Osborne



# Our health

Continued from page 1

researchers such as those in physics, chemistry and engineering,” he said.

Dr Maria Makrides, from the Child Health Research Institute based at the Women’s & Children’s Hospital and a Senior Research Fellow in the University’s Department of Paediatrics, received the largest NHMRC grant of \$1.6m over four years (see related story below).

ARC Federation Fellow Professor Mark Tester from the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics at the Waite Campus was the big ARC grant winner, receiving \$1.45m over five years (see story on opposite page).

Professor Marsh said the NHMRC grants clearly illustrate the strength

## Maria targets postnatal depression

An Adelaide researcher will use her NHMRC funding to trial an anti-depressive drug which could help women suffering postnatal depression.

In turn, this could come with the possible bonus side-effect of boosting brain activity in their children.

Dr Maria Makrides, from the Child Health Research Institute based at the Women’s & Children’s Hospital and Flinders Medical Centre, and a Senior Research Fellow in the University of Adelaide’s Department of Paediatrics, received the largest NHMRC grant among Adelaide researchers with \$1.6 million over four years.

Her project title is *A Randomised Trial of DHA (Docosahexaenoic acid) in Pregnancy to Prevent Postnatal Depressive Symptoms and Enhance Neurodevelopment in Children.*

“Postnatal depression is the most prevalent mood disorder associated with childbirth, and second only

to Caesarean section as the most frequent and serious complication of childbirth,” said Dr Makrides, who is looking forward to this research.

“It is associated with emotional and behavioural problems and with cognitive delay in children. Clearly complex biological, psychological and social factors are involved, but there are very few biological studies to tackle prevention.”

Dr Makrides said the research would trial Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA), an omega-3 fatty acid that is a safe, cheap, and acceptable intervention in pregnancy.

“DHA supplementation of patients with major depression has already demonstrated improvements in depressive symptoms compared with control, and prospective studies indicate a strong association between



the dietary dose of DHA and the prevalence of depressive symptoms in the postnatal period.

“Enriching diets with DHA has also been associated with improvements in visual and neural abilities of young infants. If the proposed DHA intervention were successful, it would be one of the most effective and acceptable strategies to

Dr Maria Makrides treats baby Matthew at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital  
Photo by Ben Osborne

prevent symptoms of depression in the postnatal period, with the added potential of improving neurodevelopment in children,” she said.

Story by Howard Salkow

# ny dose of research funding

of this institute's research in reproductive medicine, while the healthy development of children has again been recognised with substantial project funding, six new Fellowships, one renewal and four Career Development grants.

"The funding of projects in areas as diverse as pregnancy, dental health, methadone treatment and the molecular biosciences testifies to the breadth and depth of our work in the health and medical fields," he said.

Meanwhile, the Law School's Dr Judith Gardam and Professor Adrian Bradbrook received \$142,466 for a project on *The Recognition of Access to Energy Services as an Integral Component of the Human Rights and Sustainable Development Framework*. The

project will contribute to the fulfilment of Australia's international obligations as a member of the UN.

Dr Garrett Cullity from the Discipline of Philosophy received \$114,515 for research on *The morality of Cooperation and Concern*. He is one of the key drivers behind the proposed establishment of a new Ethics Centre of South Australia.

Some of the other more financially significant grants awarded were:

- \$989,250 in two NHMRC grants to research teams led by Professor Caroline Crowther, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, for work on planned delivery options for women who have had a single previous caesarean section, and on the effects of prenatal

corticosteroids on childhood development, behaviour, growth and health.

- \$864,610 to Associate Professor Derek Abbott from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering to establish a national T-Ray facility at the university through the Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities scheme.

- \$800,000 to Samuel Mickan, an Early Career Researcher, from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering for research on *TeraHertz Cell Cluster Imaging*.

- \$740,000 to Professor Geoff Fincher from the School of Agriculture and Wine for work on plant wall polysaccharides, which are extensively used for food and fibre, and are important dietary

components in human nutrition.

- \$600,000 to Dr Raymond Protheroe from the School of Chemistry and Physics for research on *LUNASKA, a theoretical and experimental project for UHE neutrino astrophysics using a giant radio observatory*.

- \$580,000 to Professor Bob Hill from the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences for a project which will provide a global perspective on the evolutionary significance of southern conifers.

- \$560,000 to Professor Michael Bruce from the School of Chemistry and Physics for new materials research on all-carbon molecules in metal complexes.

Story by Howard Salkow

## Tester's research continues to grow

Federation Fellow Professor Mark Tester is confident that his recent Australian Research Council grant will enable him to provide further valuable insights into how plants work.

In the November ARC grants, Professor Tester, from the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus, was the big winner receiving \$1.45 million over five years.

His project title is *Controlling accumulation of elements in the shoots of higher plants by manipulating processes in specific cell types in the roots*.

"This grant complements the work we started at the University of Cambridge and will now help us to focus on Australia's problems," he said.

"And with the five-year period, we can dig deeper into these issues. The considerable funding also means we can establish a large team of researchers to undertake the work."

An excited Professor Tester said the projects would provide insights into how plants control what nutrients and toxins accumulate in their shoots.

"Salt tolerant plants often keep sodium out of their shoots so this work will help develop salt tolerant crop. Another example of the usefulness of this program would be to help efficiency of fertiliser use by plants," he said.

Story by Howard Salkow



# Mechanical minds gear up for Adelaide

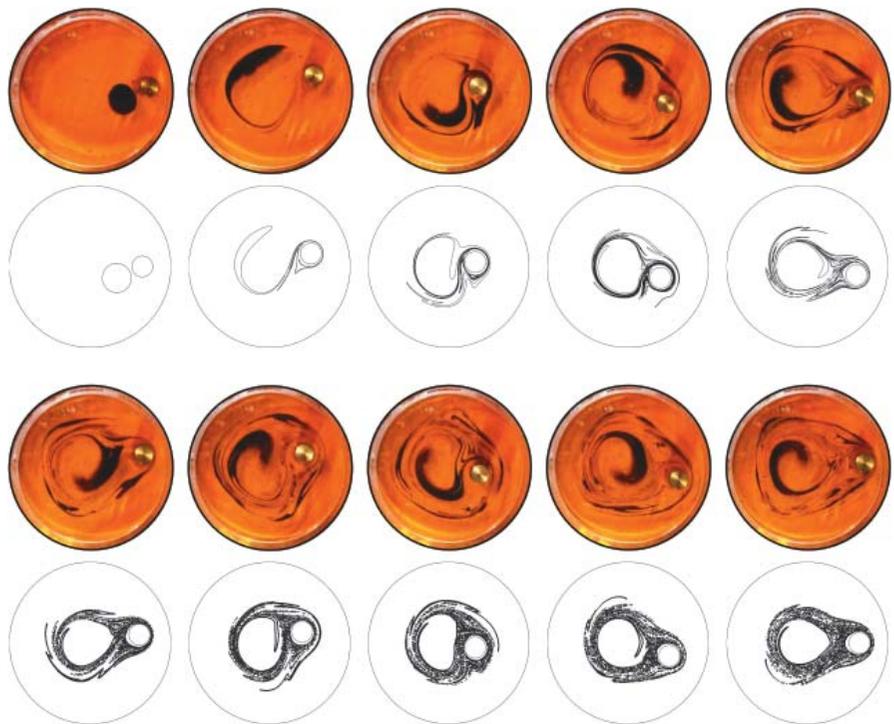
Adelaide will play host to one of the world's biggest conferences in mechanics.

More than 1000 leading scientific minds from around the globe will descend on Adelaide for the International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics Congress (known as ICTAM) held from August 24 to 30, 2008.

Mechanics is described as the study of bodies in motion and has two distinct fields, Fluid Mechanics and Solid Mechanics. Fluid Mechanics is the study of gases or liquids and how they move, while Solid Mechanics is the study of solids and how they deform.

The Congress will be jointly hosted and organised by the universities of Adelaide and Flinders, and their successful bid to host the Congress in Adelaide is the result of three years of planning by the city's mechanics community.

Dr Jim Denier, who is Secretary General of ICTAM 2008 and also Senior Lecturer in Applied Mathematics at the University of Adelaide, says the Congress is held every four years and brings together the leading researchers in the field of mechanics.



"It is the largest and oldest scientific meeting aimed at understanding the workings of the world around us, and it has a particular focus on how current research enhances that understanding," Dr Denier said.

"Some of the issues that will be covered include: how do bacteria propel themselves? How do fluids behave in space? How are the atmosphere and ocean linked, and what effect do they have upon

Mechanics can be as simple as the study of thick liquids, which are notoriously difficult to mix. Pictured above is a sequence of black food dye being stirred into golden syrup in a simple laminar mixing device. Computer simulations agree well with the crude experiments  
Image courtesy of Dr Stephen Cox

climate change? How do crystals grow and take the shape they take?"

Story by Ben Osborne

# Students engineer tomorrow's ideas today

The State's best young engineering minds were on full display recently.

The University of Adelaide's Mechanical Engineering Project Exhibition showcases the talents of fourth-year students enrolled in the course.

Mr Antoni Blazewicz, the university staff member coordinating the 2004 projects, said the exhibition gave some of the best young minds in the State the chance to display their initiative not only to the general public but also potential employers.

"By displaying these projects in an exhibition like this, the students had the additional benefit of direct contact with industry, providing valuable experience and future contacts," he said.

"Many employers have commented that they see the involvement with the industry-sponsored projects equivalent to another 12 months' work experience.

This gives these students an additional advantage when entering the graduate employment market."

Some of the projects on display included:

- An Artificial Intelligence Robot (or AIBO) that could perform duties due to pattern

recognition cards while also recognising the owner's face and voice (pictured at left with its developer, Rebecca Moroney);

- An autonomous window-cleaning robot, which operates by a programmed system and follows a predefined cleaning path;
- And a robotic pool player, created for entertainment purposes, with many of its technologies that can be applied to a wide variety of industrial automation applications.

Mr Blazewicz said he was very happy with the success of the day and many opportunities had arisen for the students.

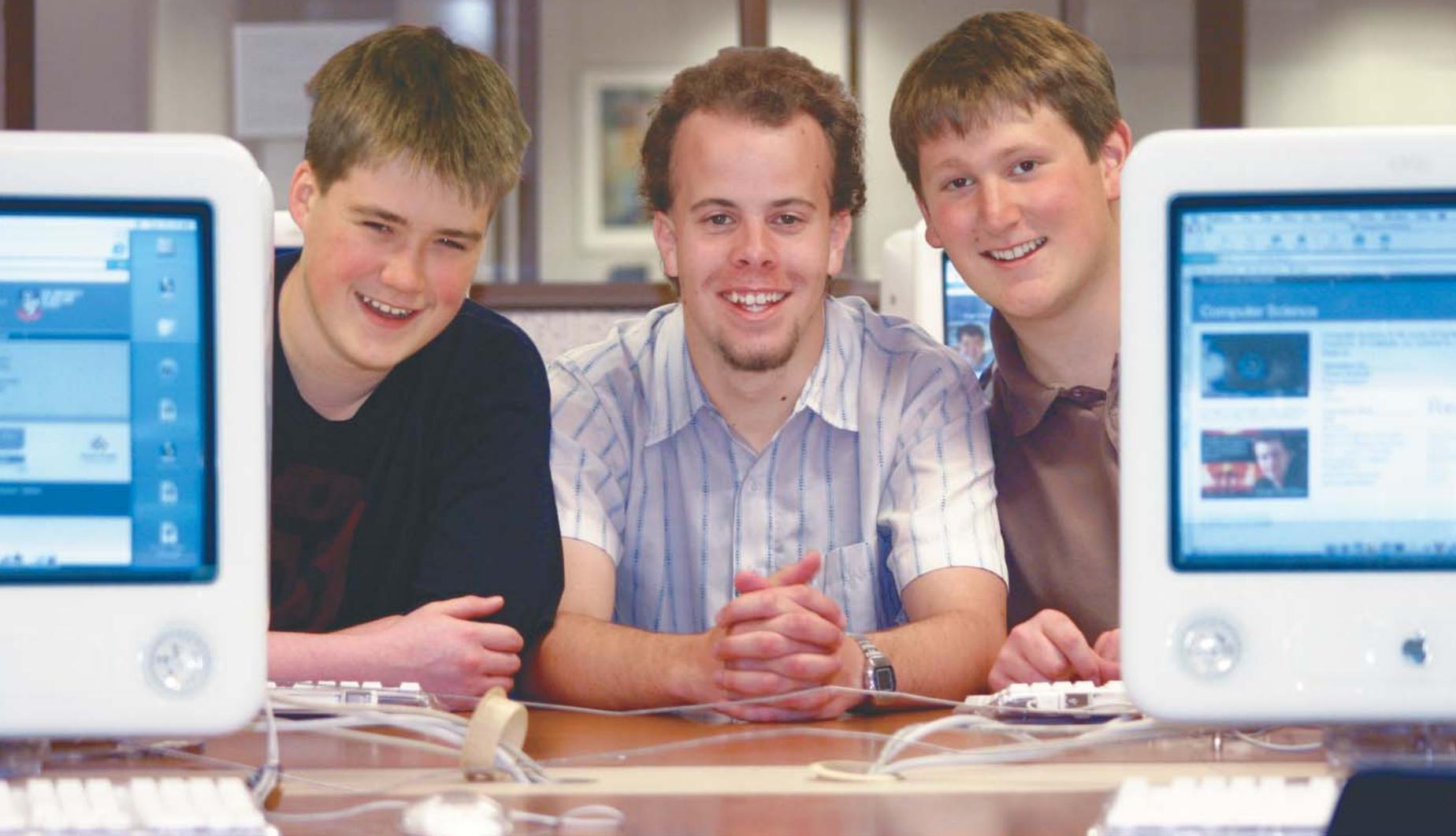
"It went very well with quite a lot of people. All industry awards were awarded and some students received job offers, which is very pleasing," he said.

"The judging panel was very impressed with the quality of projects and enthusiasm of our final-year students."

The best overall project was by James Driver and Dylan Thorpe who designed, built and controlled a double inverted pendulum, which is used in evaluating and comparing various control theories.

Story and photo by Natalie De Nadai





# Union strikes at computer challenge

A team of first-year Computer Science students have got with the program.

Alex Flint, Dylan Owen and Matt Woolley – known as “The Cossack Union” – performed well at the recent Association for Computing Machinery International Programming Contest, regarded as one of the most prestigious programming competitions in the world.

Competing in Adelaide against teams from Australia and New Zealand, they were the top-ranked first-year team – and equal 11th overall – and finished as the top South Australian team (out of 16 teams competing).

The university’s success in the competition didn’t end there: the second and third best teams from South Australia were also from Adelaide, ahead of teams from the University of South Australia and Flinders University.

Coach of all five of the university’s teams, Computer Science lecturer Brad Alexander, said competitors have five hours in which to solve nine programming problems.

“The problems this year ranged from a simple search for stolen jelly to a very difficult assessment of a robot assembly line building coloured toys,” Mr Alexander said.

“The solutions the teams come up with are tested to the limit by the judging software and the judging panel: you either get a coveted ‘accepted’ message

“The Cossack Union” (from left) Dylan Owen, Alex Flint and Matt Woolley  
Photo by David Ellis

or a much less coveted ‘error’ message back, often within seconds.

“While they are racing against the clock, teams are penalised for incorrect submissions, so the top teams are those that get correct solutions the first time. This accurate efficiency is a highly valued skill in all domains.”

The Cossack Union successfully solved seven out of nine problems, only solving their seventh (and breaking a four-team deadlock) with 45 seconds to go.

Story by Ben Osborne

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## Professor Douglas Vickers (1940-2004)

Professor Douglas Vickers died unexpectedly and suddenly at home on Sunday, October 31 2004.

He was 64 years old and at the peak of his career as a psychophysicist.

Professor Vickers completed his first degree (MA) at the University of Edinburgh in 1961. He went on to Cambridge, where he first took a BA and then completed a PhD in Experimental Psychology, supervised by Professor Alan Welford, who later became his Head of Department in Psychology at the University of Adelaide.

However, he was first brought to Adelaide as a Lecturer in Psychology in 1967, the year he completed his PhD, by Professor Malcolm Jeeves, then Head of the Department.

He was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1973, Associate Professor on 1980 and Professor in 2003.

He delivered his Inaugural Lecture to the university on 30 September 2004. At the time of his death he was Deputy Head of the Department of Psychology.

Professor Vickers won many prizes and awards throughout his career and was at the forefront of research internationally in several fields: perception, memory, problem solving, intelligence, language, and, particularly, decision making.

His 1979 book *Decision Processes in Visual Perception* gained him substantial international attention and it is now regarded as a classic. The scholarly reach and prescience of his ideas in that work have ensured that it remains today required reading for students in the field.

The success of his research owed much to a keen curiosity about all kinds of human interests and behaviours but, above all, to his remarkable capacity to pinpoint what is theoretically important.



Reflecting a life-long interest in art, his most recent research examined how we make aesthetic judgments.

Throughout his career, he managed to find and solve problems that were fresh and innovative, and fundamental to human psychology.

It is unlikely that he would ever have stopped having new ideas, but it is a great loss that he was not given time to follow up some of the most important recent ones, which held promise for a radically different theory of human visual perception.

At the time of his death he had written several books, published more than 50 journal articles,

and been an invited keynote speaker at international conferences on many occasions.

In 1994 the University of Cambridge awarded him the ScD degree for his distinguished contribution to science and learning.

Only some half dozen psychologists worldwide have received this award.

In 1999 he was elected President of the International Society for Psychophysics, and made a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences of Australia in 2003.

A man of many parts, he was fond of camping and the outdoors, vitally interested in literature and he loved conversation.

He and his wife Yvonne married in 1965. They shared an adventurous, enduring relationship that, through their generosity and affection, enriched the lives of their many social friends and professional colleagues. They entertained frequently and in great style.

Raised in Dunbar, Scotland, Douglas was fluent in French and qualified in three other European languages.

Dedicated to high quality theoretical research, he was a generous and universally well-regarded colleague.

But above all, Douglas Vickers was decent, straightforward, generous, considerate and warm in his dealings with others.

His internal consistency and unfailing sincerity brought him a diverse range of friends who, though different from one another, all valued their relationships with him for similar reasons.

He will be sorely missed by staff and students in the Department of Psychology and elsewhere throughout the university; but most especially by Yvonne, their children Marc and Anne, partners Katherine and Len and six grandchildren.

Contributed by Ted Nettelbeck and Michael Lee

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# New Flinders-Baudin study explores a different history



Three Adelaide scholars have provided conclusive evidence that there is still much to be learned about famed navigators Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin.

*Encountering Terra Australis: The Australian Voyages of Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders* was co-written by Dr John West-Sooby (Head of the university's Centre for European Studies and General Linguistics), Dr Jean Fornasiero (French lecturer at the university CHECK) and Dr Peter Monteath (Head of History at Flinders University).

The book weaves a complex and fascinating tale steeped in the language and the imagery of a unique period of world exploration history.

It addresses a part of history mostly overlooked.

History has not been as even-handed as Baudin and Flinders were in recognising the accomplishments of their respective expeditions.

While Flinders found a favourable place among Australian explorers, Baudin's reputation has been tarnished by the false accusations made against him by his detractors.

Dr West-Sooby said the idea for the book came about as the result of a tearoom conversation about five years ago in the then newly formed Centre for European Studies.

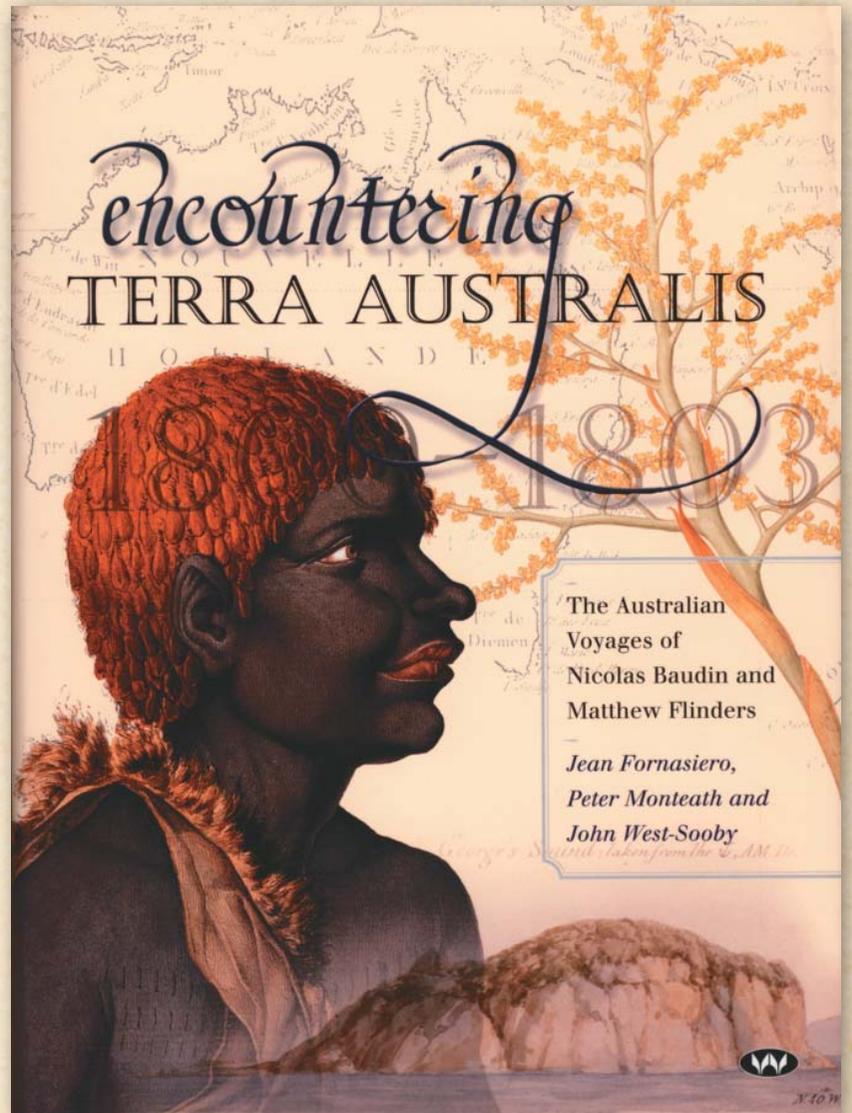
"At the time, the Encounter 2002 celebrations, which would commemorate the famous meeting between Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders in Encounter Bay, had just been mooted and various individuals and organisations were beginning to think about events that might be organised under that banner," Dr West-Sooby said.

"Given our own interests – the French-Australian connections in the case of two of us at Adelaide, and the voyages of Matthew Flinders for Dr Monteath, who also happens to be a descendant of Philip Gidley King, the Governor of New South Wales at the time of the Baudin and Flinders voyages – we felt there might be an opportunity to put together a book following the 'parallel lives' principle.

"Indeed, the stories of the two voyages reveal some remarkable coincidences and connections.

"There was more than just serendipity involved here, however: we were embarking on a mission to rehabilitate the name of Baudin and the reputation of his expedition."

The book redresses the balance and deserves high praise for the



Above left: Matthew Flinders (right) and Nicolas Baudin  
Above: the cover of *Encountering Terra Australis: The Australian Voyages of Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders*

painstaking work in providing a detailed examination of the full range of achievements on both sides.

The result shows that their respective voyages demonstrate what the two captains shared was ultimately greater than what divided them.

This work has been more than favourably received, with excellent reviews in *The Sydney Morning Herald*, *The Advertiser*, *The Adelaide Review* and a feature article in *The Weekend Australian*.

The good news continues for Drs Fornasiero and West-Sooby, who are part of a team of four, led by Professor Margaret Sankey of the University of Sydney, that has just been awarded an ARC Discovery Grant of more than \$490,000 over five years to continue their work on the Baudin expedition.

The aim of the project is to make archival resources from the expedition available to other researchers through a searchable database on the web.

The team will also produce a major new multi-disciplinary study of Baudin's voyage, in the form of a monograph.

*Encountering Terra Australis: The Australian Voyages of Nicolas Baudin and Matthew Flinders* by Jean Fornasiero, Peter Monteath and John West-Sooby is available from WakefieldPress, with a RRP of \$49.95.

Story by Howard Salkow



# Vickery newest member of eminent Roseworthy group

Distinguished oenologist John Vickery has been chosen as the 2004 Award of Merit Winner by the Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association (ROCA).

The announcement was made in Adelaide recently by ROCA's immediate past president Wilf Bowen, at the association's annual dinner.

Mr Bowen said Mr Vickery's contribution to the Australian wine industry had been immense.

"John graduated from Roseworthy with a Diploma of Agriculture and then a Diploma of Oenology in 1955. He has worked for a number of leading Australian wine producing companies, including Leo Buring, Lindemans, Southcorp and Orlando Wyndham, and is currently consulting chief winemaker at Richmond Grove, Tanunda – fitting this work in with the development of his own vineyard at Tanunda," Mr Bowen said.

"While he is widely recognised for his pioneering work with Australian

Rieslings, his St George Vineyard Cabernet Sauvignon from Rouge Homme won the Jimmy Watson trophy in 1981 for the best one-year-old dry red in Australia," he said.

Mr Bowen said that as a ROCA Award of Merit winner, Mr Vickery joined a select group of people who had made significant contributions to the development of primary industries in Australia – recent winners include oenologist Philip Laffer, research scientist Dr Graham Mitchell, sheep and wool industry scientist Brian Jefferies, and innovative horticulturist and marketer Grantley Paech.

"Over the years John Vickery has been variously described as one of the best white wine makers in Australia, a person who pioneered the development of new winemaking processes and one who created benchmark wines," Mr Bowen said.



John Vickery (right) receiving his Award of Merit from Wilf Bowen

"His contemporaries in the industry say he has had a significant influence on young winemakers and he is a worthy winner of our annual award."

In other ROCA news, a Fund has been established to support the development and maintenance of the Roseworthy Campus facilities, and to enhance teaching, learning and research. The Roseworthy Campus and Student Fund, which was recently set up with an initial contribution from ROCA of \$5000, has appointed five co-patrons:

Dr Bruce Eastick, Mr Ray Taylor, Mr Don Moyle, Professor Phil Hynd and Mr Phil Laffer.

Contributions are tax deductible, should be marked "To be applied to the Roseworthy Campus & Student Fund", and can be made through the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office, Level 1, 230 North Terrace, The University of Adelaide, SA 5005.



## News in Brief

### Through the Fire

The November *Adelaidean* featured a story on a new online disaster simulation program called "Through the Fire" which referred to Dr Holger Maier enlisting the help of Ms Sheila Kavanagh and other university staff to develop the program.

In fact, "Through the Fire" was developed collaboratively, with Ms Kavanagh enlisting the help of Dr Maier after having seen his other award-winning online simulations.

The error occurred due to a mistake in the editing process.

The *Adelaidean* apologises for any inconvenience caused.

### Public Health Review

The university is currently undertaking a review of the Department of Public Health. Staff, students and members of the university community are invited to make a submission to the Review on matters relevant to the Terms of Reference, which are available on the Office of Planning and Quality website at [www.adelaide.edu.au/opd/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/opd/)

For further information, please contact the Planning Officer (Reviews) on (08) 8303 8393 or at [anthony.long@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:anthony.long@adelaide.edu.au)

The deadline for submissions is 5pm, Friday 4 February 2005. All submissions remain confidential.

### Ian Chandler art exhibition

A major art exhibition featuring the works of the late Ian Chandler is now on display in the Barr Smith Library.

Chandler, who died last month aged 62, had been a distinguished artist and arts educator for more than 40 years in South Australia, including teaching generations of artists at the South Australian School of Art.

The exhibition, titled *Package Paintings*, is presented by the university's Art & Heritage Collections, in collaboration with the Greenaway Art Gallery. It will be on display in the Barr Smith Library until December 17 during library opening hours.

### University Archives Volunteers

The University Archives Volunteer Group performs a range of archival processing and research activities including basic preservation work, indexing, rehousing and listing of records and photographs.

These tasks enable the archives to provide better access to university records and assist in preserving the university's unique documentary heritage.

If you have an interest in archival work and would like to join the volunteer group in 2005, please contact coordinator Tupp Carmody on 8303 4194 or email [tupp.carmody@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:tupp.carmody@adelaide.edu.au)



## Summer's here... and school's in!

Summer School is all part of a vibrant life at the University of Adelaide.

No matter what age or level of experience, anyone can enrol in this unique offering of courses throughout the summer months with programs suitable for past, present or future university students, as well as members of the community.

Intensive and or/short award and non-award courses, preparatory courses, special interest and professional update courses are all offered and are aimed to enhance professional and personal skills.

"Our Summer School reflects the University of Adelaide's commitment to flexibility in education, and a responsiveness to changing student community and business needs," said Liz Pryzibilla from the university's Professional and Continuing Education Centre, which coordinates the Summer School.

"Each course offers a vibrant learning atmosphere leading to a rewarding and enriching experience. We have an exceptional selection of courses to choose from," she said.

Ms Pryzibilla said the Summer School provides flexible learning options for local and international students.

"These students now have an opportunity to spread their workload over the whole year, pick up prerequisites, re-take a subject or have time to study subjects outside the normal range of their degree."

Student services (Library, Student Support Services and Student Centre) are still available during the summer semester.



To find the course that best suits your needs or interests, phone (08) 8303 4777 or visit the Summer School website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/summerschool](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/summerschool)



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# Nathan declares: we're athlete friendly

It's official... the University of Adelaide is elite athlete friendly!

The university was recently announced as one of the tertiary institutions nationwide which will provide support and assistance for our best young sportsmen and women.

Under the the Elite Athlete Friendly University Network scheme, elite athletes will be identified prior to beginning their course at Adelaide and be supported to achieve both academically and in their chosen sport.

The network has the backing of the Australian Institute of Sport, the South Australian Institute of Sport and professional player associations such as the AFL Players' Association and the Australian Cricketers' Association.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said he was delighted the University of Adelaide had been selected for the network.

"We already have a strong history in being flexible and accommodating towards our students who are also excellent athletes," Professor McWha said.

"We are proud that we attract the likes of Amber Halliday, who in addition to becoming a world champion and Olympic finalist rower, has completed a Psychology degree and expects to finish a Media degree soon – all by the age of 24.



"As part of this network, we can build upon this history and be able to offer elite athletes a high-quality education in a flexible and timely manner – for example, we will be able to offer these students leaves of absence to attend major competitions, or the chance to sit exams externally if needed.

"Students who are elite athletes will not be given a free ride; they will still have to do the same work all of our students do – but as an Elite Athlete Friendly university, we try to make the process of doing of that work as uncomplicated and easy as possible."

## Nathan's double success

State cricketer and University of Adelaide graduate Nathan Adcock knows the value of combining sport and education.

Nathan began a Law and Commerce double degree in 1997, but a burgeoning first-class cricket career meant it took him a little longer than average to complete the two programs (he graduated with his Law degree last year). He's now a solicitor with local law firm Hunt & Hunt Lawyers, as well as being captain of the Adelaide University first grade side and a current member of the Redbacks State squad.

"It ended up taking seven years to finish but I'm pleased I stuck it out – I was playing a lot of cricket while I was at uni and the uni was generous in letting me fit it all in," he said.

"There are a lot of guys in the sport now who love their cricket but don't plan for what they are going to do when they are aged 35 or 40 and can't play for a living anymore.

"I didn't want to be one of those guys. At times it was hard doing the extra study or assignment after cricket trainings when the other guys would go home and watch TV, but I can definitely say it's been worth it."

Top: Nathan Adcock at the university's main oval

Photo by Ben Osborne

Above: Nathan in action for South Australia in a ING Cup match

Photo courtesy of The Advertiser

Story by Ben Osborne