INSIDE WINTER 2007:

Research breakthrough
Salt-tolerant rice

Red letter day for Blacks
75th birthday celebrations

In the line of defence
Electronic warfare

Stories from the heart
Meet our lifesavers
One of my most gratifying duties as Vice-Chancellor is to participate in graduation ceremonies, both in Australia and offshore. As new graduates step up to receive their parchments, it is gratifying to remember that a good many of them will go on to receive international recognition in their respective fields.

The alumni featured in this Winter issue of Lumen are no exception. Each has made his or her mark in their profession and, in many instances, irrevocably changed the lives of others—for the better.

This month’s cover story is a case in point. The cardiovascular researchers profiled are all world-renowned in their field. Their research is literally saving thousands of lives and adding to the international bank of knowledge on heart disease.

Likewise, the work of PhD student Darren Plett and his colleagues at the Waite campus in Adelaide is providing solutions to one of the world’s most pressing problems—soil salinity.

The University’s commitment to excellence continues to produce graduates who are outstanding ambassadors for their alma mater. Rhodes Scholar Ben Allgrove and Fulbright Scholar Bradley Ferguson already have a track record of impressive achievements in their respective fields—law and engineering—and neither has reached his 30th birthday. Their best is yet to come.

An increasing number of our graduates enjoy a high profile in South East Asia, reflecting both the career opportunities in that part of the world, and the makeup of our student profile—which is 25% international.

Recently Lumen caught up with Anita Donaldson in Hong Kong and Lim Soo Hoon in Singapore. The former is relishing the challenge of her new role at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, and the latter is earning the respect of women across Asia for her political nous.

All our alumni’s achievements are grounded in the quality of education they receive at the University of Adelaide. To show your appreciation for the gift of education, please consider making a donation to the University. Details are on page 23.

I hope you enjoy your Winter issue.

Professor James A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President
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The Lumen masthead is derived from the University of Adelaide motto “Sub Cruce Lumen”—the light (of learning) under the (Southern) Cross.

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Front cover image: Cardiovascular researchers Professors Stephen Worthley and Prash Sanders.
PHOTO RANDY LARCOMBE
In the 10 minutes it takes to read this story, more than 300 people in the world will die from heart disease. Most of the blame for this can be sheeted home to four factors: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity and smoking.

The evidence for a major re-think of western lifestyles is compelling. But while education is critical to addressing this global killer, medical advances are making some impressive inroads.

At the University of Adelaide alone, 37 researchers are collaborating with the Cardiovascular Research Centre (CRC) based at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

CRC’s two most senior researchers—Professor Prash Sanders and Professor Stephen Worthley—have together secured more than $1 million worth of funds from the National Heart Foundation (NHF), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and other medical groups since 2005.

Professor Sanders occupies the Knapman–NHF Chair of Cardiology Research in the Discipline of Medicine at the University of Adelaide. He is also Director of the Royal Adelaide Hospital’s Cardiac Electrophysiology Service, opened last year, and CRC Director.

The world-renowned cardiac specialist returned to Adelaide in 2005 after an extensive period overseas. His experience in France, working with the world pioneers in atrial fibrillation ablation, is now being put to good use in Adelaide.

Up to 300 patients will benefit every year at the Royal Adelaide Hospital from this revolutionary new heart treatment for atrial fibrillation—the world’s most common heart rhythm disease.
Dr John took out the Young Investigators Award at the Asia–Pacific Atrial Fibrillation Symposium in Tokyo, attended by 800 electrophysiologists from around the world.

Rheumatic heart disease affects more than 15 million people on a global scale, including 2.4 million children. Dr John and Professor Sanders are part of a team working on new techniques to cure atrial fibrillation.

“Until 1998 we did not think we could cure such a chaotic heart rhythm disturbance but we are now making headway,” Professor Sanders said.

Professor Stephen Worthley holds the Helpman Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Adelaide. He is also the Director of Cardiac Intervention and Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and a CRC Director.

In February this year Professor Worthley saved the life of a 70-year-old Adelaide woman after performing the world’s first operation to repair a rupture.

“This procedure can treat the condition with much less distress to the sufferer,” Professor Sanders said. “It requires no cutting or stitching and leaves significantly fewer scars than open heart procedures.”

In 2006 professors Sanders and Worthley were awarded a total of $1.17 million in NHMRC project grants and in 2007, a $101,125 Development Grant by the NHMRC. The National Heart Foundation awarded the CRC $112,800 in 2006 and $122,000 in 2007, underpinning the importance of the researchers’ work.

In November 2006 Dr Bobby John, a PhD student of Professor Sanders, won a major international award for his research into rheumatic heart disease, which affects large numbers of the Aboriginal population each year.

All these University of Adelaide and CRC researchers are proving their worth on the cardiovascular research and clinical stage.

Dr John took out the Young Investigators Award at the Asia–Pacific Atrial Fibrillation Symposium in Tokyo, attended by 800 electrophysiologists from around the world.

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of the blood vessels in the heart, using keyhole surgery.

Professor Worthley used a ground-breaking combination of medical imaging, catheters and a butterfly-shaped plug to fix the tear which normally leads to fatal blood loss within seconds.

He is also part of a team working on world-first stem cell research to give heart sufferers a new treatment option using cells harvested from their own bone marrow. This research is looking at ways of treating patients with specially selected adult stem cells which may regenerate weakened and damaged heart muscle.

Cardiologist Dr Peter Psaltis, a University of Adelaide alumni medallist in 1999, is working alongside Professor Worthley and colleagues from the Hanson Institute to help regenerate damaged heart tissue. Dr Psaltis is supported by a joint NHF and NHMRC scholarship.

The stem cell research, which is funded by the NHF, gives doctors another treatment option for heart patients who are not responding to medication, surgery and pacemakers.

Dr Matthew Worthley, a senior lecturer at the University, has also added to his family’s medical reputation by being the first and only Australian to be nominated for a Thomas J Linnemeier Young Investigator Award in 2006. The award is one of the most prestigious interventional cardiovascular prizes in the world.

More than 15,000 people were reviewed for the 2006 award, which was presented at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics (TCT) symposium in Washington D.C. last October.

Dr Worthley, a younger brother of Stephen, was nominated for his research into mechanisms to help the heart arteries relax. “If arteries are in a more relaxed state, they are less likely to harden and lead to heart attacks in the future,” he said.

The 36-year-old cardiologist works in collaboration with his brother in several research projects, particularly regarding vascular function and MRI imaging.

Both have an impressive international reputation, with research stints in Calgary, Canada and New York between them, before returning to Adelaide and their alma mater, to further their careers.

The arrival of a $2.9 million MRI system at the Royal Adelaide Hospital this winter is expected to facilitate their imaging and interventional research.

Dr Scott Willoughby from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Sciences has also enjoyed international recognition in the past year. In September 2006 he won the Young Investigators’ Award in Thrombosis at the World Congress of Cardiology meeting in Barcelona, held every four years—the equivalent of the “heart Olympics”.

His prize-winning presentation was one of nearly 11,000 submissions from 94 countries.

Dr Willoughby’s research showed that a common heart drug could reduce platelet dysfunction, especially in high-risk heart patients.

At the same congress, Dr Martin Stiles, who is undertaking his PhD with Professor Sanders, won an award in heart rhythm disorders research for his work into the effects of fish oils and omega-3 levels.

“All these University of Adelaide and CRC researchers are proving their worth on the cardiovascular research and clinical stage,” Professor Sanders said.

“We have an enormous opportunity to make a difference in cardiovascular research, both nationally and overseas. What is needed for us to succeed is ongoing financial support from state and federal governments, as well as the corporate and industry sectors.”

STORY CANDY GIBSON

Deluxe history of North Terrace campus

Renowned South Australian historian Robb Linn has been commissioned to write a prestigious, coffee-table style book of the University of Adelaide’s development on the North Terrace campus.

Mr Linn, a former University staff member in the School of History, will draw upon the heritage-listed buildings on the campus as a framework for the book’s narrative.

The content will feature key events in the University’s history and prominent people who have helped shape its academic foundation—the likes of Sir Douglas Mawson, Dr Helen Mayo, Sir William and Sir Lawrence Bragg and current Federation Fellow Professor Graeme Hugo.

The publication has a working title of Place & People: A Social History and will be completed in 2008. All profits will go towards the University’s Heritage Foundation.

University archivist Kylie Percival has overseen the commission of the manuscript.

“This project is supported by both the University Archives and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and will draw upon the great wealth of historical records relating to the University’s development,” Ms Percival said.

“The University is fortunate to possess such an extensive and complete set of early records documenting the institution’s role in the wider South Australian community.”

These written records will be complemented by oral history interviews undertaken by Mr Linn with retired staff members whose association with the University extends back to the post-war era.

Readers who have material or recollections which might support the research are invited to contact the University Archives at: archives@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 5830

Registration forms for pre-publication purchase of the deluxe edition will be available in the Summer edition of Lumen.
Rice plants growing in a glasshouse at the University of Adelaide’s Waite Campus may hold one of the answers to Australian agriculture’s growing salinity problem.

Some of this rice contains a gene which significantly reduces salt movement from the roots into the plant’s leaves—where salt does most damage to a plant and affects grain yields.

One of the most exciting and novel aspects of this new salt-tolerant rice is that the gene responsible has been activated only in specific cell-types (xylem parenchyma) found in the middle of the root alongside the plants’ water-carrying vessels, rather than throughout the plant.

Researcher Darren Plett (pictured) explains: “I’m using cutting-edge molecular genetic techniques to express genes that we know are involved in transporting salt in plants only in specific cells within the rice root.

“Traditionally when genes-of-interest are introduced into a plant genome, they are being switched on in every cell of that plant. We are introducing these genes so they are activated only in specific cells.

“I have found that expressing this salt transporter gene in this focused manner significantly reduces the amount of salt transported to the leaves in rice, producing lower levels of salt in the leaves than in plants with the gene expressed in all cells.”

Rice, while also an important food crop worldwide, is used as a model for genetic research in cereals because of its much simpler genome and its relationship to the important commercial cereal crops, wheat and barley.

With success in producing salt-tolerant rice, the next step for the research team will be working with these genes in wheat and barley.

Mr Plett is a PhD student working with a team of University of Adelaide researchers at the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFG) where researchers are working to improve the resistance of wheat and barley to hostile environmental conditions such as drought, salinity and frost, using functional genomics technologies.

Overseen by Professor Mark Tester, Australian Research Council Federation Fellow and Mr Plett’s supervisor, the ‘Salt Focus Group’ is taking three main approaches to developing varieties more tolerant to salt.

Under the ‘forward genetic’ approach using conventional breeding techniques, varieties of wild and cultivated cereal plants growing in salty conditions around the world are crossed with commercial crop plants to produce salt-tolerant, high-yielding varieties. The genes producing the salt tolerance can be identified using this technique.

The ‘reverse genetic’ approach involves genetic modification of crop plants to express genes thought to contribute to salt tolerance.

Under the ‘molecular genetic’ approach, which includes Mr Plett’s research, candidate genes are inserted into a plant in such a way that they are only turned on in one tissue or under certain conditions.

Professor Tester said: “This work by Darren is central to the group moving this research from laboratory plants to commercial crops. Darren’s research has tested these intellectual concepts on a crop plant—rice. It will help us make important strategic decisions about the transfer of this technology into wheat and barley.”

Mr Plett grew up on a farm near Winnipeg, Canada, completing a BSc (Agriculture) and Master of Science at the University of Manitoba.

He won an Endeavour International Postgraduate Research Scholarship and started his PhD with Professor Tester in 2004, the first six months based in Montpellier, France, where the group has a collaboration. He finishes his PhD in August and will then take up a postdoctoral position at the ACPFG.
Shaun Bonétt graduated from the University of Adelaide with degrees in Laws and Arts in 1991. Last year he was named Australia’s third-richest person under the age of 40, worth an estimated $220 million.

By any estimation, the 35-year-old property developer has joined the big league. He earns more than Hollywood actor Nicole Kidman and enjoys a portfolio of assets exceeding $1 billion.

Unlike Kidman, though, he has built his empire out of the public eye and without the intense media scrutiny that other high-flying Australian entrepreneurs endure.

The London-born, Australian/Maltese businessman credits much of his success to his mother, who proved an “amazing inspiration” and taught Shaun to believe he could achieve anything he wanted in life.

It’s a philosophy he has embraced since childhood, from his education at St Ignatius College and the University of Adelaide, to his legal career and subsequent journey along the commercial property market road.

Today Mr Bonétt’s business—the Precision Group—owns five shopping centres, three office buildings and two hotels along Australia’s eastern seaboard and in Adelaide.

He is currently working on his largest project to date—a $360 million complex in Chatswood, Sydney, which will be the country’s first shopping centre which integrates 70 retail stores over four levels, with a railway and bus interchange. It opens in 2008.

Although no longer a practising lawyer, Mr Bonétt said his studies at the University of Adelaide proved an invaluable training ground.

“I liken my degrees (Laws and Arts) to having been through a gymnastics course of building my thought processes. Understanding your rights and the way the law operates in Australia is a unique advantage for a business person.

“What was also particularly valuable was the way the University of Adelaide’s legal course accommodated students who wanted to work part time,” Mr Bonétt said.

This marriage of practical and theoretical skills enables students to make more effective subject choices, he argued.

“If universities work more closely with human resource divisions in the private sector this will also result in a much smoother and more cohesive transition for students entering the business world.”

Mr Bonétt worked as a part-time law clerk in Adelaide in the late 1980s while completing his degrees, giving him an insight into the boom-and-bust era. “I saw most of the high flyers of South Australia and beyond being crushed by their perilous financial positions.”

The experience left an indelible mark.

“The years I worked as a commercial lawyer emphasised the fundamental need to focus on the risks in any business dealings. I don’t think any entrepreneur I acted for at the time had ever contemplated the possibility of their businesses collapsing—they all believed they were bullet-proof.”

Mr Bonétt’s willingness to take on risks led to his entry into the commercial property market. His first business venture with a childhood friend involved an investment of $6 million (with the bank’s help) for a neighbourhood shopping centre in Newton.

Within a few years he had bought out his partner and started expanding his empire, facilitated by a national property boom.

“I learned how important it is to have the right team around you and additional financial resources to draw upon if necessary. I also learned to identify the
important issues to pursue and allow the inconsequential matters to fall by the wayside.”

The entrepreneur, who is married with a young family, has just completed his five-year business plan. He is now looking at diversifying his portfolio of interests and has established a charity foundation.

As for opportunities waiting in the wings, he lists the Internet as a key medium for future business success.

“The business medium of the Internet is still relatively young and offers incredible opportunities for ambitious young professionals. The integration between services that exist in the real world and their representation in the Internet is still at an early stage, but Australia is well positioned to take advantage of this.”

He advises university graduates contemplating a business career to find a good mentor and not rush into anything.

“Research and more research is the key to business success and careful analysis will pay rewards. Business instincts are important but without a considered approach you may as well be going to a casino to gamble.”

The Barr Smith Library
Appeal 2007

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the opening of a University of Adelaide icon—the Barr Smith Library.

Opened in 1932 and named in recognition of the generosity of Robert Barr Smith, the Library has been a centre of student life, a major academic facility, and a resource used by the community for 75 years.

Today the library has grown to employ more than 100 equivalent full-time staff, encompass more than two million items, and loan 500,000 items every year.

“The 75th anniversary of the opening of the Library is an important milestone and a fitting time to reflect on the enormous benefit that the Library has afforded generations of staff, students and the wider community,” said University Librarian Ray Choate.

“The Library has seen many changes over the years—from the computerisation of its enormous card catalogue, to the addition of building extensions and major collections—but one thing has remained the same: the enormous benefit it has provided to both the University community and the public.

“As the Barr Smith Library celebrates 75 years, it is also a time to think about the future. It is with this in mind that the Barr Smith Library Appeal will again be held in 2007. It is our duty and privilege to ensure that the Barr Smith Library continues its tradition of service for future generations,” Mr Choate said.

The 2006 Appeal added 500 titles to the Library that would not otherwise have been acquired. Mr Choate said the funds from this year’s Appeal would help to ensure that the Library’s collections remained up-to-date.

“The 2007 Appeal will contribute to the breadth of collections in areas where current reading is expected to maintain general knowledge and to the purchase of expensive specialised titles, enhancing the Library’s research resource capability,” said Mr Choate.

For further information about how you can make a tax-deductible donation, please contact:

Helen Paul, Development and Alumni
Email: development@adelaide.edu.au
Phone: +61 8 8303 4275
Fax: +61 8 8303 5808

Or you can visit our website at www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving

A donation form is included on page 23 of this edition.
No limits for Sky

South Australian soprano Sky Ingram is taking her rise to operatic heights one step at a time.

If you’d told Sky Ingram 10 years ago that she would one day become an opera singer, she wouldn’t have believed it.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide’s Elder Conservatorium of Music with First Class Honours, the 23-year-old soprano credits her university studies with opening her mind, and her voice, to new possibilities.

“At school, I wanted to be in musical theatre or become a pop singer,” she says. “Generally you want to be who you hear regularly, and when you’re at school you don’t hear opera a lot—you don’t understand how incredible a voice can be until you understand what they’re actually doing with that voice.

“I had done a fair bit of musical theatre and a few classical pieces before I started uni, but at the Elder Conservatorium I got my first real introduction to classical music,” she says.

Her training at Adelaide, under voice lecturer Guila Tiver, has been invaluable to her burgeoning career as a singer.

“When you’re singing classical music and you’re learning the style, if you study hard your voice has the ability to completely open up and make all of these huge and amazing sounds. The Elder Conservatorium is where my voice started to grow, to really grow,” she says. “By the time I’d left uni my voice had a bigger, fuller sound—and it’s still growing.”

Sky has been singing in public for 15 years. She joined the Adelaide Girls Choir (now Young Adelaide Voices) when she was in Year 3 at primary school, and continued to be a member of that choir for over a decade. Sky has been involved with more than a dozen choirs, including the highly acclaimed Adelaide Chamber Singers, current title-holders of the “Choir of the World”.

As well as having lead roles in operas staged by the Elder Conservatorium, Sky has performed in dozens of musical theatre productions and operas for a range of production companies. She has been the soprano lead in Carmen, Mozart’s Bastien & Bastienne (with the SA Young Artists’ Program), The Magic Flute and Metro Street for the Adelaide Cabaret Festival. Other highlights include her performance as Cherubino in The Marriage of Figaro, as well as roles in Madama Butterfly and Nabucco for State Opera SA and La Traviata for Co-Opera.

All of this experience has helped Sky to develop her love of music and her natural singing ability. It has also given her opportunities to sing on a vast number of stages in Australia and around the world, with tours in Europe, USA, Germany, Canada and Japan.

Her talents have been widely recognised by critics and through scholarships, competitions and awards. In 2006 she was named the Australian MBS Young Performer of the Year, winning a $10,000 scholarship. She has been named as an upcoming young talent in the first edition of Who’s Who in South Australia, and Who’s Who of Australian Women. Despite winning all of these accolades, Sky remains down-to-earth about her success.

“I don’t know if I feel worthy,” she says of the Who’s Who entry. “I’m doing the best I can. I know I’ve done a lot already, but there’s so much more work to do.”

She’s referring to the fact that, as a soprano, her vocal talents aren’t expected to peak until she reaches her 30s. Then there’s the actual work of all of her studies and preparations for performances.

“As a singer, there are many different elements of performance. There’s the actual singing, there’s the language that you’re singing in—such as Italian, German or French—being able to pronounce it, knowing exactly what words you’re singing so that you can get the emotion across. I need to know what opera it’s from, where it’s set, what time it’s set, what the character is, I need to put actions into it, and I need to learn how to engage the audience,” she says.

“There are singing lessons, there are ensemble or choir classes, or practising with a friend you’re doing a duet with. In between, you’re studying how to speak the language, you’re studying acting, you’re researching the history of the composer, what type of influences they had in their work, you’re translating works from different languages and applying phonetics to them... you could spend a minimum of 40 hours learning a song before performing it as a polished piece.”

Sky is now studying for an Advanced Graduate Diploma in Classical Music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA).

Not afraid of taking a few risks, Sky is planning to travel to Europe in December to audition for a number of opera schools. Realising that the competition among sopranos in Europe is fierce, she’s taking a healthy attitude with her.

“I don’t know what it’s like to want to do something else—with all the hard work I’ve put in, each step has just happened,” she says. “I’ve put in the work, I’ve selected what I wanted to do, and I’m doing it.”

STORY DAVID ELLIS
Hallett Cove East Primary School students take a step back in time to re-enact a typical day for the Waite family back in 1892. Their activities included washing (by hand), cooking and croquet.

One of South Australia’s most generous benefactors—pastoralist and businessman Peter Waite—has been brought to life in an innovative children’s program at the University of Adelaide.
More than 400 children from primary schools around the State have enjoyed a school excursion of a different kind in the past 18 months, sampling a taste of life in 1892 at Urrbrae House, once home to the Waite family.

The magnificent bluestone mansion and its surrounds were bequeathed to the University in 1922 on Peter Waite’s death and subsequently established as the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

Today, the historic precinct is giving school children a valuable insight into South Australia’s wealthy families who lived in the Adelaide foothills in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Their life, in contrast to the vast masses, was characterised by activities such as fox hunts, croquet, parlour games, dinner parties and polite conversation.

Visiting school groups to Urrbrae House are introduced to that life via a series of entertaining activities over a couple of hours.

Curator Yvonne Routledge and a group of University volunteers clothed in period costume engage the children in a typical day at Urrbrae House in 1892.

“The children are divided into three groups with roles and characters. Some are adult members of the Waite family and their guests, a second group are servants and a third group are Waite children and their friends,” Ms Routledge said.

Each child is assigned a suitable Victorian name—‘Cuthbert’ is a favourite—and given a role to play in their respective groups.

Ladies may engage in some simple sewing, while gentlemen may play a board game such as dominoes or chess, or a parlour game like charades.

Students who take the role as servants spend most of their time in the kitchen, preparing afternoon tea. This consists of cucumber sandwiches, shortbread biscuits and sponge cake with clotted cream and strawberry jam.

For more information about the Urrbrae House Historic Precinct guided tours (for adults), contact Peggy Rowe on (08) 8303 7497 or peggy.rowe@adelaide.edu.au.

STORY CANDY GIBSON

The third group—emulating the Waite children and their friends—receive instruction from their governess, followed by a period of games. Signalman (similar to musical chairs) is a popular one. Outdoor games include chasey, croquet and skipping rope.

“The whole experience is both fun and educational, leaving the children with a positive impression of the University and hopefully a deeper understanding of life in that era,” Ms Routledge said.

Since its introduction in early 2006 the program has been an unqualified success, with schools throughout the state booking every available weekly time slot.

“The key is the interaction,” Ms Routledge said. “Children get so immersed in the activities that the two hours fly past and they’re reluctant to leave.”

It’s also a rewarding experience for the volunteers, all of whom have a passion for history and a willingness to work with children.

All volunteers—sourced from a group of 80 people—are given training and undergo police checks as part of the selection process for the program.

“A condition of the Waite family’s bequest was that Urrbrae House and its surrounds remain accessible to the public. All our programs, including the tours, adhere to this request.”

Any adults interested in volunteering for the schools program at Urrbrae House are asked to contact Yvonne Routledge on (08) 8303 7425 or email yvonne.routledge@adelaide.edu.au.

STORY CANDY GIBSON

Peter Waite 1834–1922

Peter Waite was a man of great vision and active interest in the economic development of South Australia.

Born in 1834 in Kirkcaldy, Scotland, he emigrated to Terowie, South Australia, in 1859, building a very successful pastoral business.

He was chairman of Elder Smith Company, and held directorships for companies including the Mutooroo, Beltana and Moomba Pastoral companies and British Broken Hill Mining.

By the mid-1870s Peter Waite was wealthy enough to purchase a city estate, Urrbrae, and move his family into the substantial single storey house on the property. In the late 1880s he demolished the original home to build the existing Urrbrae House, which was completed in 1891.

His abiding interest in innovation resulted in Urrbrae House becoming the first private house in South Australia to have electricity and its own domestic refrigeration plant.

When Peter and Matilda Waite died in 1922, they gifted their estate to the University of Adelaide for the development of an agricultural research institute.

Waite’s bequest remains one of the largest public benefactions in South Australia’s history. The Waite Agricultural Research Institute is now the Waite Campus of the University of Adelaide, and is home to world-renowned research and education in agriculture and oenology.
All Rhodes lead to Google

When University of Adelaide medallist Ben Allgrove left Adelaide bound for Oxford in 2001, the Rhodes Scholar was looking for a challenge. His search has led to Google, literally.

The son of an Australian diplomat, Ben Allgrove is an international citizen in every sense of the word.

Born in Paris, his formative years were spent in Indonesia, Korea, Singapore and Germany, before moving to Adelaide for high school and university, where he studied law and commerce, majoring in intellectual property.

The high achiever topped his final year at university, winning all the major prizes for LLB graduates in 2000, including the Stow Medal, and culminating in a Rhodes Scholarship the following year.

At age 24, Ben departed for Oxford, after experience as an assistant to the South Australian Solicitor General and an associate to a Supreme Court Justice.

He applied the same intellectual rigour at Oxford, topping his Bachelor of Civil Law (BCL) course before completing a Master of Philosophy on the Legal Personality of Artificial Intellects.

Ben’s intellectual property knowledge led to an offer from one of the world’s largest law firms, Baker & McKenzie LLP, who employ 3000 solicitors worldwide, with global revenues exceeding US$1 billion.

Today he works as a technology and media lawyer, based in the London office, and specialising in copyright, content issues, e-commerce, and information technology.

It’s been a heady ride so far for the 29-year-old lawyer, who has successfully represented some high-profile clients in recent years, including Apple Inc. in its bid to get control of the itunes.co.uk domain name in 2005.

More recently, Ben has just finished a case before the UK Copyright Tribunal, acting for four leading mobile phone operators—Vodafone, Orange, T-Mobile and O2—in a dispute over royalty payments to artists on music consumed in a digital format.

His practice focuses on the intersection between technology and law, a huge growth area due to the dominance of the Internet and the cyber age.

“The Internet has resulted in a proliferation of copyright-protected content at precisely the same time as drastically reducing the cost of copying and obliterating the territorial boundaries which used to constrain infringement,” he said.

“Copyright will continue to muddle along in the Internet age—the economic implications for rights holders are too great not to protect content—but we will more likely be looking to technology, not law, to solve the problems in the years to come.”

Apart from his commercial work, Ben does pro bono work for a technology-based consortium, NetHope Inc., a non-profit group of member charities including Save the Children, Oxfam and CARE.

NetHope helps disadvantaged communities in remote and developing countries by sharing IT knowledge, deploying technology and communication services to affected regions.

Ben helped negotiate a global framework agreement to deploy satellite communications services. These services were used to aid workers in the wake of the tsunami in December 2004.

He is about to start a secondment at Google, the global search engine giant, assisting them with new products.

Sandwiched between his work commitments, Ben also teaches copyright and designs law at Kings College, London.

“It’s not a huge time commitment but I really enjoy it and it provides a refreshing antidote to the commercial world. It allows me to stay at the cutting edge of legal developments and to bounce ideas off minds that are coming to the issues from a fresh perspective.”

STORY CANDY GIBSON
South Australia’s oldest rugby club is celebrating a major milestone this year.

Red letter day for Blacks

South Australia’s oldest rugby club is celebrating a major milestone this year.
The Adelaide University Rugby Union Football Club turns 75 years old on 14 July, and plans to celebrate in style.

The University Blacks have an outstanding record by anyone’s standard, winning numerous premierships and producing around 1800 players, including some players who have gone on to represent their State and the nation. The club has also provided an all-important sporting outlet for many students and staff, balancing out their academic pursuits with challenges both mental and physical on the rugby pitch.

One person who knows well the joys of university rugby is Professor John Carver. Professor Carver, now head of the University of Adelaide’s School of Chemistry & Physics, played rugby union as a student at the University in the 1970s. Decades later he has returned as a player, and has also taken on the presidency of the club.

He began playing rugby during high school at St Peter’s College in Adelaide in 1970.

“My father had played rugby because he was brought up in Sydney, so I thought I’d give that a go,” he says. “I liked it immediately. I really enjoyed running with the ball, and beating the man—it was a great sensation.

“It’s an incredibly complex and yet subtle game. You don’t appreciate that when you’re really young, but I’ve been playing on and off ever since—for more than 30 years—and there are so many different nuances, and opportunities, and options during a game, that you can always question what you did and what you didn’t do. That’s one of the great joys about rugby—you’re always looking to do better next time.”

Throughout his academic career, rugby has been an important outlet for Professor Carver. He played during high school, during his undergraduate days at Adelaide, while he was studying for his PhD at the Australian National University, and as a postdoctoral fellow at the universities of Oxford and then Adelaide. When he took up an academic position at the University of Wollongong he continued to play rugby for some years, eventually giving up the game in 1991 because of family and work commitments.

It appeared that his rugby-playing days were over, until he took the professorship at his alma mater, the University of Adelaide, in 2004, and attended a game as a spectator the next year. Realising that the second-grade side was short of players, he volunteered to play the following weekend, and has been playing for the club ever since.

Returning to the club has helped Professor Carver to achieve a goal that eluded him as a student at Adelaide—playing in a premiership-winning team. The club won the second-grade premiership in 2005, the same year he returned as a player and became president of the club.

“That was a huge thrill,” he says of the win.

It goes without saying that Professor Carver is also thrilled to be celebrating 75 years of the University Blacks.

“We’re the oldest rugby club in South Australia, and we’re the only original club that’s left,” he says.

“We’ve become a much stronger club over the last five years than we have been in recent times—both in terms of the administration and the on-field performance—and that’s a credit to a core group of people who’ve shown great commitment to the club.

“For the first time in many years we’re running three senior men’s teams this year, and we have a good influx of new players, which is very encouraging.”

The Adelaide University Rugby Union Football Club is having a Gala Day at Waite Oval and a Black Tie Dinner at the Lirra Lirra Café, Waite Campus, on Saturday 14 July.

For the 75th birthday, the club is hoping to bring together as many current and past players and supporters of the club as possible.

Entry to the Gala Day is free and bookings for the Black Tie Dinner can be made by contacting Bob Dwyer on 0417 801 591.

STORY DAVID ELLIS

Above: The Intervarsity team of 1933.
PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD WELLS

75 years of rugby at Adelaide

• Established on 14 July 1932, the Adelaide University Rugby Union Football Club is the oldest rugby union club in South Australia and the only surviving foundation club in the State.

• The University Blacks’ first game was on 16 July 1932 against the Royal Australian Navy Reserve—it was a 15-all draw.

• Two University Blacks players—Henry E.W. Lyons and P. Darcy O’Connor—joined the Australian Universities team to tour Japan in 1934.

• The club won its first Premier Grade premiership in 1934.

• From 1933–1939, the club reached the Premier Grade grand final every year except for one year and the Reserve Grade grand final on three of four occasions, winning twice. The club also won the Navy Cup five times in its first seven years and came second twice.

• The 1950s and 1960s were the strongest years for the club, with large numbers of players represented on State teams.

• University player Malcolm van Gelder was selected as an Australian Wallaby in 1958 for a tour of New Zealand.

• In 1964, 1965 and 1966, the club won an impressive three back-to-back Premier Grade premierships and three consecutive A.F.Nielson Memorial Trophies in the same years.

Left: Professor John Carver (centre) in the thick of the action as Adelaide Uni’s Division 3 side takes on Old Collegians at the Waite Oval.
German-born Anita Donaldson has spent her life chasing new challenges. Her latest venture involves pulling up roots and heading to the other side of the world.
Anita Donaldson treads lightly, as befitting an exponent of dance. But her footprint has still left an indelible mark across three continents.

Since leaving Australia’s shores in 2002 for new creative ventures, the former Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at the University of Adelaide has thrived on successive challenges.

In the space of five years, Dr Donaldson has established five Masters degrees at London’s prestigious Laban dance conservatoire, been decorated with the Order of Australia Medal and criss-crossed the world to head up the academic dance stream at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA).

The experience of establishing new Masters degrees at Laban—in Choreography, Dance Performance, Scenography, European Dance-Theatre Practice and Dance Science (the last two a world first)—is proving invaluable in her Hong Kong role.

“I am responsible for not only heading up the MFA in Dance at the Academy, but also overseeing the academic program across the Bachelor of Fine Arts degree.

“The course framework was set before I arrived, but there are still some major challenges ahead.”

Dr Donaldson is keen to build the HKAPA’s academic content, while negotiating a complex language and cultural maze.

“We have students who speak a mix of Cantonese and Mandarin (Putonghua), all studying an English-based program so that presents some challenges in itself,” she said.

The School of Dance has three streams in its program—ballet, contemporary dance and Chinese dance. Students gain experience in all three but specialise in one area.

The outcome can be gratifying, especially for those who find work on the international stage.

“Several of our young male dancers have been offered contracts with overseas dance companies, including the Royal Swedish Ballet, Ballet Gran Canaria in Spain and Ballet du Rhin in France.”

The move to Asia has been accomplished with little disruption, despite 9600 kilometres separating Dr Donaldson from her teacher partner in London.

But pulling up roots has never been a problem for this accomplished dancer, teacher and researcher.

Born to Latvian parents in a refugee camp in Germany, Dr Donaldson and her family migrated to Adelaide in 1949, when she was two years old.

Her initial plans to become a physical education teacher were redirected when she realised that movement, not sport, motivated her. While completing a teaching degree, as well as an Arts and Physical Education degree in Adelaide, Dr Donaldson was introduced to creative dance.

“I wanted to pursue the work of dance pioneer theorist and scholar Rudolf Laban (1879–1958), an extraordinary man who contributed enormously to the understanding of dance as an art form,” Dr Donaldson said.

Several stints at Laban reinforced her interest in the Hungarian dancer’s teachings. In 1978–79 Dr Donaldson completed a Diploma in Education specialising in movement and dance at the London dance academy. Between 1985 and 1993 she travelled intermittently between London and Adelaide, completing the first pure PhD in Dance in Australia.

In 1986, Dr Donaldson was appointed Head of the Dance Department at the then South Australian College of Advanced Education for a three-year stint. Two years after the SACAE city campus merged with the University of Adelaide, Dr Donaldson took up the position as the Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts in 1993, which involved overseeing music, dance and drama before the last two departments were dissolved in 1996.

The new millennium saw her back in London, heading up the Research & Graduate Studies program at Laban from 2002 to 2006.

In 2003 she was awarded the Order of Australia Medal for her services to the performing arts.
In defence of a tall pole
A fascination with technology from an early age has set Bradley Ferguson on a career path that now sees him working at the cutting edge of defence research.

University of Adelaide graduate with a Bachelor degree and a PhD in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Dr Ferguson is a Senior Engineer with defence company Tenix, based in South Australia.

At Tenix, Dr Ferguson is involved in the research and development of multi-million dollar next-generation electronic warfare systems. Electronic warfare uses electromagnetic radiation to provide support to and defend friendly forces, with applications such as radar detectors and radar jammers.

For his PhD, Dr Ferguson studied a form of radiation—Terahertz radiation, known as T-rays. The skills he developed during his PhD are now being drawn on in a range of projects for defence.

His current work involves digital signal processing—using digital techniques that were impossible even 10 years ago—and laser-based microwave photonics. He was the technical manager responsible for the development of an advanced digital receiver for the detection of radar signals. Because of its extremely high sensitivity, such equipment could allow future defence forces to detect enemy radars at much longer ranges than is currently possible, providing significant advantages.

“During my undergraduate degree I didn’t really expect to end up working in a defence company. However, when I was presented with a number of options after graduation, it was the defence companies that offered the most exciting work, at the forefront of technology, solving important problems,” Dr Ferguson says.

“Engineering runs in my blood. My father is an engineer and my three younger brothers have all studied engineering at the University of Adelaide. I’ve always been fascinated by technology and how things work, so engineering held a strong appeal for me.”

Dr Ferguson excelled during his studies at the University of Adelaide, graduating at the top of his undergraduate class in 1997. He earned a Premier’s Scholarship and won an Australian Postgraduate Award in 2000. He also won the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship in 2001 to study at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York.

“My Fulbright exchange to the US was truly life-changing,” he says. “I was able to study with the top researchers in the world in my field and present my research at several elite conferences, providing fantastic networking opportunities. In addition to the research benefits, the cultural experience of visiting places like New York, Boston and Los Angeles, as well as the friends I made, was absolutely priceless.”

On his return to Adelaide, Dr Ferguson completed his PhD and was awarded the Postgraduate Alumni University Medal—the highest award of its kind at the University of Adelaide for excellence in postgraduate research.

He says one of the highlights of his time at the University was being asked to give the graduation address at his own PhD graduation ceremony.

“It was quite an honour to address the graduates in the fantastic setting of Bonython Hall, where I had sat to receive my undergraduate degree just five years earlier.

“From developing lifelong friendships, to fostering my passion for learning and research, my years at the University of Adelaide were exceptionally enjoyable,” he says.

Dr Ferguson, who was named among the South Australian Young Tall Poppies of Science for 2006 by the Australian Institute of Policy & Science, says his move into the defence industry has been both challenging and rewarding.

“The defence industry is one of the great strengths of South Australia. We have a real critical mass of engineering talent, and exciting projects. I find my work extremely satisfying.

“The ability to really get my teeth into a challenging research problem, and then be involved in the engineering development required to take the solution through to an operational prototype a few short years later, is exceptionally rewarding.

“Tenix has a very positive attitude towards research and development, and collaboration with external partners such as universities, which really increases the potential of what we’re able to achieve.”

Through his role at Tenix, Dr Ferguson continues to be involved with the University of Adelaide.

“We’re currently working with Professor Doug Gray and his team in the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, together with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), to develop an advanced phased array radar test bed. This project has significant potential for South Australia as it’s applicable not only to defence imaging, but also to GPS (global positioning systems), and even for mapping soil salinity.

“The University of Adelaide is a great partner for industry. The University, in particular the engineering faculty, has a great capability in fundamental and applied research, which has significant potential benefit in partnership with companies such as Tenix,” he says.

STORY DAVID ELLIS

Dr Bradley Ferguson with a digital RF (radio frequency) processor, designed and manufactured by Tenix for use in several projects, including a highly sensitive digital radar receiver.
Like many civil servants of her generation, 48-year-old Lim Soo Hoon is a good soldier. “You tell us where to go, and we’ll go,” she says of her 26 years in Singapore’s public service.

Over the years Ms Lim has held many high-profile jobs, starting with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, before moving on to various postings in Transport, Manpower, Community Development, Youth and Sports.

Her current role as Permanent Secretary of the Public Service Division in Singapore carries some heavy responsibilities, but they are borne with grace and enthusiasm. “I love the work I do because it involves issues that affect the nation,” she says. “Working on the big picture is an exciting challenge. We want to be a first-class public service that is based on integrity, meritocracy and incorruptibility.

“Leadership is the key to achieving these goals and, to this end, the Singapore Government puts a lot of emphasis on leadership training.”

Ms Lim’s various government postings have resulted in an accumulation of different skills and experience, resulting in an impressive body of policies over the years.

She was a key policy officer in the Ministry of Transport when Singapore launched its Mass Rapid Transit System, a rail network considered one of the most modern in the world.

“I also helped develop the Civil Service College in its infant years, with particular emphasis on training public sector leaders.”

While working in the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports, she helped shift the focus from custodial to rehabilitative care for juvenile delinquents.

Her own background reflects a commitment to excellence and service, both in the professional and personal domain.

As well as her Adelaide qualifications, Ms Lim has a Masters in Public Administration from Harvard University and is Chairman of the National Library Board and the Civil Service College Board in Singapore.

Married with two teenage sons, she is a strong advocate of work–life balance, dedicated to her work, family and her faith.

Her faith was tested back in 2004 when her then 14-year-old son Samuel was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Disease, resulting in a year-long battle. Sam was in remission but suffered a relapse in January 2007. He is currently undergoing treatment.

“That was a reality check for me. I was forced to look at what is really important to me and not to take things for granted. My faith in God was what sustained me in that journey, just as it is sustaining me now even as Sam is being treated.”

The experience resulted in her writing a book—SAM: A Mother’s Journey of Faith—which gave Singaporeans a glimpse of the parent behind the public servant.

“I wrote it from the perspective of a mother whose child was undergoing treatment for cancer. Many people have told me they were touched and inspired by the book, so I am glad it was able to make a difference in other people’s lives.”

Although she underplays her status as a role model for Singaporean women, insisting that gender does not come into play in the public service, there is no doubt Ms Lim has made her mark.

Last year Singapore’s best-selling women’s magazine, Her World, named Soo Hoon Lim “Woman of the Year” in recognition of her achievements.

“At the end of the day it’s not just one individual or one small group of people, but always the combined effort of a team that makes things work,” she says.
Make an Impact

A gift in any culture establishes a special relationship between the donor and the recipient. A gift which promotes learning and education has the potential to embrace a wider community and make a difference around the world.

The University of Adelaide was founded on the generosity of wealthy grazier and copper miner Walter Watson Hughes, who donated £20,000 in 1872 to establish what has become one of Australia’s leading universities.

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A distant relation has been told that if he ever eats fish again, he could die. A recent wine labelling regulation change has resulted in some seemingly obscure information being printed on the labels of wines: words like, “May contain traces of fish products”, are startling to say the least.

Really, some winemakers have been rather caught in a time warp, which is far more chronic than for other industries, just because theirs is the second oldest profession.

Current consumers do not know just how difficult it was for past generations to clarify wine, nor do they appreciate that the appearance of young wine can be likened to pea soup. In fact, converting it from that condition to the clear beverage that customers demand encapsulates a winemaker’s job for 11 months of the year—after completion of the vintage.

There are no fish in wine bottles, just as there is no milk, often a new concern conjured from reading words like, “May contain casein” on current wine labels. Indeed fish and milk products may have been added to such wines, but they are no longer present.

Wines of near “pea soup” condition were the bane of early oenologists. I can remember taking nine days to filter one tank of wine around 1948. Nowadays, such a wine would have had its pH adjusted closer to an optimum of around 3.6, so the colloidal materials that cause the near cloudy condition would have been eliminated naturally during the vinifying or soon afterwards.

The ancients added many everyday “chemicals” to their wines. Milk (especially for sherries), gypsum, gelatine and eggs were common. Gypsum is said to have been discarded after 400 French school boys all had diarrhoea at the same time! (Gypsum is a sulphate and the most common form is Epsom Salts.)

Eight egg whites per barrique (225 litres) is still a current formula and the Bordelais eat an inordinate number of custards year-end, as only the egg whites are added to the wine. I saw blood used once. It certainly clarified the white wine, removing excessive colour at the same time. China is said to have recently banned importation of French wines on the grounds that if dried blood was used during its making it could carry Mad Cow Disease!

Fish with your wine, sir? But before we get excited with indignant thoughts, it should be admitted that people who are allergic to such additives are entitled to know they have been used. However, these “fining” agents, as they are defined in the trade, do not remain in the wine, but coagulate with their captured suspended colloidal particles and settle to the bottom of the particular vessel, leaving clear wine above. Analysis of treated wines discloses complete absence of traces of any fining agent, especially as the fining is normally followed by filtering.

So we may well ponder what all the fuss is about. But here’s the rub: methods of analysis are continuously being improved and though the foregoing assertion may be true today, winemakers worry that it may not be so in 20 years’ time (wine is not like milk or any other food in this regard) when a coveted bottle is opened and found to contain one quadrillionth of a part of fish. To make the point, when I was an apprentice we could not analyse to ascertain the amounts of natural tartaric and malic acids in our wines, only the combined acidity.

So words like “May contain ………” printed on a label can be construed as legalistic protection for future oenologists from the current well-meaning label regulations.

IAN HICKINBOTHAM RDE’ OAM
“AP”
The unveiling of Hickinbotham Hall at the University of Adelaide’s National Wine Centre honours a man—and a family—who have made a major impact on wine and wine education for more than 70 years.

The name Hickinbotham might be best known in relation to building and development, but it is also synonymous with the Australian wine industry—a fact that the University of Adelaide recognised with the launch of Hickinbotham Hall at the National Wine Centre in March.

“Over three generations the Hickinbotham family has had a tremendous impact on the nation’s wine industry, both in terms of research into wine-making and in the education of Australian wine-makers,” said University Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

“We are particularly pleased to honour the contribution of the Hickinbotham family to the University of Adelaide and the community by naming the Hickinbotham Hall.”

Hickinbotham Hall takes pride of place at the National Wine Centre. Its 23-metre high ceiling, 100-year-old jarrah floorboards and a stunning rammed earth wall make a spectacular main function venue. On 7 March, the Hall played host to three generations of Hickinbothams who attended the launch ceremony to honour the contribution of their father, grandfather and great-grandfather to the wine industry.

The Hickinbotham connection to the wine industry began with Alan Robb Hickinbotham, or ‘Hick’ as he was affectionately called—known by many today as the father of Australian oenology. Appointed Lecturer in Physical and Chemical Sciences at Roseworthy College (now the Roseworthy Campus of the University of Adelaide) in 1929, Alan Robb Hickinbotham became Australia’s first wine science lecturer.

He introduced the Diploma Course in Oenology at Roseworthy in 1936, one of the first courses of its type in the world. This became the University’s Bachelor of Oenology degree, now run at the Waite Campus. Together with wine education programs at the National Wine Centre, the University of Adelaide has gained an international reputation for excellence in wine education.

“Alan Robb Hickinbotham’s research and writing on wine making under Australian conditions laid the foundation for a technically advanced Australian wine industry,” Professor McWha said.

Two of Alan Robb’s sons, Alan David and Ian, continued their father’s passion for wine. Today, Hickinbotham Wines owns three vineyards in South Australia, making it one of the largest family vignerons in Australia.

Thanks to the family, the state-of-the-art Hickinbotham Roseworthy Wine Science Laboratory was also established at the University’s Waite Campus in 1998.

“The Hickinbothams have provided generous support for the University of Adelaide over many years and we are very pleased to be able to recognise their contribution to the wine industry, the State and the University in this most appropriate venue,” said Professor McWha.

“This acknowledgement in the National Wine Centre is appropriate recognition of the invaluable contribution made by Alan Robb and Alan David Hickinbotham and their family to the Australian wine industry.”

STORY LANA GUINEAY

Above: Alan David Hickinbotham AM, Dr Arthur Ray Beckwith, Pamela Martin, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide Professor James McWha, The Hon. Greg Crafter.
Malaysian businessman Sim See Kee (right) was presented with a Distinguished Alumni Award by the University’s Chancellor, the Honourable John von Doussa, in Kuala Lumpur.

Alumni Beth Lewis (Dip Arts & Education) and Dr Barbara Possingham (Science) enjoy an alumni tour of the laboratories in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

University of Adelaide Bachelor of Economics (1993) graduate Joanna Teh was MC at the Kuala Lumpur graduation ceremony. Joanna is now Senior Manager of the Loyalty Frequent Flyer Program at Malaysia Airlines.

Dato Lee Yee Cheong AO and former Malaysian Federal Minister Dato Adenan Satem at the Kuala Lumpur offshore graduations in April.

Dr Ajeet Gill and Robert Low, President of the Malaysia Alumni Chapter, at the recent Kuala Lumpur offshore graduation ceremony.

Hong Kong alumni at the 2007 April dinner function.

Christina Tan, Vice-President of the Singapore Alumni Chapter, and Dr Ng Boon Keng.
Infant mortality in South Australia during the first half of the 20th century fell dramatically. One of the key people driving forward revolutionary improvements in women’s and children’s health was Dr Helen Mayo, founder of the Mothers and Babies Health Association and Australia’s first female university council member.

In a professional and university world heavily dominated by men, Helen Mayo graduated from medicine in 1902 with distinction, becoming the University of Adelaide’s second female medical graduate. She topped her class in her fourth year, gaining the Davies Thomas Scholarship and repeated her success in her final year, winning the Everard Scholarship.

After gaining valuable experience in obstetrics and midwifery overseas in Britain, Ireland and India, Dr Mayo returned to Adelaide in 1906 to start private practice, specialising in midwifery and women’s and children’s health. She began to forge her distinguished career which, over the years, included various positions at the Adelaide Children’s Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital where she established a vaccine department. During her early years in Adelaide, she also worked as a demonstrator in pathology at the University.

In 1926 Dr Mayo completed her MD degree by thesis, becoming a clinical lecturer in medical diseases of children at the University until 1934.

From the start of her career, Dr Mayo had advocated the need for educating new mothers in looking after their babies. The Mothers and Babies Health Association (MBHA) was founded in 1927 and eventually served the whole state. It had grown out of a simple clinic for mothers and babies, established with her friend, social worker Harriet Stirling, which became the School for Mothers in 1909 and later the MBHA.

Together Dr Mayo and Harriet Stirling also set up a small hospital for babies which later became the Mareeba Babies’ Hospital. Much progress was made in new methods of preventing cross infection among sick babies and infant feeding.

In 1935 Dr Mayo was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her contribution to maternal and child welfare.

Dr Mayo also made a significant contribution to the life of South Australians outside of the sphere of mothers’ and babies’ health. During World War II she organised the Red Cross donor transfusion service. She also had a long association with many aspects of University life, including being elected to the University of Adelaide Council in 1914 and serving until 1960.

She helped establish St Ann’s University College for Women and founded or presided over a number of associations for women. She was a foundation fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

Helen Mayo died in 1967. Various places bear her name in recognition of her enormous and varied contribution, including the original University Mayo Refectory in the University’s Union House, rooms at St Ann’s, Helen Mayo House for new mothers with mental health problems at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, and a federal electorate.

The above account is derived from a number of sources, including The New Women, Adelaide’s early women graduates by Alison Mackinnon, The University of Adelaide 1874–1974 by W.G.K. Duncan and Roger Ashley Leonard, and the entry on Mayo in the Australian Dictionary of Biography online edition by Neville Hicks and Elisabeth Leopold. Thanks also to Helen Bruce, Reference Archivist, University of Adelaide.
alumni on the move

2000s

Nicole Krzys [MBBS 2006, BA (Hons) 2006], a Medicine and Arts student who studied schizophrenia, became the University of Adelaide’s 100th Rhodes Scholar. Nicole has completed a Bachelor of Medicine/Bachelor of Surgery at the University of Adelaide and also an Honours degree in Philosophy, specialising in cognitive science.

Clinton Seekamp [B Nat Res Mgmt 2005] relocated to Hamilton, Victoria in January 2005 to take up a position with Glenelg Hopkins CMA as an Environmental Water Reserve Officer. He had previously been working for Clare & Gilbert Valleys Council as a Natural Resource Officer for 12 months, and has also been providing a private consultancy service in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment for the past two years. Clinton became engaged in September 2006 and will marry in November 2007.

Gemma Sharp [BSc (Mol Biol) 2004, Dip Lang 2004, BSc (Hons) 2005] has been awarded a General Sir John Monash Award, which provides the winners with financial support up to the value of $150,000 over three years. The recipients are awarded for academic excellence, leadership and community service. Gemma will use her Monash Award to study for a PhD at the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom.

Dr Catherine Gibson [BSc (Biomed Sc) 2000, BSc (Hons) 2001, PhD (Med) 2005], a PhD graduate from the University of Adelaide’s Discipline of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, based at the Women’s & Children’s Hospital, was named South Australia’s 2006 Young Investigator of the Year. Her research focuses on the causes of cerebral palsy (CP) in children in the hope of taking a step towards prevention or a cure.

Zhipeng Ou [MBA 2004, Grad Dip Wine Bus 2004] is currently working for an EPCM firm Maison Worley Parsons in Beijing in a strategic planning role. He is planning to start his own imported wine business in the near future.

Alex Coates [B Int St 2004] has recently started a new job as Office Manager and Personal Assistant to Michael O’Brien MP Parliamentary Secretary to the South Australian Premier. In November 2006, Alex was elected a Council Member of the City of Salisbury.

Tim Bodley [BSc 2004, Dip Lang 2004] has enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy as an Electronics Technician.

Lauren McWhirter [BSc 2004] has recently returned from overseas, after living in London and travelling through South America for the past few years. She is currently working as a Graduate Mine Geologist at the Cloud Break operation in Western Australia for Fortescue Metals Group.

Abbey Keown [BSc 2004] is currently working as a Mine Geologist for Fortescue Metals Group in Western Australia. Abbey is marrying her partner Craig Barker [BSc 1995] in August 2007 in the Cook Islands.

Debra-Jayne Kimlin [B Wine Mkt 2004] has recently accepted a role in Shanghai, China, with a small Chinese company aiming at educating consumers about wine. Debra-Jayne is excited about this new, challenging role in what she describes as “an emerging market”.

Lachlan Coleman [BA 2003, BA (Hons) 2004] has been awarded the 2007 Australian War Memorial Research Scholarship. The five week scholarship will entail working with staff in the Memorial’s Military History Section in Canberra on an allocated project relevant to the Memorial’s research interests. Lachlan is the first scholar from the University of Adelaide to receive the award. His project will examine the ‘Fall of Damascus’ in 1918 and whether it was TE Lawrence’s Arabs or Chauvel’s Australian Light Horsemen that captured the city.

Owen Siggs [BSc (Mol Biol) 2004, Dip Lang 2004] has been awarded a General Sir John Monash Award, which provides the winners with financial support up to the value of $150,000 over three years. The recipients are awarded for academic excellence, leadership and community service. Owen will use his Monash Award to pursue a joint PhD/DPhil at The Scripps Research Institute in the United States and the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom.

Emma Scammell [B Com (Mkt) 2002] moved to Sydney in September 2004 after working at Bridgestone Australia Ltd. After a few other appointments, Emma is now Communications Manager at a financial planning organisation called Matrix Planning Solutions. She is also studying for a Diploma in Financial Planning. Emma also runs a marketing consulting business and is active with AIMNSW and AMI.

1990s

Jane Cohen [Grad Dip Ed 1999] After completing her Dip Ed, Jane taught at the Jewish Day School, Massada College, in Adelaide for three years. In 2002, she moved to Melbourne and taught at Bialik College for the next five years. Recently, Jane and her family relocated back to Israel where her husband Erez Cohen [PhD (Arts) 2001], accepted a lecturing position. Jane hopes to find work teaching English as a Second Language. Currently, Jane cares for her two-year-old son at home, whilst her two older sons attend school.

Associate Professor Holger Maier [BE (Hons) 1990, PhD (E) 1996 and current staff member] has been presented with a $25,000 Australian University Award for Teaching Excellence by the Carrick Institute for Learning and Teaching in Higher Education at a ceremony in Parliament House, Canberra. Described as “an exemplary practitioner of student-centred teaching”, Associate Professor Maier from the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering teaches in water resources and environmental engineering and is internationally renowned for his research into sustainable water resources and infrastructure management.

Natalie Williams [B Mus 1998, B Mus (Hons) 1999] Natalie’s degrees were listed incorrectly in the last edition of Lumen. They are stated correctly above. We apologise for any confusion this may have caused. Natalie has been accepted into the Doctor of Music course at Indiana University in Bloomington, USA. Natalie has been awarded a School of Music Graduate Fellowship, only one of four awarded annually by the school. The Fellowship includes full tuition, a stipend and medical benefits as well as a three-year teaching post at the University as an Associate Instructor in Composition. Natalie has also been awarded the APRA PDA Award in the Classical Category.
What’s new with you? If you’ve recently changed jobs, been promoted, moved interstate or overseas, got married, etc, we want to hear about it! Share your good news with your fellow alumni by emailing us 50 words or less, including your name, degree and graduation year. Send it to alumni@adelaide.edu.au or call (08) 8303 5800.

High quality photos are also welcome (300dpi)
For an institution that helps go-getters turn their ideas into reality, it’s no surprise that the launch of the Education Centre for Innovation and Commercialisation’s alumni network was largely due to the initiative of its graduates.

The Entrepreneurship and Commercialisation Chapter—the University’s 20th alumni network—was officially launched late in 2006 at the National Wine Centre. According to Chapter President, four-time University of Adelaide graduate and key mover in the network’s establishment, Simon Williams, it was a natural progression for ECIC alumni to form an official group.

“Many of the current students and alumni were gathering informally so we decided to get our act together and form a network,” said Mr Williams. “Entrepreneurship and technology commercialisation don’t really have a specific industry group that we can join post graduation. Given that people were very keen on networking and keeping in touch, an alumni network seemed the obvious next step.”

ECIC Director Professor Noel Lindsay and faculty staff worked closely with Mr Williams to get the network up and running, a connection that Professor Lindsay said would continue. “The ECIC hopes to offer ‘upgrade’ courses in the future to keep its alumni abreast of new and interesting issues, and it will also host special seminars and workshops for the alumni whenever visiting scholars are here.”

Linking undergraduates, graduates, the ECIC, graduate employers, professional bodies and friends of the faculty, the network aims to create a mutually beneficial community of professionals.

“We see the purpose and vision of the network as enriching our business communities, developing future leaders and ensuring the continuation of excellence in the ECIC. We also want to recognise and reward the achievements of stakeholders in the professions represented within the ECIC,” Mr Williams said.

While the network is still finalising events and programs for the coming year, there are plans for a mid-year dinner in June, the establishment of a book club and a survey of all interested parties in April.

July, the establishment of a book club and a survey of all interested parties in April. Professor Lindsay said that he foresees the network taking on a “life of its own”.

“The ECIC’s alumni comprises an elite group of graduates from a variety of fields, professions and countries. Participants in our courses tend to be ‘go-getters’ who are motivated to achieve. I would like to see the alumni meeting on a regular basis to ensure members can take advantage of the quality network of contacts that exist,” Professor Lindsay said.

Network membership is open to graduates and current students of the ECIC, past and present members of the faculty and any other people who have an interest in the network’s objectives.

For further information about the Network, visit www.ecic.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/ or email ecic_alumni@adelaide.edu.au.
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www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/merchandise

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Matte silver lid provides a striking contrast with shiny case and embossed logo

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University Tie
Silk striped lion

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Available in navy blue

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including velvet pouch

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Telephone: +61 8 8303 5800 | Facsimile: +61 8 8303 5808 | Email: alumni@adelaide.edu.au | Website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/merchandise

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Email alumni@adelaide.edu.au

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**SUB TOTAL**

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**TOTAL**
Norm Shierlaw has never forgotten the time he spent at the University of Adelaide. Beginning a Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1940, and finishing it in 1949 after four years with the Australian Imperial Force during World War II, Norm remembers the pre-war years at Adelaide as the best time of his life. Norm recalls the strong sense of community that saw him get to know just about everyone in the University. But it was Norm’s passion for sport—and his time spent on the footy field with twin brother, John—that he remembers best of all.

Being the only “freshers” playing for the Adelaide University Football Club A-team in 1940 was “quite an honour” for the Shierlaw brothers, and some of the only time the busy twins got to spend together as they took up all that University life had to offer.

Norm (pictured with his wife, Barbara) has donated sufficient funds to complete the restoration of the Grandstand that overlooks the oval where he and his brother spent so many hours playing football. Norm’s generosity will see the Grandstand, built in 1910, restored to its former glory with general maintenance, painting and an upgrade to facilities—a gift which Norm has dedicated to the memory of his brother John, who lost his life in World War II while serving with the Royal Australian Air Force.

For more information about giving to the University of Adelaide, contact:

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