

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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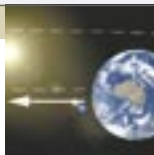
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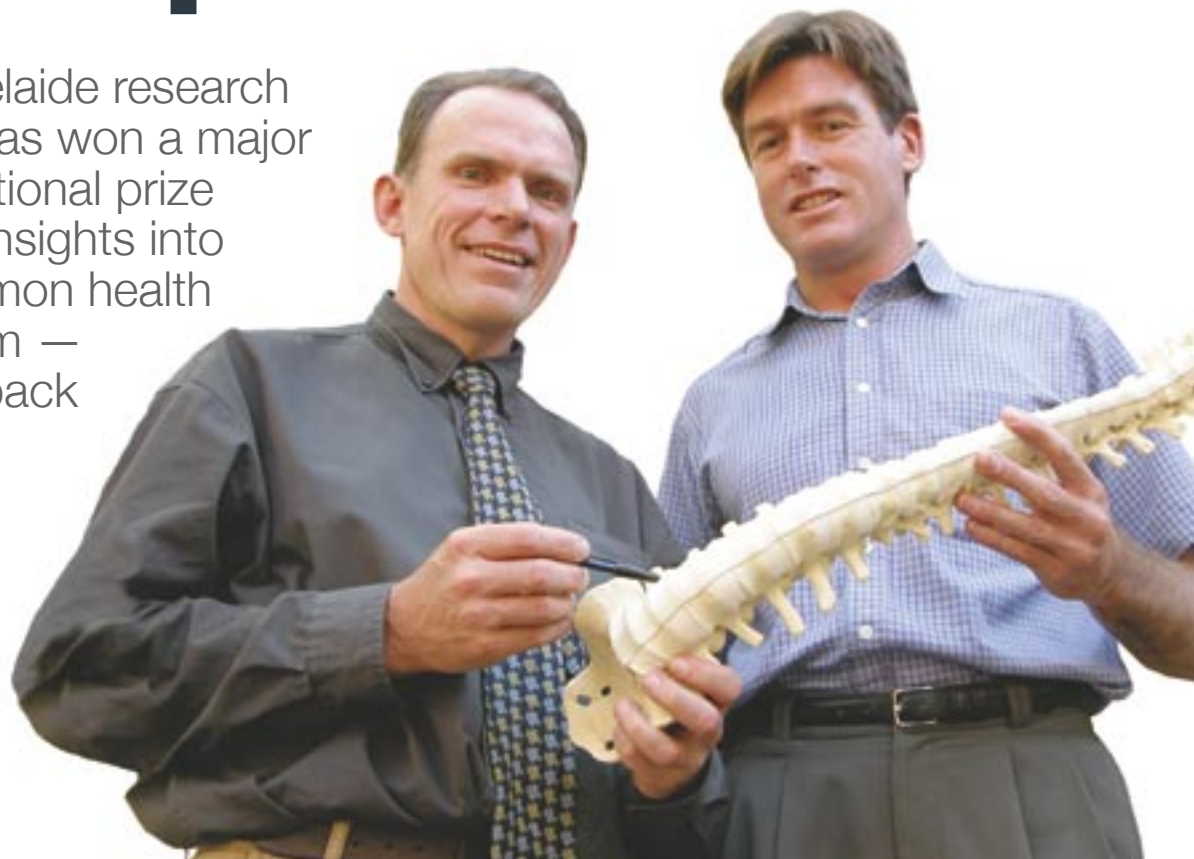


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Nerves point to better back pain treatment

An Adelaide research team has won a major international prize for its insights into a common health problem — lower back pain.



Dr Andrew Fagan (left) and Dr Rob Moore show the spinal area where lower back pain occurs

An investigation into the cause of lower back pain by the collaborative research group has earned it the world's most prestigious prize in basic spinal research.

The prize, awarded by the International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine, is for research into the nerve supply of the intervertebral disc.

The study found that the greatest concentration of nerves, and therefore the greater sensitivity to pain, is in the periphery of the disc, with a smaller concentration of nerves in the central part of the adjoining vertebrae.

"The findings indicate that back pain cannot originate from the central region of the disc itself, which lacks a nerve supply essential for carrying the sensation of pain," says Orthopaedic Surgeon Dr Andrew Fagan.

"Treatment of pain arising in the disc therefore should focus on the outer innervated zone," he said.

The prestigious award from the international society "shows that spinal research from this group in Adelaide is regarded highly by the international community", said Dr Robert Moore, Head of the Adelaide Centre for Spinal Research and Affiliate Senior Lecturer with the University of Adelaide's Department of Pathology.

"Adelaide is at the cutting edge of back pain research, and our work has many implications for the potential treatment and future prevention of back pain."

The research was conducted in the Adelaide Centre for Spinal Research and involved collaboration between researchers from the Spinal Unit at the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH), Division of Tissue Pathology at the

Institute for Medical and Veterinary Science (IMVS) and Department of Pathology at the University of Adelaide.

The successful team comprised Dr Fagan, Dr Moore, Professor Peter Blumbergs (Clinical Professor, Pathology), Professor Barrie Vernon-Roberts (Director IMVS and former Head of Pathology) and Professor Robert Fraser (Clinical Professor, Orthopaedics and Trauma, University of Adelaide).

Professors Vernon-Roberts and Fraser have won this prestigious international award (formerly known as the Volvo award) on two previous occasions.

Members of the research team will receive their prize at an international conference being held in Vancouver from May 13.

Story by David Ellis



McWha's Words

Striving for Quality

Many important issues came to light in the recent report by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA), but none was more important than what the university itself demonstrated: the commitment of staff and students to the quality process.

I was pleased to see that the AUQA report supported the university's own analysis of what needed to be done, and the actions we were already taking to increase quality assurance. Our preparation for the audit was rigorous and inclusive; our ability to self-reflect, identify areas of improvement, and make preparations for those improvements have been outstanding.

In its dealings with AUQA, the university as a whole has shown that it is striving for quality and, in the many areas where quality is already being achieved, looking for all-important ways in which that quality can be measured and shown to the wider world.

Especially pleasing to me was the report's praise for the quality of our staff and students, as well as our research; these are evident to those of us who work here every day, but to have it reaffirmed by AUQA is a great positive for the university.

The report also raises issues and recommends changes that will in some cases be controversial, but it is important that we embrace the suggestions and respond positively to them. After all, the report is an unbiased view of how others see us; our action plan must and will address the issues they have raised.

The action plan will be presented to AUQA in July, and in the meantime discussion about the university's future will continue to occur on an ongoing basis, partly through our planning process and also at my semi-regular Forums in Bonython Hall.

My first Forum in October last year foreshadowed some key issues for us, such as discussion of the university's values and ideals—who we are, what we are doing and why we are doing it. This has already been included into our planning process.

I'm pleased to announce that my next Forum will be held on Friday, May 23 from 12-2pm. I encourage all staff, students and interested members of the public to join me in Bonython Hall so that we can continue our dialogue. I am keen to see you there and to hear your questions.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor

Adelaidean

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Quality report welcomed

The University of Adelaide welcomed last month's release of an independent academic audit report by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA).

Adelaide is the first South Australian university and the first member of the Group of Eight universities to go through the quality report process.

The audit was a "constructive and positive process from which everyone can learn", said Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

"We are delighted that the AUQA report confirms our own view of our strengths and areas for improvement. Our preparation for the audit was rigorous and inclusive, and I am very pleased that the great commitment of our staff and students to the process has been recognised in a commendation."

The AUQA audit panel visited the university in October last year. During the visit, the panel interviewed more than 200 people, including staff, students, members of the University Council, union representatives and external stakeholders.

The AUQA report commends the university for the "thorough and open manner" of its participation in the process.

The report praises a range of the university's activities and processes, including its impressive research performance, its contribution to the establishment of start-up companies through its Thebarton Campus Research Park, its support services for international students, and the "significant national role" played by its Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies.

Among the report's recommendations are more systematic planning and benchmarking, strengthening the quality assurance role of the Academic Board, and increased emphasis on review and development mechanisms for the university's academic and general staff.

Story by Howard Salkow

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Bright students get Headstart at Adelaide

Got some spare time during Year 12?
Why not get a head start on uni?

The University of Adelaide offers a unique chance for secondary students to start their learning at university while completing Year 12.

Called Headstart, the scholarship program encourages young people to get a taste of university life and earn early credits towards their degree.

Those accepted into Headstart have completed at least one Year 12 subject before they officially start Year 12, which means they have a window in their study schedule and the ability to tackle first-year subjects at the University of Adelaide.

The scholarship pays for their university tuition fees for up to 12 units (a half-year's workload). Although participation in Headstart doesn't guarantee that students will be accepted into their chosen degree once they finish Year 12, it does mean they can count their Headstart study towards their degree if they get in.

This year the university has accepted nine students into the Headstart program—the biggest group so far.

Mary Thomas (St Mary's College) is studying English under the Headstart program.

"I want to study English and Classics [for her degree], and I thought this would be a good way to get used to the university," Mary said.

"The University of Adelaide is the only uni that has given me this opportunity, and it's a prestigious place to go."

Brooke Bickmore (Wilderness School) had completed her Year 12 French studies in Year 11 but didn't want to lose her language skills, which is why she is now studying university-level French thanks to Headstart. Wontai Cho (Rostrevor College), from South Korea, is studying Maths at the University of Adelaide while completing Year 12.

Other Headstart students, such as Claire Walker (Eynesbury College) and Catherine Connelly (Loreto College), are continuing their music studies at the university's Elder School of Music.

"It's not actually all that much extra work," said Claire, who is studying performance (flute). "Because I study at Eynesbury it's really convenient for me to come to the university."

"I like it because I'm learning more technical stuff," said Catherine, studying performance (piano). "I love playing so it's not an extra stress."

"It [the Headstart program] means I'll have a semester of uni out of the way, and I'll have more experience. It means I could either get my degree earlier or defer for half a year."



Headstart students (from left) Mary Thomas, Cadence Hart, Claire Walker, Brooke Bickmore, Catherine Connelly and Wontai Cho, with former Headstart student Mark Dodd
Photo David Ellis

Another student enjoying the benefits of Headstart is Cadence Hart (Woodville High School), who is studying Accounting in the university's School of Commerce.

"The uni side hasn't added any stress," Cadence said. "In fact, it helps me out with my school work because it's complementary. It's more of a help than a hindrance."

"The other good thing about it is that you get an insight into the University of Adelaide. It's more of an incentive to go here," she said.

One student who already knows the value of Headstart is Mark Dodd, who

took part in the program last year while finishing Year 12 at Pembroke. He was this year offered one of the university's major scholarships for academic excellence.

"Headstart helped me choose what direction I wanted to take with my university study," he said. "The program and the scholarship were a big influence on helping me to decide where I wanted to do my degree."

For full details about the Headstart Scholarship Program, visit:

www.adelaide.edu.au/headstart/



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Young to become VC of Swinburne

The University of Adelaide's Professor Ian Young has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne University of Technology.

Professor Young is the University of Adelaide's Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) and Executive Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Computer and Mathematical Sciences.

He will succeed Professor Iain Wallace when he retires at the end of the year, and will be the second Vice-Chancellor of Swinburne.

In making the announcement, Swinburne Chancellor and Chair of the Search Committee Dr Douglas Mitchell said it was a credit to Swinburne that someone of Professor Young's calibre would take up the appointment.

"Professor Young has an impressive record of high-level achievement as a leader, strategic planner and

manager and is one of Australia's top researchers," Dr Mitchell said.

In congratulating Professor Young, University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha thanked him for his numerous contributions, including pioneering the development of entrepreneurship as an educational area and leading a major expansion of the university's activities offshore into Singapore, Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong and China.

"I am truly pleased and wish him well in his new venture. Although I am extremely sorry to lose him, this appointment reflects well on the quality of our staff at the university," Professor McWha said.



Professor Ian Young

Professor Young said he was looking forward to working with the many excellent and committed staff at Swinburne to further develop the university's mission.

"This will also be a wonderful opportunity to lead Swinburne

into the changing face of Higher Education," he said.

Professor Young was appointed Executive Dean at Adelaide in January 1999 and Pro Vice-Chancellor in May 2001.

Story by Howard Salkow

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Flower power for design student Natalie

A University of Adelaide student has won a national design prize at the biggest flower and garden show in the southern hemisphere.

Natalie Fidge is the second Adelaide student in three years to win the coveted Fleming's Student Design Competition at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

Ms Fidge is currently studying for a double degree in Architecture and Commerce, which includes a Bachelor of Design Studies. Her win follows hot on the heels of Tom Richards who grabbed the spoils in 2001.

She was presented with horticulture's most prestigious award, the Don Fleming Student Award, by Victorian Premier Steve Bracks last month.

Ms Fidge was one of four finalists from Australia and New Zealand. They had six months to design, complete with detailed plans and renderings, a "Garden for Entertaining". Each of the four finalists' gardens were constructed and displayed at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show.

Her design, titled "A Night at the Theatre", focused on the layout of



The award winning garden (above) and Natalie Fidge with the Fleming award



a theatre highlighted by axial aisle entries and planting that leads to a raised stage. The design is a place to entertain and be entertained.

For winning the competition Ms Fidge received the Don Fleming Student Award—a trip for two to the Chelsea Flower Show in London, including airfare, accommodation and \$1000 spending money.

After receiving the award, Ms Fidge thanked Fleming's Nurseries for the

unique opportunity and exposure the award gave her. She said the Don Fleming Student Award would be incredibly beneficial for her career, with a number of people already interested in her design.

The award was judged by such notables as Jamie Durie from *Patio* (and of *Backyard Blitz* fame), Wes Fleming, Director of Fleming's Nurseries, Rob Small, CEO of Colac-Otway Shire, Anthony Van Shaik of

Bio Grow, Greg Moore, and Alun Chapman, President of the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects.

The competition is open to all students of horticulture and design, and gives students the opportunity to explore new ideas, stimulate issues and push design boundaries. Past winners have gone on to win various national titles and have gained employment within the industry.

Story by Howard Salkow

News in Brief

SARS affects Adelaide concert

An internationally acclaimed concert pianist has cancelled her Australian tour due to the SARS virus in her home country of Hong Kong.

Mary Wu was to have given a solo recital in the Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series on Friday, May 9. The concert will still go ahead, with Clemens Leske taking her place.

Friday, May 9, Elder Hall at 1.10pm. Admission \$5, tickets available at the door from 12.30pm.

Inaugural Lectures

A broad range of subjects, from sponsorship and global sea levels to the oral health of Australians, is covered in a fascinating new series

of Inaugural Lectures by university professors.

The free lectures—held each Thursday until June 19, at 1.10pm in the Council Room (Level 7, Wills Building)—feature recently appointed professors to the university speaking on their areas of expertise.

www.library.adelaide.edu.au/ual/inaugurals

Is There a Tenor in the House?

Can an opera happen without the beloved tenor? Elder School of Music graduates put the question to the test in "Is There a Tenor in the House?"

State Opera Emerging Artists Joanna McWaters, Catherine Campbell

and Andrew Turner premiere their new show at the Opera Studio, 216 Marion Rd, Netley at 2pm on Sunday, May 18.

Tickets are only \$10—bookings phone/fax: 8340 2784.

Medical Research Week

The SA Division of the Australian Society for Medical Research is holding its Annual Scientific Meeting on Friday, May 30 as the first major event for Medical Research Week.

Keynote speaker is Professor Simon Gandevia (Prince of Wales Medical Research Institute) on "The Mind, the Motor neurones and the Muscles".

The venue is Enterprise House, 152 Greenhill Rd, Unley.

The annual Medical Research Week expo will be held in Rundle Mall on Wednesday, June 4, featuring research conducted at South Australia's universities and hospitals.

www.asmr.org.au/states/SA/index.html

Women's & Children's Oration

"Where are our genes taking us?" (The Societal Impact of the Human Genome Project), by Professor Grant Sutherland, will be presented at Elder Hall, University of Adelaide, on May 30 at 6pm.

For more information phone 8161 7165 or email: baldockc@wch.sa.gov.au

Counting the cost of mental illness

Mental illness affects one in five Australians, but there are serious discrepancies between the cost of mental illness and the amount of money spent on research.

Two recent articles in the *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry* point out that the most problematic mental disorders are among the least researched, while research funding for mental disorders is much less than is warranted by the distress they cause or their burden on health systems.

Mental disorders contribute more than 19% of the disease burden and account for nearly 10% of health system costs, but receive less than 9% of funding from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Substance-use disorders are the most researched, but mood disorders create the biggest burden on patients and carers, while the health system spends most on dementia, mood disorders, schizophrenia and other psychoses.

Traditional funding also favours the interests of researchers rather than those of other groups, and the greatest difference in research

priorities lies between consumer and carer groups and the committees that evaluate research grants.

These issues have prompted a novel solution. In March, Dr Michael Sawyer, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Adelaide, convened a National Mental Health Symposium in Canberra.

The symposium explored how a major contributor to mental health research, the Australian Rotary Health Research Fund, could spend its research dollars more cost-effectively.

"To ensure future funding, researchers must demonstrate that their work is beneficial to the community and relevant to the interests of funders, consumers, carers and clinicians," said Professor Sawyer.

"In the symposium, each group became more aware of the concerns of the others," he said. "Consumers and carers placed a high priority

The health system spends most on dementia, mood disorders, schizophrenia and other psychoses
Photo Brenton Edwards



on research relevant to their needs, while researchers placed the highest priority on scientific excellence. We discussed how much funding should be directed to investigator-driven projects versus strategic projects, and recognised that researchers need to work closely with funders to ensure ongoing support for their research.

"A key issue to emerge was the need to identify ways to ensure that new knowledge is effectively utilised in clinical care or preventative programs." (As one delegate put it, "The gap between what we know and

don't know is much smaller than the gap between what we know and don't do.")

The symposium focused on mental health, but modelled a process with much wider implications. Delegates agreed that health research should only be funded if it is excellent, but research is bound to be more valued by the community, and certainly more cost-effective, if it embraces the concerns of the people that it is intended to help and the needs of clinicians and carers who help them.

Story by Rob Morrison

Scars of war for all to see

A new book exposes previously unacknowledged psychological trauma suffered by Australian soldiers who fought on the Kokoda Trail during World War Two.

Marks of War: War Neurosis and the Legacy of Kokoda is a detailed account of the long-term impact of combat experience, set within the landscape of the history of war neurosis. Its author, Dr John Raftery, based the book on research conducted for his PhD thesis at the University of Adelaide.

Dr Raftery found that the full extent of veterans' suffering was not recognised, either during war-time or in subsequent years, by military

and repatriation medical practitioners, who consistently claimed that the mental disorders of war presented nothing new to medical science.

"I chose Kokoda because of its significance as a traumatic experience," Dr Raftery said. "Traumatic events such as those faced by soldiers at Kokoda have a life-long impact, and a significant number of veterans experienced distress they were not encouraged to explore."

Dr Raftery, who is a founding member and current president of the Australasian Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, said his book would help new generations of Australians understand what their fathers and grandfathers

went through, and how the impact of their war experiences shaped their identity.

"The point of the book and my studies is that war must be addressed as a public health issue, not just as a problem that affects individuals; we have been examining the insanity of individuals not the source of the 'infection'," he said.

Marks of War: War Neurosis and the Legacy of Kokoda was launched just prior to Anzac Day. It is published by Lythrum Press, RRP \$29.95.

The *Adelaidean* has one copy of *Marks of War* to give away. To win, be the first caller on (08) 8303 5174. Please leave your name and contact details.

Memory makes a difference to schizophrenia sufferers

Recent findings by a University of Adelaide scientist could help to improve the treatment of a chronic illness often associated with considerable hopelessness among young people: schizophrenia.

Schizophrenia affects as many as 1% of the population. It's a long-term illness that typically sets in during late adolescence/early adulthood, "so whatever we can do early on (or at any stage) is going to make a huge difference to people's lives", said senior lecturer in Psychiatry Dr Cherrie Galletly.

Dr Galletly has found that sufferers of the condition have problems with "working memory", an aspect of function vital for getting by in the complicated everyday world.

The subjects participating in her study undertook a simple sound task, comparing consecutive tones to determine if they were of the same pitch. Individuals with schizophrenia had trouble focusing on the task, keeping one tone in mind while waiting for the next one, and 'updating' their working memory (the very short-term, 'online' memory) to account for a new tone.

"You would think that the strongest determinant of an individual's function would be how bad their hallucinations and delusions are—but it's actually cognitive function," Dr Galletly said.

"If you can't keep track, second by second, of what's happening in the environment, then everything's going to be out of step."

And these problems are ongoing: "Even if their symptoms of psychosis settle, former sufferers of

schizophrenia are aware that they can't take things in as easily as they used to."

As a result, sufferers avoid learning situations, aware of being perceived by others as 'stupid'. "It's really distressing for them," Dr Galletly said.

Assisting with cognition is vital for sufferers' rehabilitation. Before becoming unwell, an individual may have been highly functioning, perhaps in skilled employment. "But they can't get back to where they were before... they have to relearn things."

Other debilitating symptoms associated with schizophrenia have traditionally been the focus of care. Dr Galletly said earlier attention to cognitive problems could enable individuals to reclaim their learning

abilities and their confidence more quickly.

Perhaps the most exciting finding of Dr Galletly's study is that, when prescribed a drug commonly used to treat other symptoms of schizophrenia, her patients have also experienced a significant improvement in their cognition—like being able to concentrate on reading a book again. Some are now returning to school to complete their secondary education.

Dr Galletly's PhD research was conducted at Flinders University and the North West Adelaide Health Service, supervised by Associate Professor Richard Clark (School of Social Sciences, Flinders University) and the University of Adelaide's Professor Sandy Macfarlane (Head of Psychiatry, Queen Elizabeth Hospital).

Dr Cherrie Galletly
Photo David Ellis

Dr Galletly is beginning a new study to compare simple pen/paper and computer touch-screen tests that can be readily used in a clinical situation to appraise people's cognitive ability and measure any changes with illness or in response to treatment. She also hopes to explore strategies to assist sufferers of schizophrenia to cope with their environment.

Based at the Lyell McEwin Health Service in Adelaide's northern suburbs, Dr Galletly said she was looking forward to undertaking future research there because of the predominately young population.

"It means we can work with individuals experiencing the illness for the first time, and track the long-term benefits of treatment and any changes in their cognition," she said.

Story by Emily Collins



Quentin's musical landscape still fun

As well as being his life's work, music is still fun for Adelaide composer Quentin Grant.

His latest composition, *Haunted Landscape: March, 2003*, will receive its world premiere at the first in the Elder School of Music's Evening Concert Series for 2003.

Haunted Landscape will also form part of his submission for a PhD in Composition at the Elder School, which he is undertaking under the joint supervision of well-known Australian composer Graeme Koehne and Elder Professor of Music Charles Bodman Rae.

It adds to an extensive and successful career, which has seen Grant's work performed across the world in such diverse locations as Britain, the US, France, Scandinavia and Bulgaria.

It's pretty good going for someone who grew up in a farming community in country New South Wales.

"Music, for me, is all about fun—it's like playing in the sandpit," he said. "You see what you can create in one part, and then you move to another part of the sandpit and create something else using different textures."

Grant lived in NSW and Tasmania before moving to Adelaide in 1983 to

study under Richard Meale. He has been based in Adelaide ever since, and now, at age 41, devotes most of his time to composing, arranging, and performing.

He describes his compositional style as having an underlying Romantic ethos, but drawing on a diverse range of other styles and techniques.

"I've gone through a few different phases, and as I've been getting older, I've been learning and experimenting more and hopefully by the end of my career I will be able to write the ideal piece of music that incorporates all that I've learnt and says everything I want to get across," he said.

He is looking forward to hearing the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra's interpretation of his latest piece.

"The piece takes a march that I have written, and puts it through the mincer, and the result is what comes through the other side, broken and contorted," he said.

"Using the date in *Haunted Landscape: March, 2003* is quite deliberate—March 2003 is a time

where there is war, pestilence and fear in the world and *Haunted Landscape* reflects this.

"It's up to the conductor and performers in the orchestra to realise the music now—I believe that my job is done once I've finished the composition and handed it over. They are a very talented group and I'm looking forward to hearing the work on the night."

The Elder School of Music 2003



Composer Quentin Grant
Photo Ben Osborne

Evening Concert Series' first performance is on Saturday, May 10 at 8pm in Elder Hall, with the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Keith Crellin, performing works by Grant, Shostakovich and Sibelius. Tickets are \$22/\$14/\$8 (University of Adelaide staff and students receive tickets at concession prices), and are available through BASS on 131 246.

Story by Ben Osborne

Music educator's vision continues for students

A prize is to be established for Adelaide music students in honour of one of South Australia's leading accompanists, educators and pianists.

Diana Harris, who recently retired from her full-time career as lecturer at the University of Adelaide's Elder School of Music, decided to establish a prize in recognition of the often-underrated art of piano accompaniment.

To be known as the Diana Harris Prize for Accompaniment, the prize will be offered to all piano students at the Elder School.

Fundraising for the prize is being coordinated by the university's Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office. To date, more than \$4000 has been raised.

Mrs Harris said rather than receiving gifts for her retirement, she wanted those attending her farewell to donate money towards the prize.

"I thought about it and decided I didn't need anything, and there could be no better present for me than a prize for accompanists," she said.

Mrs Harris is the founder of the Accompanists' Guild of South Australia, which has elevated the profile of the accompanist through performances, prizes and the publication of an Accompanists' Register. She is well known for having established the highly successful courses

in Accompanying, Composition and Orchestral studies at the Flinders Street School of Music, leading in the late 1990s to an accredited degree program. In Adelaide, two of the program's most successful graduates were Alexander Hanysz and Leigh Harrold.

"I believe that Accompanying needs to be taught and practised as early as possible," said Mrs Harris.

To donate to the Diana Harris Prize for Accompaniment, call (08) 8303 5800 or email: development@adelaide.edu.au

Gas clouds in space provide clear picture for Hayley

Having clouded vision is giving a clearer picture of the universe for PhD student Hayley Bignall.

Ms Bignall is receiving international attention for her research into using clouds of gas in space as natural “telescopes”, which are more powerful than any manmade telescope currently in use.

The gas cloud technique means researchers will be able to resolve details to 10 microarcseconds across (a microarcsecond is a measure of angular size, and is a third of a billionth of one degree).

This is equivalent to seeing a sugar cube on the moon from Earth.

“It’s a hundred times finer detail than we can see with any other current technique in astronomy,” said Ms Bignall, a PhD student in Physics at the University of Adelaide. “It’s 10,000 times better than the Hubble Space Telescope can do.

“And it’s as powerful as any proposed future space-based optical and X-ray telescopes.”

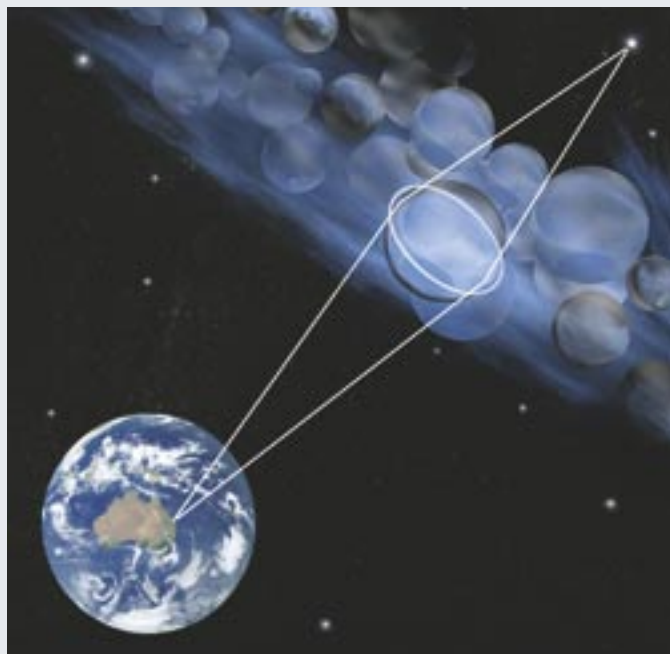
Astronomers will be able to use the technique to look at black holes more closely than ever before, in particular how they make ‘jets’ of super-hot charged particles and shoot them millions of light-years into space.

Ms Bignall’s findings were summarised in an article she co-authored with CSIRO and overseas astronomers for a recent edition of the prestigious *Astrophysical Journal*. Their findings are important because they show the technique actually does work, after previous studies only theorised the idea.

Using the CSIRO Australia Telescope Compact Array radio telescope in eastern Australia, she analysed the variations in the radio waves emanating from a distant



Hayley Bignall



The gas cloud acts like a lens, focusing the radio waves from the quasar, making them appear stronger. As the screen of clouds moves by, the waves are repeatedly focused by different clouds, making them rise and fall in strength. Images courtesy of CSIRO

quasar. (Quasars are very bright centres of young galaxies that are incredibly far away.)

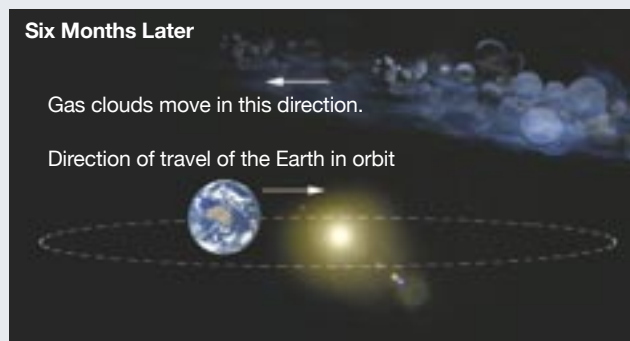
The variations are caused by atmospheric turbulence—the same phenomenon that makes stars twinkle. Whereas stars twinkle in the Earth’s atmosphere, the radio twinkling happens in the “atmosphere” of our galaxy. Lumpiness in the thin, invisible gas clouds which fill the space between stars mean the radio waves from objects appear to strengthen and weaken, or “twinkle”.

How fast and how strongly the radio signals vary depends on the size and shape of the radio source, the “lumpiness” of the gas clouds, the Earth’s speed and direction as it travels around the Sun, and the speed and direction in which the gas clouds are travelling.

The quasar Ms Bignall studied, PKS1257-326, is about four billion light years away.

“This quasar is very unusual in that very few other quasars show such rapid variations,” she said.

“We think it’s due to the effect of gas cloud turbulence, and that this turbulence is occurring very near to us. The ‘galactic weather



conditions’ are such that in our line of sight to this particular quasar, rapid twinkling occurs.”

PKS1257-326 is the first quasar to show a time delay for different frequencies. The time delay means that astronomers are locating features on quasars only 10 microarcseconds apart, which is much finer detail than has been achieved using other techniques.

“This gives us some clues as to how the powerful quasar jets work,” she said. “We think that the lower frequency radiation is being absorbed in the inner jet, close to the heart of the quasar.”

Having completed her PhD, Ms Bignall is now working in the Netherlands at the Joint Institute for VLBI in Europe.

Story by Ben Osborne and CSIRO

Genomics centre benefits from fellowships

Work on the new Plant Functional Genomics centre has not even finished, and already the centre's research has been given a major boost.

The new Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, based at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus, will benefit from the latest round of Federation Fellowships announced by the Federal Government.

The centre will be the host institution for a project investigating salinity tolerance in cereals, a key issue facing Australia's primary industries.

Dr Mark Tester, who is managing the project at the University of Cambridge, will soon be based at the centre. A Science graduate and former staff member of the University of Adelaide, Dr Tester will return to Adelaide as a Federation Fellow.

The Federal Government recently announced an extra 24 Federation Fellowships, committing \$34.8 million over the next five years to attract and keep leading researchers in Australia.



An image of the proposed Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (above), and Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and Science Minister Dr Jane Lomax-Smith at the turning of the soil last year

Professor Peter Langridge, CEO of the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, said the primary objective of Dr Tester's research would be the generation of cereals that have increased tolerance of saline soils.

"This is clearly of much agricultural significance in Australia," he said.

More general outcomes included the generation of plants with altered

concentrations of a range of nutrients in both leaves and grain. Professor Langridge said this would be of wide agricultural and nutritional benefit, as well as providing an understanding of principles underlying the long-distance coordination of processes in plants.

"A key objective of the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics is to attract high profile

international scientists to Australia and this fellowship is a very important outcome for the Centre."

Dr Tester would bring with him links to highly sophisticated and well advanced plant nutrient genomics projects.

This was significant for the development of research capabilities in South Australia, he said.

Story by Howard Salkow



Newsmakers

Dr Brian Victoria argued against Australia joining the US in a state of ongoing war following the conclusion of the second Gulf War in an opinion piece in the *Australian Financial Review* (April 4).

Dr Nick Burns told the *Sydney Morning Herald* (April 18) he personally was far from convinced about the positive effects of ginkgo on cognitive ability—but that initial studies he had conducted were proving otherwise.

People with severe asthma are more likely to be depressed and anxious,

Dr Bob Adams told the *Australian* (April 8).

Mr Andrew Stoler was featured on *ABC Radio National* (April 17) as part of a discussion on the role and decision-making process of the World Trade Organization.

Dr Felix Patrikeeff appeared on *ABC Radio Triple J* (April 9) to discuss the current state of international politics, with particular emphasis on Syria and Pakistan.

An increase in the consumption of bottled water—which is not fluoridated—is one of the main

reasons for a recent increase in teeth decay in Australian children, **Mr Jason Armfield** told *ABC Radio Darwin* (April 17).

Rising anti-Western sentiment in Turkey is cause for concern, according to **Dr John Bruni** speaking on *ABC Radio Melbourne* (April 23).

One in 10 Australian women are affected by a hormone imbalance which causes obesity, according to a story on *ABC TV's New Dimensions* (April 22) which featured **Professor Rob Norman**.

The number of collisions between birds and planes at Adelaide Airport has decreased from an average of 50 per year in 1988 to about 30 per year in 2003, according to **Dr David Paton** in the *Advertiser* (April 2).

Radio SBS (April 22) featured **Dr Andreas Schloenhardt** as part of its examination on the current state and future of people smuggling.

The new Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics is already attracting world-class researchers, **Professor Peter Langridge** told the *Stock Journal* (April 3).

Tourism scholar studies “living museums”

Studying overseas adds to your educational experience—just ask Sarah Olive.

Ms Olive, 21, spent time in Britain earlier this year as the inaugural winner of the Ian Cocks Memorial Trust Tourism Scholarship.

Valued at \$10,000, the scholarship assists a University of Adelaide student to travel overseas for up to three months to research and report on an innovative tourism product or service, preferably one not found in South Australia.

The scholarship is named in memory of Ian Campbell Cocks (1938-1997) whose contribution to South Australian tourism, the wine industry and commerce was highly regarded.

Ms Olive, who is currently studying for her Honours degree in English, visited four museums in five weeks, examining the concept

of “living museums” as a possible tourism initiative for South Australia.

“The idea with living museums is to show the way we were as an experience, not just for observation,” she said. “It’s more interactive: the staff get dressed up and role-play and visitors can get much more ‘hands-on’ than in standard museums.

“All of the museums I visited were in regional areas, which was interesting in itself. To me, the common theme was that they were making a conscious effort, through these museums, to try and preserve their regional identity and cultural heritage so that they can share it with their visitors.”

Story by Ben Osborne



Sarah Olive
Photo Ben Osborne

Ian Cocks Memorial Trust Tourism Scholarship

Applications for the Ian Cocks Memorial Trust Tourism Scholarship are now open.

Application forms and guidelines are available from the University of Adelaide’s Student Centre (Level 4, Wills Building) or from the Scholarships website:

www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/scholarships/

Applications close August 31.

Are we living in an anti-child society?

Associate Professor in the Department of Politics Dr Carol Bacchi raises this provocative question in her new book, *Fear of Food: A Diary of Mothering*.

The book tells of the often-harrowing experiences Dr Bacchi faced while caring for her infant son, Stephen, who had a feeding disorder. Dr Bacchi sees her and her son’s story as part of a range of parenting experiences.

“I am certainly aware of situations much more difficult than the one we faced,” she said. “My purpose was to use our particular circumstances to raise broader issues surrounding mothering and work practices.”

Fear of Food combines diary excerpts and current reflections, experiential insight and social analysis.

“My hope was that the genre of a memoir would appeal to a wide audience, bridging the gap between academia and the community.

Feedback to date suggests that I’ve succeeded,” Dr Bacchi said.

Fear of Food highlights the difficulties and stresses mothers face due to workplace and other institutional inflexibility. It emphasizes that children are needy, and that parents want desperately to meet those needs. Yet, they are blocked at every turn.

“You need only to look at the recent furor over breastfeeding in the Victorian Parliament to see how much further there is to go,” she said.

According to Dr Bacchi, the near epidemic proportions of postnatal depression we are seeing today signal more of a social than a medical pathology.



Dr Carol Bacchi
Photo Ben Osborne

between paid work and caring responsibilities.”

At the heart of *Fear of Food* is the premise that it is important for mothers to speak out about the challenges and traumas they face.

“It seemed to me that, with all the talk these days about why women are ‘refusing’ to have more babies, and whether they should ‘stay at home’ or ‘go to work’, something was missing—attention to mothers and their experiences,” she said. “*Fear of Food* is aimed at ending this silence.”

“Current social arrangements make mothering more demanding, lonelier, more stressful than it needs to be,” she said.

“The kinds of change I envisage go way beyond paid maternity leave and flexible work hours, however essential these may be.

“What we really need is a basic rethinking of the balance

Fear of Food: a diary of mothering is available through Spinifex Press, with a RRP of \$22.95.

People smuggling talks explore global solutions

Asia-Pacific region countries must work together to meet the challenges of people smuggling and improve regional security in the 21st century.

That was the clear message that emerged from a roundtable discussion held at the University of Adelaide last month.

Hosted by the Law School and the Australian Institute of Criminology, the roundtable, entitled "People Smuggling: Global Dimensions", brought together a range of experts from key Commonwealth agencies, academic experts and other researchers in the field.

They discussed Australian experiences with people smuggling, security implications in a post-9/11 world, legal implications of the legislative amendments after the 2001 *Tampa* incident, and options for future anti-people smuggling measures.

The roundtable heard how criminal organisations, as well as terrorists, were exploiting loopholes in law enforcement and legal systems. The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department also gave a briefing on prevention and punishment of people smuggling in Australia.

The final session examined international mechanisms created to overcome the shortcomings of national strategies to combat people smuggling. The efforts undertaken at the global level demonstrated the limitations of international cooperation, but also indicated some willingness

From left: Rear Admiral Max Hancock RAN, Director-General of Coastwatch, with Law lecturer Dr Andreas Schloenhardt at the roundtable on people smuggling
Photo Howard Salkow



among the nations of the Asia-Pacific to deal with people smuggling collaboratively, said co-organiser of the event Dr Andreas Schloenhardt, lecturer with the university's Law School.

"The presentations and discussions showed that the rise of people smuggling in the Asia-Pacific region results from a variety of political, demographic, socioeconomic and environmental factors," Dr Schloenhardt said.

"The lack of comprehensive and profound knowledge is a principle obstacle in combating people smuggling more effectively.

"One of the most immediate responses to growing levels of people smuggling around the world must be the collection of information and intelligence on the causes of illegal migration and organised crime, the situation of victims, and the structure and operations of criminal organisations.

"The role played by national governments, regional organisations and the international community, and the legal frameworks that exist at domestic and multilateral levels, also need further examination," he said.

"This is where exercises like this roundtable have an important role to play and where both the University of Adelaide Law School and the Australian Institute of Criminology seek to liaise closely with academic colleagues, law enforcement agencies and other government departments, to work together towards balanced and durable solutions to a complex phenomenon such as people smuggling."

The Law School offers a course on Transnational Crime and Terrorism. For details visit: www.law.adelaide.edu.au/courses/crime/

Coming Events

Sunday, May 4

11am Guided tours at Urrbrae House Historic Precinct: free guided walk around Waite Arboretum (90 mins). Waite Campus, enter from Fullarton Rd. Enquiries: (08) 8303 6904.

2pm Guided tours at Urrbrae House Historic Precinct: free guided tour of Urrbrae House (60 mins). Waite Campus, enter from Fullarton Rd. Enquiries: (08) 8303 6904.

Monday, May 5

1pm Plant & Pest Science seminar: "Ecology of Mediterranean snails" by Vanessa Cavagnaro (PhD student). Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Campus.

Tuesday, May 6

1.10pm Student workshop: "The Art of Breathing". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

Wednesday, May 7

1pm Environmental Biology seminar: "The aridification of Australia and the demise of the conifers" by Professor Bob Hill (Environmental Biology). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Centre for British Studies Free Public Lecture: "Australia's Changing Migration Relationship with Great Britain" by Professor Graeme Hugo (Federation Fellow, Geographical & Environmental Studies). Ira Raymond Room, Level 3, Barr Smith Library.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: "Evolution of The Tanunda Creek Suites" by Edward Heinsch (Masters student, Geology & Geophysics). Mawson Lecture Theatre.

Thursday, May 8

1pm Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development seminar: "Principles of

axon navigation: insights from fish, frogs and mice" by Associate Professor Brian Key (University of Queensland). Seminar Rm 1.02, Molecular Life Sciences Bld.

12.05pm Psychology seminar: "Medical decision making" by Dr Jeff Belkora (Stanford University). Departmental Library, Rm 526, Hughes Bld.

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "Modelling drug-metabolising enzymes - what do we know about UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) structure and function" by Paul Smith (Clinical Pharmacology, Flinders University). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Bld, WCH.

5.30pm Concert at Urrbrae House: featuring Aleksandr Tsiboulski (guitar) and Alexander Permezal (violin). Drawing Room, Urrbrae House, Waite Campus. Tickets \$8 per person. Bookings essential: (08) 8303 7497.

Friday, May 9

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert series: works by Beethoven and Ravel, with Clemens Leske (piano). Elder Hall. Tickets \$5 at door from 12.30pm.

2pm Centre for Asian Studies seminar: "Hiroshima fights-Nagasaki Prays, Listening to Japanese workers (Oral History)" by David Palmer (Flinders University). Rm 518, Ligertwood Bld.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology seminar: "Immunology of Preeclampsia" by Professor Gus Dekker, (Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Lyell McEwin Health Service). Rm 620N, Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Monday, May 12

12.30pm Colgate Centre seminar: "New trends in dental materials" by Hien Ngo. Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research

Jazz singer wins Fulbright scholarship

Jo Lawry aims to do her part to put Adelaide on the map when she heads to New York later this year.

One of the most outstanding graduates from the University of Adelaide's Elder School of Music, Ms Lawry has received one of the world's most prestigious scholarships—the Fulbright Scholarship to study in the US.

Worth \$40,000 for one year, the Fulbright is a nationally competitive scholarship awarded by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission. Its aim is to promote and support educational and cultural exchange between the two countries.

Ms Lawry, 24, graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor in Music (Jazz) in 2000, and received the award for best vocalist in the jazz program. She also graduated with First Class Honours in Jazz Performance in 2001, and in that year was named top undergraduate student in jazz.

As well as winning the Fulbright Scholarship, Ms Lawry has also secured the University of Adelaide's George Murray Scholarship, valued at \$47,000. Both the George Murray and the Fulbright will enable her to study for a Masters degree in Music at Purchase College, a campus of the State University of New York.

The two-year degree is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Ms Lawry, who will be learning from some major names in the jazz world, including “half of my record collection”.

“I feel like I haven't done anything yet to deserve it,” said Ms Lawry of her Fulbright Scholarship.

“I know that I will—it's such a tremendous validation, so encouraging to have someone place that much faith in you. I feel a very strong sense of responsibility to make this worth their while.”

She is no stranger to New York or America, having toured the States a number of times, first as a World Vision Youth Ambassador for Australia in 1996, then as a member of the university-based Adelaide Connection.

Ms Lawry said she hoped to promote Adelaide and Australia to New Yorkers: “There are so many musicians, so many talented people here that the world doesn't know about. If I can be a bit of a window into some of the wonderful things that happen here in Adelaide, that would be very special to me.”



Jo Lawry
Photo David Ellis

Dinner honours Harriet Fulbright

The University of Adelaide is co-hosting a dinner in honour of Mrs Harriet Fulbright on Monday, May 26, at the University Staff Club.

Organised by the South Australian Chapter of the Fulbright (Alumni) Association, Mrs Fulbright will be the guest of honour.

The dinner features guest speaker Dr Tim Flannery, Director of the SA Museum and Affiliate Professor of the University of Adelaide, and will be attended by Mr Mark Darby, Executive Director of the Australian-American Fulbright Commission in Canberra, Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha, South Australian and US government representatives, and Fulbright alumni.

www.fulbright.com.au

Centre Boardroom, 2nd Floor, Adelaide Dental Hospital, Frome Road.

1pm Plant & Pest Science seminar: “Elemental markers: their development and uses in biological sciences” by Nancy Schellhorn. Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Campus.

1.10pm History seminar: “We're all the same now! The issue of leadership and rank in prisoner of war camps” by Michele Cunningham (Visiting Research Fellow, History). Rm 420, Napier Bld.

1.10pm Law School seminar: “The self-regulation of Law” by Angus Corbett (UNSW). Rm 2.16, Ligertwood Bld.

Tuesday, May 13

1.10pm Student workshop: “Meditation”. Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

Wednesday, May 14

1pm Environmental Biology seminar: “A case for endothermic ancestors of crocodiles at the stem of archosaur evolution” by Professor Roger Seymour (Environmental Biology). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: “Environmental change, sustainability and the role of the earth sciences” by Professor Martin Williams (Geographical & Environmental Studies). Mawson Lecture Theatre.

Thursday, May 15

12.05pm Psychology seminar: “The visual perception of structure and motion in spatial point patterns” by Dr Doug Vickers. Departmental Library, Rm 526, Hughes Bld.

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: “On Yer Bike” by Michael Kokkin (Bicycle Institute

of South Australia). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Bld, WCH.

7.30pm Australian Institute of Physics (SA Branch) free public lecture:

“The Didjeridu: a triumph of mind over matter” by Associate Professor Lloyd Hollenberg (University of Melbourne), with performances by Geoff Shores and Dean Frenkel. Union Hall.

Friday, May 16

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert series: works by Ibert, Darrell Handel, Saint Saens and Debussy, with Elizabeth Koch (flute), Suzanne Handel (harp), Margaret Blades (violin) and Keith Crellin (viola). Elder Hall. Tickets \$5 at door from 12.30pm.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology seminar: “Periodontal Regeneration and Tissue Engineering” by Professor Mark Bartold (Director, Colgate Australian Clinical Dental

Research Centre). Rm 620N, Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Tuesday, May 20

1.10pm Student workshop: “The Art of Breathing”. Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

Wednesday, May 21

1pm Environmental Biology seminar: “Feather stars and sea lilies: their evolution since the Permian extinction event” by Greg Rouse (SA Museum). Benham Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: “Electrical anisotropy in continental and oceanic lithosphere: new constraints on mantle hydration and plate geodynamics” by Dr Graham Heinson (Geology & Geophysics). Mawson Lecture Theatre.

Coming Events continued on page 14

Wine professor elected Academy Fellow

Professor Steve Tyerman has been officially added to the ranks of Australia's leading scientists.

Professor Tyerman, the University of Adelaide's Wine Industry Professor of Viticulture, has been elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science.

The honour recognises a career that has "significantly advanced the world's scientific knowledge".

A plant physiologist, Professor Tyerman has had an extensive research career in Australia and overseas.

His current work applies top quality plant physiology research to the viticulture industry, with emphasis on water use and nutrient transport in grape vines, as part of the effort to achieve a sustainable viticulture industry. Such research is vital in the face of challenges such as rising soil salinity and declining water quality for irrigation.

The recipient of a number of research grants from the Australian Research Council, Professor Tyerman is involved in several collaborative research projects, is the editor of the international journals *Plant Physiology* and *Journal of Experimental Botany*, and has had articles published in the journals *Nature* and *Science*.

His professorial position has strong industry support, with sponsorship from the Australian Wine Research Institute, BRL Hardy, Mildara Blass, St Hallett Wines, Southcorp, Yalumba, Orlando Wyndham, Petaluma and Wirra Wirra.

He is also Head of the Discipline of Wine and Horticulture in the university's School of Agriculture and Wine at the Waite Campus.

Story by David Ellis



Professor Steve Tyerman
Photo David Ellis

Coming Events

Continued from page 13

Thursday, May 22

12.05pm Psychology seminar: "The allure of party drugs: 'fantasy', 'ecstasy', 'speed' and 'death'" by Professor Jason White (Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology). Departmental Library, Rm 526, Hughes Bld.

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "Managing an International Sporting Facility" by Les Burdett (Curator, Adelaide Oval). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Bld, WCH.

Friday, May 23

12.30pm Centre for Labour Research seminar: "South Australian Unions in 2003: Challenges, Priorities and Plans" by Janet Giles (Secretary, United Trades and Labor Council of SA). 3rd Floor, 10 Pulteney St.

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert series: works by Haydn and Dvorak, with the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra, Keith Crellin (conductor) and Pei Jee Ng (cello). Elder Hall. Tickets \$5 at door from 12.30pm.

2pm Centre for Asian Studies seminar: "Classical Chinese Poetry: Modernism - Montage - Pink Floyd" by PhD candidate Joy Ricci. Rm 518, Ligertwood Bld.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology seminar: "DNA damage by sugars and drugs that resemble sugars" by Dr Betty Sallustio (Clinical Pharmacology, Queen Elizabeth Hospital). Rm 620N, Level 6, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

Monday, May 26

1pm Plant & Pest Science seminar: "Elemental markers: their development and uses in biological sciences" by Geoff Auricht (SARDI). Charles Hawker Conference Centre, Waite Campus.

1.10pm Law School seminar: "A river too far: Equity and the Torrens System" by Janey Greene (University of Adelaide). Rm 2.16, Ligertwood Bld.

1.10pm Student workshop: "Surviving a PhD". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

7pm History of Science Ideas and Technology Group meeting: "Egyptian stone masonry" by Michael O'Donoghue (UniSA). Ira Raymond Rm, Barr Smith Library.

Tuesday, May 27

1.10pm Student workshop: "Meditation". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

7.30pm Musicological Society of Australia, SA Chapter meeting: Professor Charles Bodman Rae (Head, Elder School of Music). Rm 1107, Schulz Bld.

Wednesday, May 28

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics seminar: "Experience with Airborne Gravimetry" by Dr John Joseph (Geology & Geophysics). Mawson Lecture Theatre.

1.10pm Student workshop: "Performing Your Best At Exams". Counselling Centre, ground floor, Horace Lamb Bld.

Thursday, May 29

12.05pm Psychology seminar: "Nutrition and lifestyle: association with cognition and psychological well being across the life span" by Dr Janet Bryan (CSIRO). Departmental Library, Rm 526, Hughes Bld.

1pm Chemical Pathology seminar: "Community, City and Country: Pictures and Tales from a Hindley Street Architect" by Douglas Alexander (Director, Flightpath Architects). Seminar Rm 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Bld, WCH.

Friday, May 30

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert series: works by Mozart and Smetana, with John Harding (violin), Janis Laurs (cello) and Lucinda Collins (piano). Elder Hall. Tickets \$5 at door from 12.30pm.

2pm Centre for Asian Studies seminar: "Chasing Identity, Writing a novel about family history in China" by PhD candidate (English) Zoia Harrison. Rm 518, Ligertwood Bld.

6.30pm Women's & Children's Hospital Oration: "Where are our genes taking us?" (The Societal Impact of the Human Genome Project) by Professor Grant Sutherland (WCH Foundation Research Fellow). Elder Hall.



Hope and Fear

July 10 - 13, 2003

Erik Olin Wright
Philippe Van Parijs
Amy B. Dean

...are amongst the international speakers in a series of more than forty, mostly free lectures, panel discussions and public conversations, programmed over three days and four nights across various venues along North Terrace, Adelaide. Details of highlighted speakers are available from the website, www.adelaidefestivalofideas.com.au. The full program will be announced in June.

Adelaide Festival of Ideas is produced by the Adelaide Festival Corporation. Phone (08) 8215 4444. Email af@adelaidefestival.net.au or visit www.adelaidefestival.org.au





Malaysian Marksmen aim to relive college experience

The St Mark's College flag was flying proudly in Malaysia recently.

The Master of St Mark's, the Hon. John Bannon, held a reception for Malaysian Old Collegians at the Hyatt Regency Saujana Resort, scene of the University of Adelaide's graduation ceremony in Malaysia last March.

St Mark's is a residential college for South Australian universities, with many collegians having studied at the University of Adelaide.

Among the Marksmen (and one Markswoman) attending the event



were Dato Dr Gopal Sreenevasan, College Treasurer/President ('50-52), Dr Jagdev Singh ('54-56), and the Master ('63), and Mr Peter Habel ('69), representing the old days (when women were officially precluded from the college grounds!)

They were joined by young guard: Wong Wen Chin ('96), Julian Au Yong Weng Kwan ('96-99), How Peng Jin ('96-2000), Alvin Lim Chong Yik ('96-98), Lee Ching Hong (2000), Alan Yee Khee Voon ('98-99), Ashok Sivaji ('98) and Lee Teh Jin ('97-98).

Distinguished Alumni Awards

Each year the University of Adelaide Alumni Association formally recognises its outstanding alumni by bestowing up to three Distinguished Alumni Awards. These awards recognise outstanding service to the University of Adelaide and/or the Alumni Association, and outstanding service to the community or outstanding contribution to their fields.

Nominations can be forwarded to the Executive Secretary, Alumni Association (C/- Alumni, Community Relations and Development) by 5.00pm, 30 May 2003.

The rules and information on the nomination process are located at: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/scholarships/dstngshd.html

Further information can be obtained from Nada Racki at +61 8 8303 6356.

03 Alumni Events

Commerce Dinner

The 10 Year Anniversary Dinner of the Commerce Chapter, originally scheduled for April 12, has been postponed until October. Further details will be available closer to the event.

Friends of the Library - Author/Scholar Evening

"Libraries - their part in my downfall" by Peter Goldsworthy

Date: Thursday, May 29
Time: 6 for 6.30pm
Location: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library
Cost: Entry is free
RSVP: by Wednesday, May 28 to Patricia Hawke on (08) 8303 4064 or email patricia.hawke@adelaide.edu.au

Cornell Chapter Reception for Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and Mrs McWha

The Vice-Chancellor will speak on: "The University's Vision for the Future Planning and Development of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and the Disciplines which it comprises."

Date: Wednesday, May 14
Time: 6pm
Location: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library
RSVP: Essential - by Friday, May 9 through the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office, Level 1, 230 North Terrace, Adelaide 5005, Ph: 8303 5800 or email alison.wood@adelaide.edu.au

Architecture Chapter Reception

Date: Thursday, May 15
Time: 5pm
Location: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library
Cost: Entry is free
RSVP: Essential - by Tuesday, May 13 to Alison Wood at the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office on (08) 8303 3306 or email alison.wood@adelaide.edu.au

Florey Medical Chapter Quiz Night

The Florey Medical Chapter is again hosting a quiz night in support of the Florey Research Foundation, with Lindy Powell as Quiz Master. Refreshments will be available to purchase.

Date: Friday, May 30
Time: 7pm for 7.30pm
Location: The Eclipse (formerly known as the Upper Refectory) Level 4, Union House University of Adelaide
Cost: \$15.00 pp, \$10 students - limited seating is available so book your table of 10 in advance
RSVP: by Monday, May 27 to Alison Wood at the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office on 08 8303 3306 or email alison.wood@adelaide.edu.au

Correction

The April edition of *Adelaidean* contained incorrect details for the 30 and 50-year reunions. The correct details are: 30 Year Reunion, November 15, Adelaide Festival Centre; 50 Year Reunion, October 10, University of Adelaide. Contact Nada Racki on +61 8 8303 6356 or email: nada.racki@adelaide.edu.au

Guild launches war fare

War is on the menu for the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's second production for 2003.

Oh What a Lovely War! is set in World War One, which began almost 90 years ago—and has a message which still resonates strongly with the events of today.

Directed by Melinda Boston and David Reed, the play is now 40 years old but still remains sharp, fresh and vigorous.

It is based on a radio program of World War One songs, with a group of traditional English end-of-the-pier performers in Pierrot clown costumes who entertain the audience with period song and dance dramatising the “war to end all wars”. Projected images and a “news ticker” give the show further visual impact.

Boston, a Life Member of the Guild with a long history of theatre work and teaching, and currently Arts Coordinator at Underdale High School, said a feature of *Oh What a Lovely War!* was its ability to let the audience think for itself.

“We’re fortunate that we don’t have to beat the audience over the head in order for them to understand what went on in World War One, and that it also lets them draw their own parallels to what’s going on today,” she said.



Warming up for *Oh What a Lovely War!* are cast members Alice Potter (left) and Sam Rodgers
Photo Ben Osborne

“One minute you’re laughing at what the decision-makers are saying, and then the next you’re seeing the result of their actions and it really makes you stop and think.”

Reed, also with a wealth of experience having appeared in over 30 productions and directed another 50, said the show’s cast and music were two of its most outstanding features.

“The cast have been terrific so far. We have 13 cast members playing a total of some 70 characters, so it can get quite demanding—but they have been more than equal to the task,” he said.

“The music is a really important part of the show—the audience recognises the songs because they are the sort of songs that are still parodied today, but the context that they are performed in as part of the show gives them an extra dimension.”

Story by Ben Osborne

■ ***Oh What a Lovely War!***

Saturday May 10, Tuesday May 13-Saturday May 17, Tuesday May 20-Saturday May 24
Little Theatre, University of Adelaide, 7:30pm
Tickets \$20/\$15 from BASS 131 246, or the Theatre Guild (08) 8303 5999.
www.adelaide.edu.au/clubs/theatreguild

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