

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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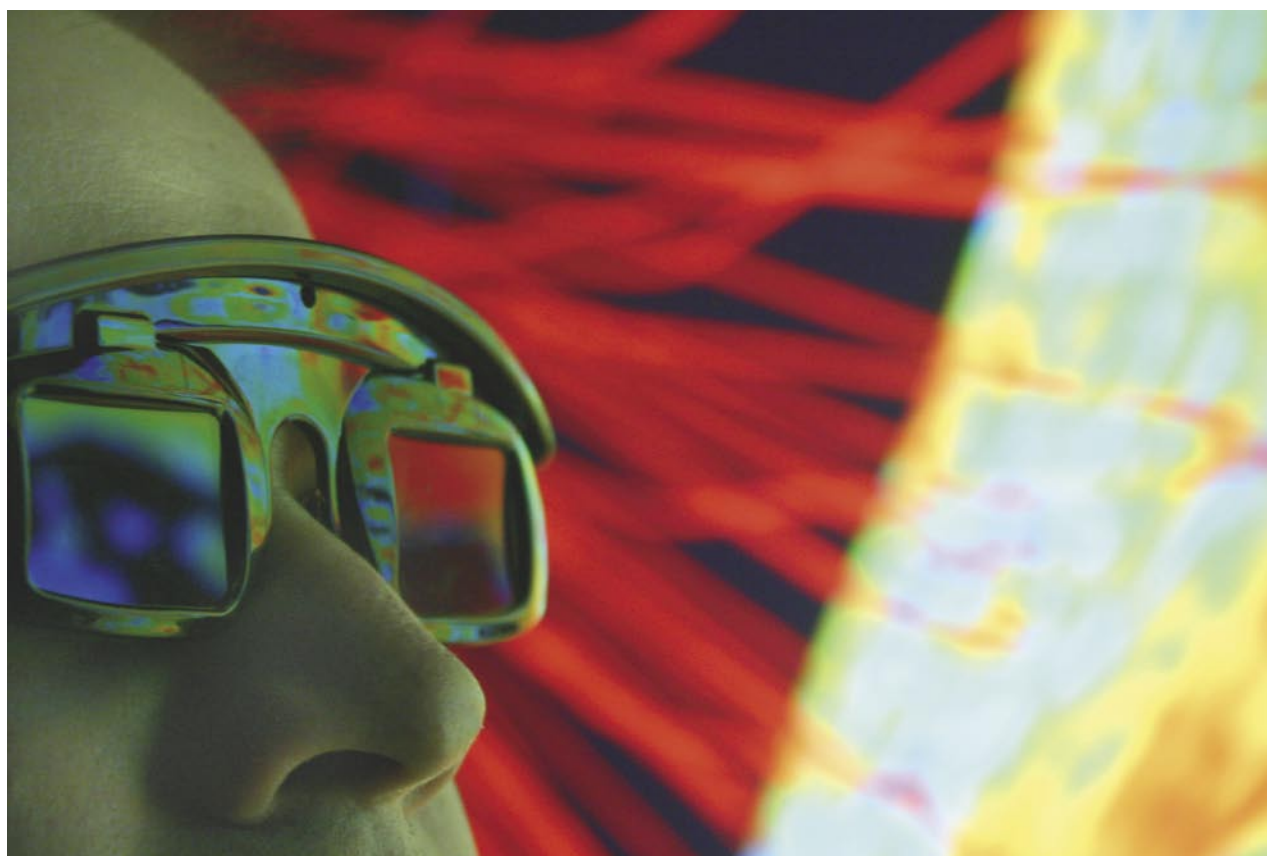
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Our \$5m virtual world



The University of Adelaide is home to a new \$5 million state-of-the-art virtual reality centre.

The new 3D Visualisation Facility, based at the university's Santos Petroleum Engineering Building, will provide a major boost to teaching and research in South Australia.

Benefits of the new centre will be shared by its four partner universities (the three South Australian universities plus Curtin University in Western Australia), as well as industry and government.

The centre has been officially opened this month by Chancellor Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny AC.

Professor of Petroleum Engineering and Management Ashok Khurana said the 3D Visualisation Facility would be fully immersive and offered a hi-tech boost to all of the University of Adelaide's diverse research interests.

"We want the technology and problem-solving power this facility

offers to make an impact on as many staff and students as possible," Professor Khurana said.

"So far such diverse disciplines as petroleum engineering, agriculture and wine, psychology, molecular biology and medical imaging have all shown their commitment towards utilising the centre."

The 3D Visualisation Facility is underpinned by some serious technology. It features three imposing screens, each with its own rear-projection system, which combine for a total viewing area of 15 square metres.

Motion tracking, full stereo sound and real-time computing capability are also essential components.

An "intelligent whiteboard"—which can record anything written on it in digital format, and send it

anywhere in the world—is another special facet.

The facility can also link up with the international Access Grid system, allowing visual and audio-based remote collaboration with over 250 universities around the world.

"That's a great boost to research partnership and remote teaching," Professor Khurana said.

And later this year the facility will be upgraded to include "haptic" capacity, or the ability to recognise the sense of touch—such as giving medical students the ability to "feel" the difference between virtual skin, muscle, tendon or bone.

"This facility will put Adelaide at the forefront in three-dimensional research in Australia," Professor Khurana said.

"We hope to make a real impact in the way research and teaching is conducted across many areas of the university, and to provide a world-class facility for those outside of the university."

Story and photo by Ben Osborne

Life Impact



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McWha's Words

Getting on with the job

No matter what your views might be on the Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS), it is the system that Australian universities must use, at least until something better comes along.

I have been to countless universities around the world and have seen different systems in operation everywhere I go. None of them are perfect. The HECS system offers clear benefits as well as having obvious drawbacks.

HECS does offer a distinct advantage in that students who opt to take up the "deferred loan" approach, paying their fees back gradually once they reach the set income threshold, are really benefiting from an interest-free loan from the Federal Government.

Which brings us to the value of education and what it is you want for your money.

What I keep hearing is that our students want a quality education. Our staff want the resources and facilities to enable them to provide a

quality education. And above all, we want to encourage everyone with ability to access that education.

Unfortunately we have known for some time that this university, like so many others around the nation, requires more resources to achieve its goals. Our goals—which have now been set out by our Strategic Planning process, involving the valuable contributions of staff, students and members of the general community—can now be achieved.

The reason they can be achieved is Council's decision to increase HECS for future students from next year. It is the reason why the University of Adelaide can now get on with the job of building on the quality that we already offer.

For Council not to have made that tough decision would have, in all probability, resulted in some other tough decisions that I would rather not consider. Luckily, we are now in a

position where we don't have to consider those other options. Instead, we have an opportunity to shape the University of Adelaide into the kind of university we—that is, the students, staff and general community—want to be.

I was pleased to read the extremely well-written comments made by students both for and against an increase in HECS at the University of Adelaide, and I think those arguments (some of which are reprinted in this issue of the *Adelaidean*) go to illustrate the high calibre of our students. They are quality students, and they demand a quality education.

We want to deliver on that quality education, and this gives us the chance to do that.

JAMES A. McWHA
Vice-Chancellor

Adelaidean

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Please send all coming events to the editor at the address below. There is no charge for coming events, but they must be university related.

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Letter to the Editor

As a former field associate of Adelaide University, I was ashamed to learn (*Adelaidean*, April 2004) that it was your 'road safety expert', Jack McLean, who was responsible for the nationwide introduction of the ridiculous 50 km/hour suburban speed limit.

Prof. McLean appears to be so proud of the fact that his seven years of research revealed the bleeding obvious that if you go slower, you will have less accidents (golly!), so following such reasoning I am confident that a further expenditure of several hundred thousand dollars by the University over the NEXT seven years will similarly suggest that even slower speeds will see even FEWER accidents. Maybe at some point (say, 30kph), we might even reach the stage where there are NO accidents.

But then, of course, new studies will need to commence to find out why the State's economy has totally collapsed, why the poor are suffering even more (perhaps because their older cars don't have dead-accurate speedos at 63kph?), what colour would be best for car-driver safety helmets, and how every vehicle's speed and location can be automatically monitored by the police via GPS or mobile phone links etc.

Thanks a lot, Jack!

Peter Horne
Somerton Park

GOETHE SOCIETY

Thursday May 20

Time: 19.30

~ presenter ~

Christa Rumsay

former Lecturer in Music

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH

'Matthaeuspassion'

lecture with examples of music

Thursday June 17

Time: 19.30

~ presenter ~

Dr. Wayne Cristaudo

Senior Lecturer,

University of Adelaide

Martin Heidegger ~ his work

'Time and Being'

[and his National Socialism]

Martin Heidegger is one of the

most important philosophers

of the 20th Century

~ location ~

163A Greenhill Road

AEU Building

Conference Room

(entrance off Porter Street)

there is ample parking behind the building

Coffee/Tea : contribution

\$5 for non-members

to view our monthly programme:

<http://oac.schools.sa.edu.au>

/goethe/gg.htm

HECS increase means better quality, improved access: VC

More scholarships and improved access to a world-class, quality education will result from a 25% increase in Higher Education Contribution Scheme (HECS) fees from next year.

That's the message from University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha following the university Council's decision to increase HECS for future students starting in 2005.

At its meeting on April 16, Council agreed to increase HECS to the maximum level of 25% in all undergraduate programs from 2005 other than nursing and teaching.

The 25% increase will not affect continuing students.

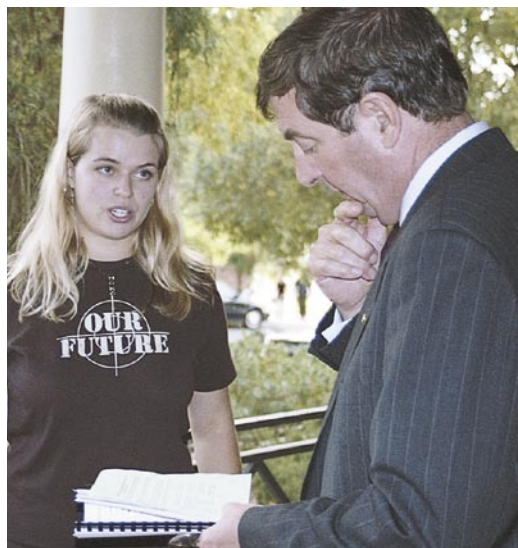
So far, at least 10 universities across Australia—including most of the other prestigious Group of Eight universities—have indicated they will move to the full 25% HECS increase across their academic programs. The move has been made possible under the Federal Government's higher education reforms.

Professor McWha said the University of Adelaide remained committed to providing the best educational experience to students from all socio-economic backgrounds.

"The increase in HECS fees for future students will enable the university to introduce new equity scholarships and other measures to improve access opportunities, under which students in financial need will pay less," he said.

"At least 10% of the additional revenue received from HECS increases will be allocated specifically to scholarships and other access initiatives, with up to another 10% also being available to improve quality and equity of access.

"The scholarships that result from this will see top students in financial need actually paying less HECS than they would have before the increase. This is a positive move for students who deserve a quality education."



Above: Chancellor Robert Champion de Crespigny AC addresses the media about the Council meeting on HECS
Left: The Chancellor listens to a student representative's concerns about a HECS increase
Photos by David Ellis

He said that, following consultation with students, two clear issues emerged: equity of access to university education was the main reason why some students were against an increase in HECS; while the ability to improve the quality of the educational experience was the most common reason given for supporting fee increases.

"Both of these issues—improvements in quality and equity of access—are being addressed," Professor McWha said.

The university's Council meeting was marked by a protest of around 60 people, who occupied the room intended for the meeting in the Hartley Building off Kintore Avenue. The university's Chancellor, Mr Robert Champion de Crespigny AC, spoke with the protestors, who included students from Flinders and UniSA, as well as members of the Greens political party.

The Chancellor encouraged them to allow the meeting to go ahead. However, when the protestors made it clear that they intended to prevent the Council meeting from occurring, the meeting was moved to the National Wine Centre where the vote on HECS was taken.

Mr Champion de Crespigny said the Council's decision was an important step for the university, enabling it to reinforce its claim as a premier university in Australia.

"In a small State, we believe it is essential for the University of Adelaide to be able to compete at a national and international level, and this move will enable us to do just that," Mr Champion de Crespigny said.

"As a quality university Adelaide is always striving to provide the best for our students, our graduates and the community. The exciting result of [Council's] decision is that we now have an opportunity to build on our strengths and enhance the quality of what we offer.

"Everything we do is driven by the pursuit of excellence. With greater resources available to us, we can do things better."

Story by David Ellis

To read student views on HECS, turn to page 4

Scholarships worth singing about

Two more top students who demonstrate financial need have been awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships.

Confidence, diverse interests and an inherent ability to succeed are all attributes of the 2004 scholarship winners, Ashlea Bartram and Nathan Hall.

A product of Glenunga International High School, Ashlea has begun her studies for a Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) degree. She hopes to become involved in organisational or clinical psychology and undertake postgraduate studies in these areas.

The son of missionary parents in Thailand, and educated at the Hebron School in India, aspiring inventor and laser enthusiast Nathan has begun studying for a Bachelor of Science (Optics and Photonics) degree.

Winning the scholarships has removed a huge financial hurdle for both. Ashlea was so thrilled about the scholarship that she began to sing!



"I started to get excited when my Dad and I picked up an A4 envelope at the mail box, and my first response was the university would not send a rejection letter in a large envelope.

"On opening it and realising I had won the scholarship worth \$5000 per year, I burst into song: 'no HECS debt for me-ee', 'no HECS debt for me-ee'. I then wasted no time completing the relevant forms," she said.

For Nathan, winning the scholarship means he will not have to go looking for a part-time job.

"I was both surprised and extremely happy when I received the news. It felt like I had a big smile inside," he said.

Above: Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha (centre) meets with the latest students to receive the VC's Scholarships, Nathan Hall and Ashlea Bartram
Story and photo by Howard Salkow

Student views on HECS

The University of Adelaide sought feedback from all of its students on the HECS issue. Here are some of the responses for and against a rise in HECS fees.

■ FOR

"Increases in fees would not bother me that much. If I had to choose between a cheap education and a quality education, I would choose the quality education any day."

"The cost of education is, rather than an actual cost, an investment in my future that will probably be one of the highest return investments I will ever make... What I do expect however is a high quality education."

"I came to the University of Adelaide for its tradition of and reputation for high academic standards. When I leave the University I would like to see those standards maintained, or preferably improved, so that it will always be an institution I will be proud to be associated with. To this end I believe the University must employ the best teachers and the best researchers, maintain reasonable staff-to-student ratios and provide adequate resources and infrastructure to students to enable their learning and research. These are the things that will keep the University of Adelaide as one of the best institutions for higher education in the country and make it competitive on a global scale."

"I am not a student who believes that the people of Australia should fund my education in its entirety. If I am to benefit, I should pay for the privilege. As it stands, HECS [can be deferred] and I will not have to pay any of the incurred debt until I earn a steady income."

■ AGAINST

"As the Commonwealth obviously benefits through Higher Education, it would be more logical and more fair to increase grants and encourage educational quality, rather than increasing HECS, deterring those who wish to study and investing an even greater, long-term, financial burden on those who do."

"One of the biggest attractions to Australia is that it is a country where everyone is fairly equal and treated that way. This HECS reform is the beginning of higher class society for Australia which is obviously unfair for the disadvantaged."

"We have in Australia an education system that is the envy of many other nations throughout the world. We should all aim to protect this and make sure it remains that way. It would be a sad day indeed if we ever went down the road towards adopting a system that operates, for example, in the United States. In this way, potential increases in HECS (up to 25%) worry me. Education must remain open to everyone, and not just the privileged elite."

"Uni entrance should be about intellectual merit, not ability to pay."

You can find more information about the HECS increases in the university's student FAQs: www.adelaide.edu.au/faq/faq.pl

Elderly sought for driving study

New research at the University of Adelaide aims to identify common problems that affect elderly people's driving, in a bid to improve the assessment and training of their driving skills.

Driving is believed to make an important contribution to many older people's quality of life, providing them with independence and self-respect.

Department of Psychology PhD student Caroline Litster has embarked on a new study to find out exactly how important driving is to older people, and to learn more about the effects of ageing on their ability to drive.

In particular, she's looking at changes that occur in people's speed of thought as they age, and how this relates to good driving.

The results of her studies could help to improve assessment and training of older drivers.

"This research will help us to gain a better understanding of the processes involved in driving when elderly, and hopefully lead to improvements in safety on the roads," Ms Litster said.

"As part of my research, I hope to develop a screening test which could be used in future licence renewal procedures. We want to make sure that people who have age-related impairments can be identified and retrained, and at the same time make the drivers more aware of any potential problems as they get older.



PhD student Caroline Litster
Photo David Ellis

"Ultimately, this could lead to more elderly drivers being able to keep their licences longer, drive more safely, and improve their quality of life."

Ms Litster is now seeking participants aged 60 and over, both from the Adelaide metropolitan area and from the country.

"I'm looking for anyone over 60 who has driven at some stage in their life—it doesn't matter if they're not currently driving, if they don't drive very often, or even if they don't have a licence anymore," she said.

"We hope to include in the study older people who have had an on-road driving assessment, in order to renew or retain their licence. Again, it doesn't matter whether they've passed or failed

these assessments—we want to hear from as many people as possible."

Ms Litster said people who took part in the study would initially be asked to fill out questionnaires related to driving. They would later take simple tests of abilities related to driving, such as tests of perception and speed of thought.

"These two areas may be the key to helping us better understand what affects older people's driving," Ms Litster said.

Story by David Ellis

For more information or to take part in the study, phone Caroline Litster on (08) 8303 3319 and leave your name and contact details.



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Health survey exposes heavy burden on men

Heart disease, diabetes, depression, erectile and sexual dysfunction... according to a University of Adelaide study, they all have one common link: obesity.

The leading-edge study conducted by the university's Department of Medicine shows that obesity is the common factor responsible for much of men's poor health.

The study, known as the Florey Adelaide Male Ageing Study, has so far gathered information from 600 men aged between 35 and 80 in Adelaide's north-western suburbs.

The results were launched last month at one of the key bastions of health in the north-western suburbs—the Port Adelaide Football Club—by South Australian Health Minister the Hon. Lea Stevens.

Associate Professor Gary Wittert, Head of the Department of Medicine and lead investigator of the study, said the first set of results revealed “a high prevalence of obesity, chronic physical and psychological disease, and a high prevalence of risk factors for cardiovascular disease”.

He said it was also clear that erectile and sexual dysfunctions were common disorders related to obesity and other cardiovascular risk factors, and associated with significant misery and distress.

“Obesity appears to be a common factor responsible for much of the burden of poor health,” Dr Wittert said.

The study focused on three aspects of ageing men:

- their utilisation of health services;
- endocrinology (study of hormones) of ageing, particularly androgens (male sex hormones); and
- prostate health and function in relation to the hormonal changes of ageing.

The study is believed to be the first of its kind to address these issues among ageing men in Australia.

Dr Wittert said the study would provide information that would influence future planning and delivery of men's health care and policy information in South Australia.

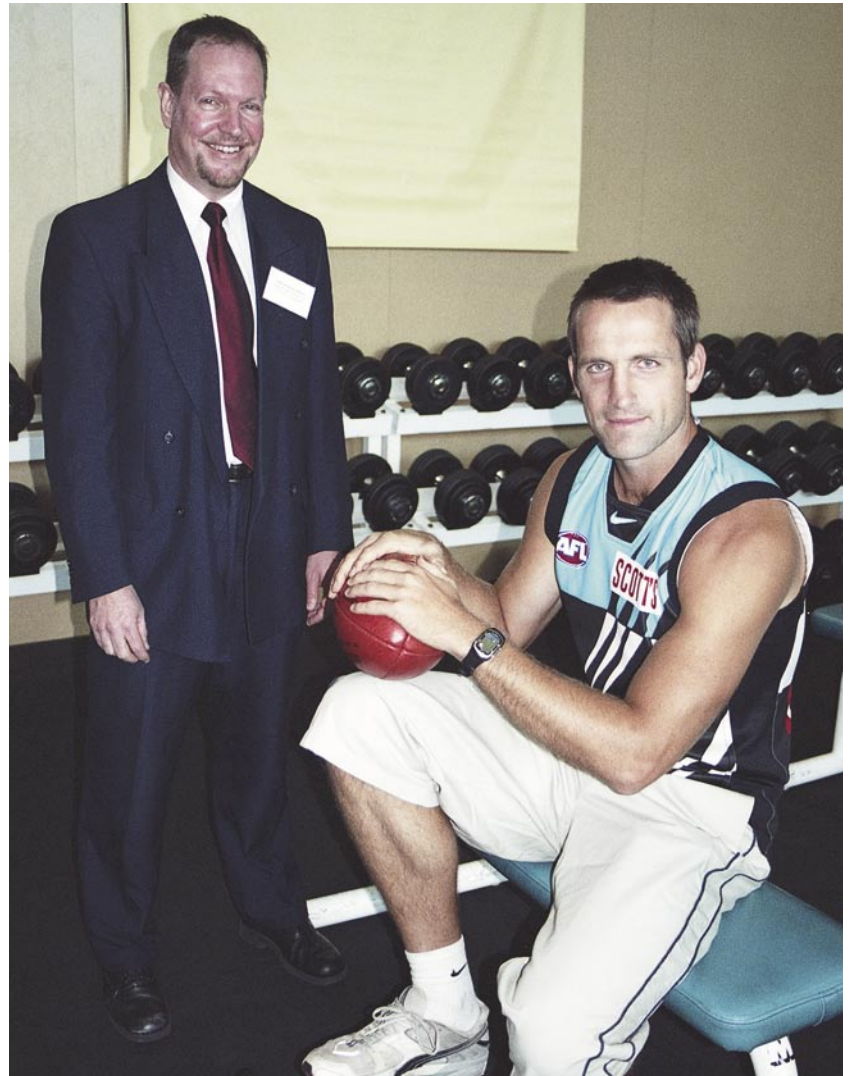
While data had already been collected from 600 men, the next round of recruitment would commence later this month, he said.

“South Australia has the oldest age profile in the country and this demographic feature has significant economic and social consequences,” he said.

“The extent to, and ways in which, men access and interact with the health care system remains unclear.

“The quality of that interaction, factors that affect it, and what might produce the most optimal outcomes are not known, and will be the focus of our ongoing research.”

Dr Wittert said in order to effectively intervene and reduce the prevalence



of these non-communicable diseases, the following required attention:

- behavioural risk factors (tobacco use, diet and physical inactivity);
- socioeconomic and environmental conditions; and
- adequate screening and management of intermediate risk factors (hypertension, blood lipids, obesity/overweight, glucose intolerance and diabetes, depression and anxiety).

Associate Professor Gary Wittert (left) and Port Adelaide's Darryl Wakelin at the launch of the study

Photo by Howard Salkow

The Florey Adelaide Male Ageing Study has received \$450,000 from the Florey Foundation and the University of Adelaide, along with support from government, public and private organisations.

Story by Howard Salkow

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Mechanical Engineering students Kristen Gaffney (left) and Deb James are already looking to improve the performance of the student team's race car



Story and photo by Ben Osborne

Formula for success

Kristen Gaffney and Deb James have the green light for successful careers in the automotive industry.

They are part of a team of 20 Mechanical Engineering students competing in the Formula SAE-A competition. And in addition to their Mechanical Engineering studies, the two girls are completing double degrees at the university: Kristen in Arts, and Deb in Law!

The Formula SAE-A contest pits students from around the world against each other in the design, construction and racing of their own formula-style, open-wheeled racing cars.

(SAE stands for Society of Automotive Engineers, an organisation that began in the US, with SAE-A representing the Australasian arm of the Society.)

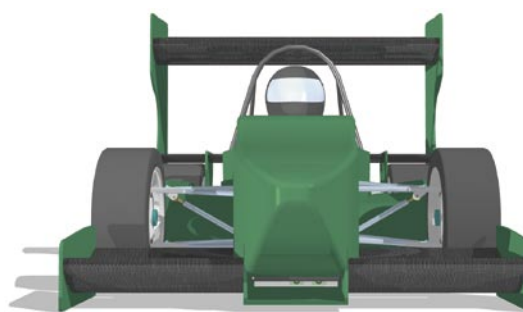
This year's competition will be hosted by Ford at Werribee in Victoria in

December, with cars judged in a range of categories, including design, speed, fuel economy and endurance.

Coordinator of the university's Formula SAE-A program, Dr Colin Kestell, said the 2004 team is out to improve on the effort of last year's team, which finished a creditable seventh overall—and the third-best Australian entry—out of 21 teams, which came from as far away as the US, Germany, Sweden and Japan.

"It really takes an enormous effort on behalf of all the students in the team to bring the project together, but the benefits are fantastic," he said.

"It is set up in such a way to mirror a typical engineering business. We have a 'managing director', who has an engineering business hierarchy underneath him with



Computer-aided designs help students to study important aspects of the car's engineering

components of management, chassis design, aerodynamic development, suspension, drivetrain design and marketing.

"It is a great opportunity for students who are interested in working in the automotive industry to get a head start on their careers while still at university.

"The benefits are starting to show, with most of the participating students securing lucrative jobs in the automotive industry, including jobs with the local V8 Supercar team, Team Dynamik, and some have

chosen to continue with their studies towards PhDs.

"At the moment we have just completed the design of our entry. Part of the design process includes the 'virtual manufacture' of the car—right down to the last nut and bolt—which the students do using the latest three-dimensional computer-aided design and engineering software.

"The students can assemble and check every part of the car in a digital environment before physically manufacturing it, which we hope to do by July."



Making history in Hong Kong

The University of Adelaide has celebrated another history-making event—this time in the Asian metropolis of Hong Kong.

On March 28, Adelaide held its first official Graduation Ceremony in Hong Kong, at the Grand Hyatt hotel.

“This is the first time in 130 years that the University of Adelaide has held a graduation ceremony in Hong Kong, and it represents a new era both for the University and for offshore education in this region,” Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha said.

Most of the students attending the historic ceremony were MBA graduates, with others receiving graduate certificates in Dentistry, Nursing Science and a Computer Science degree.

Adelaide’s MBA program was the first ever established in Australia, in 1963. In Hong Kong, the University of Adelaide offers Master of Business Administration (MBA) programs through the Hopkins Training & Education Group, which has offices at Hong Kong island and Kowloon.

In the last 12 months, almost 100 students have graduated with an

MBA from the University of Adelaide through its Hong Kong program.

Professor McWha said the University of Adelaide had been experiencing an increase in interest from students in Hong Kong and China, and the recent graduation ceremony marked the university’s commitment to students in this region.

“We are thrilled to be able to add Hong Kong to our program of offshore graduations, as it provides students from this area an opportunity to celebrate with family, friends and colleagues,” Professor McWha said.

“It also allows us to reinforce the many benefits that come from a global education, not least of which is vitally important in today’s world—tolerance and friendship through knowledge and understanding.”

In his address to the graduation, Professor McWha stressed the need for graduates to use their education for the betterment of society as well as for personal career aspirations.



Above: FAMILY AND FRIEND—A graduate with a Master of Business Administration (MBA), Kong Leung Ping was joined by his family, who gave him a furry koala as a memento.

Left: VIPS—Ian Kowalick (far left) and Dr Georges Baume, Acting Head and Associate Dean (Offshore) of the Adelaide Graduate School of Business respectively, with Adelaide engineering alumnus Professor YK Cheung OBE of Hong Kong University and his wife.

Right: DENTAL SUCCESS—Kenneth Cheung might be from Hong Kong, but he’s been practising dentistry in rural areas of Australia where dental services are much needed. Currently based in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Kenneth attended the Hong Kong ceremony where he received a Graduate Certificate in Dentistry.



Far left: MACE-BEARING MUM—The honoured role of mace bearer at the Hong Kong graduation ceremony went to Master of Business Administration (MBA) graduate Candy Lam. Candy, who works for HSBC, is pictured with her son, Brian (centre), and koala-hugging nephew Gordon.

Left: MUTUAL THANKS—The Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha, exchanged gifts of thanks with the President of the university's Hong Kong Alumni chapter, Pei-Kwun Yap. PK is a Commerce and Law graduate of the University of Adelaide and is currently legal counsel to GE Medical Systems Asia. She was the all-important MC for the Hong Kong ceremony.

Below: CLASS OF '04—The graduates of Adelaide's first official Hong Kong ceremony on stage in the ballroom at the Grand Hyatt hotel.

Bottom: INSPIRING SOUNDS—The City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong provided music for the ceremony. The chamber orchestra is led by Leanne Nicholls (far right), a graduate of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium (Bachelor of Music with Honours), now based in Hong Kong.



Artists behind the sculptures

Everyone knows the sculptures they have created—but few know the artists behind them.

The University of Adelaide's North Terrace campus is adorned with distinctive, original and provocative artworks, but their creators remain largely anonymous.

This was until recently, when the newly appointed university art and heritage collections manager Mirna Heruc brought six North Terrace campus public artists together to celebrate their achievements.

The six—Johnnie Dady, Bert Flugelman, Clifford Frith, Greg Johns, Hossein Valamanesh and Geoffrey Wilson—attended a function and then led a tour through the campus to tell the story behind each of their works.

Ms Heruc said although all six had each lived and worked in Adelaide during some stage of their career, the university was very lucky to have them in the one place at the one time.

"We are talking about two generations of public artists," she said. "Three of the six are in their 80s and they all have in some way influenced the careers of the three younger artists.

"They are all exceptional artists who have not only contributed to the environment of the University of Adelaide but also South Australia itself. For example, not many people would know that



Artist Bert Flugelman with his sculpture, *Continuum*
Photo by Ben Osborne

Bert Flugelman designed the *Balls* in Rundle Mall—and that he also has a work in the university art collection.

"We wanted to publicly thank these artists for the contribution they have made to the university.

"The university has a long tradition of art patronage and engagement,

and in the past this tradition was mainly carried through the purchase of work. Today this patronage is through a revamped art and heritage collections initiatives designed to educate, engage and promote art and culture as crucial core values for a vibrant and progressive society."

Story by Ben Osborne

The artists and their works on North Terrace Campus:

Johnnie Dady – *The Fones* (glass-reinforced cement), located on the Barr Smith Lawns.

Bert Flugelman – *Continuum* (stainless steel), located outside the Johnson Building in the campus' north-west corner.

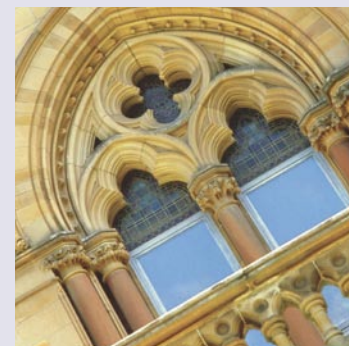
Clifford Frith – *Floral Pasquinade* (welded and painted steel woven mesh), located in the Hughes Plaza.

Greg Johns – *Dual* (rounded metal), located between the Napier and Engineering South Buildings.

Hossein Valamanesh – *Target Practice* (ceramic and terracotta tiles, black granite, jarrah, paving bricks), located at the top of the stairs leading down to the "circle" near the Barr Smith Library.

Geoffrey Wilson – *Madley Theatre Mural* (glass mosaic), previously located in Madley Theatre but soon to be re-installed in the forecourt of the Napier Building.

Historic tours on offer



Did you know that you can enjoy a guided tour of the North Terrace Campus of the University of Adelaide?

Discover the rich history of the third oldest university in Australia, with its fine old buildings and the stories behind them.

Regular tours are held on Tuesday mornings starting at 10.30am. Bookings are essential and can be made by contacting Jon Russack at Alumni, Community Relations & Development: phone (08) 8303 3234 or email jonathan.russack@adelaide.edu.au

Special group bookings can also be arranged.

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Judges see Erin's research as breath of fresh air

An Adelaide researcher whose work into breath testing may help to improve key areas of health has been named the South Australian Young Achiever of the Year.

Dr Erin Symonds has developed new, non-invasive breath testing methods for mice that may ultimately lead to improvements in the understanding of gastrointestinal problems and cystic fibrosis in humans.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide with First Class Honours and a PhD in Science (Physiology), Dr Symonds was last month announced as *The Advertiser*/Channel 9 Young Achiever of the Year.

She was also the winner of the Faculty of Sciences at The University of Adelaide Science & Technology Award.

"It is an honour, considering that I'm being recognised for something I love to do anyway—I couldn't ask for more than that," Dr Symonds told *The Advertiser*, which was one of the major sponsors of the event.

Dr Symonds, who is also a past winner of the Young Investigator Award, works as a research scientist at the Women's & Children's Hospital Gastroenterology Unit.

Her research into breath testing to assess gastrointestinal health was featured as a cover story in the *Adelaidean* in August 2003.

Other Adelaide graduates and current students also featured strongly in the finals of the Young Achiever of the Year awards.

Pianist Michael Ierace was nominated for the Coffee Club Arts Award, while Julia Lock and Brooke Summers were nominated for the Faculty of Sciences at The University of Adelaide Science & Technology Award.

Story by David Ellis

Dr Erin Symonds
Photo by Christopher Sprod



Coming Events

Monday, May 3

11am Centre for British Studies Seminar: "God's Tribunal: Guilt, Innocence and Execution in England, 1670-1770" by Dr Andrea McKenzie, (History, University of Victoria, British Columbia/Research Advisor, University of Queensland). Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus.

12.30pm Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre Seminar: "Management of Hepatitis C and HIV patients" by Dr Liz Coates (Adelaide Dental Hospital). Board Room, Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre, Level 2, Adelaide Dental Hospital.

1.10pm History Seminar: "Patrick Madan: One Man's Odyssey through England's Penal Crisis" by Dr Simon Devereaux (History, University of Queensland). Room 420, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus.

Tuesday, May 4

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Fiona Sutherland (Anthropology, University of Adelaide). Room 4.30, 10 Pulteney St.

5.30pm Don Dunstan Foundation

Forum: "A beating heart: Arts directions for South Australia" with Greg Mackie OAM (Executive Director, Arts SA). Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett St, Adelaide. Cost: gold coin donation, bookings essential. Contact Josie on (08) 8303 3364 or email: josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au

Thursday, May 6

1.10pm Inaugural Lecture: "Born too soon - will you celebrate your birthday?" by Professor Caroline Crowther (Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Adelaide). Council Room, Level 7, Wills Building, North Terrace Campus.

Friday, May 7

12.10pm Social Inquiry and Asian Studies Joint Seminar: "Pulling a butterfly: young Asians' and westerners' attitudes to homosexuality and pornography" by Professor Chilla Bulbeck (Women's Studies, School of Social Science). Room 518, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus.

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Series:

Australian String Quartet playing works by Dvorak. (Note: this program has changed since the brochure was printed). Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Admission \$5, tickets available at door from 12.30pm.

1.10pm Geology & Geophysics Seminar:

"Reconstructing vanished ocean basins and their subduction history" by Dietmar Müller (University of Sydney). Mawson Lecture Theatre, Mawson Building, North Terrace Campus.

Monday, May 10

1pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Seminar: "Regulation of UDP glucuronosyltransferase genes: towards understanding determinants of variability in drug glucuronidation" by Professor Peter MacKenzie (Clinical Pharmacology, Flinders University). Room 229, Level 2, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

1.10pm History Seminar: "Taming the Colonial Archive" by Steve Hemming. Room 420, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus.

Tuesday, May 11

4.15pm Anthropology and Asian Studies Joint Seminar: Professor David Cook (Religious Studies, Rice University, Texas). Room 4.30, Level 4, 10 Pulteney St.

Thursday, May 13

1.10pm Inaugural Lecture: "Mathematics in the new millennium" by Professor Michael Murray (Pure Mathematics, University of Adelaide). Council Room, Level 7, Wills Building, North Terrace Campus.

8pm Elder School of Music Evening Concert: "Regards From Broadway" featuring Bill Broughton's T-bones Unlimited, the 2003 Jazz Award Winners and special guest artist Alison Wedding performing with the Adelaide Connection jazz choir, conducted by Luke Thompson. Scott Theatre. Tickets \$25, \$17 concession, \$10 student from BASS 131 246 or at the door.

continued on page 12

Slaves in ivory basements: the postgraduate experience?

At first glance, the master/slave relationship, the “ivory basement” and trying to sell pogo sticks to kangaroos might not appear to have much in common.

But they were all metaphors used to illustrate aspects of postgraduate study at a two-day conference in Adelaide last month.

The 6th biennial Quality in Postgraduate Research Conference, jointly hosted by South Australia’s three universities, brought together delegates from across Australia, the UK, Sweden, New Zealand, Spain, Thailand, China and South Africa.

Conference convenor Professor Neville Marsh said the conference was a great opportunity for the postgraduate community to discuss research, best practice and policies.

“The changes to the funding of research education challenge us to re-imagine what we do and how we do it,” said Professor Marsh, who is interim Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) and Dean of Graduate Studies at Adelaide.

Around 200 academics, university staff, students and policy makers met to discuss subjects including balancing academic excellence with students’ needs, developing students’ publishing skills, encouraging timely thesis completion, plagiarism and supervisor development.

Masters and slaves came in for discussion at a symposium on research culture and supervision. University of Auckland doctoral student Barbara Grant presented a paper on the sometimes-twisted relationship between doctoral student and supervisor. Her research shows that the student can end up as an inferior whose ideas take second place to those of their supervisor.

During a discussion on women in postgraduate study, Barbara Groombridge of the Curtin University of Technology looked at the less



satisfying careers in which female academics tend to find themselves.

While their male counterparts are encouraged into management and supervisory roles and continue their research, Ms Groombridge has found that women often end up in the “ivory basement”, performing “academic housekeeping” tasks—like administration and low-prestige teaching work—which keep them from completing their research.

Kangaroos entered the equation with a poster on graduate qualities

by Dr Gerry Mullins of the Adelaide Graduate Centre. In his poster, “Are we trying to sell pogo sticks to kangaroos?” Dr Mullins examined whether universities are putting time and money into training students in real-world skills that they already have.

Story by Georgia Gowing

More information about the conference can be found at:
www.canberra.edu.au/celts/QPR2004

Coming Events

continued from page 11

Friday, May 14

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Series: Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra, Keith Crellin (conductor), Jeffrey Crellin (oboe - Principal Oboe with Melbourne Symphony Orchestra), Suzanne Handel (harp - Principal Harp with Adelaide Symphony Orchestra), featuring works by Lutoslawski and Tippett. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Admission \$5, tickets available at door from 12.30pm.

Tuesday, May 18

3.15pm Anthropology Seminar: Sophia Corfield (Anthropology, University of Adelaide). Room 4.30, Level 4, 10 Pulteney St.

7.30pm Musicological Society SA Chapter Meeting: Julia Szuster. Room 1107, Level 11, Schulz Building, North Terrace Campus.

Thursday, May 20

1.10pm Inaugural Lecture: “Probing the heart of the matter” by Professor Tony

Williams (Physics, University of Adelaide). Council Room, Level 7, Wills Building, North Terrace Campus.

Friday, May 21

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Series: Stellar!collective (members of Adelaide Symphony Orchestra) with Professor Charles Bodman Rae (piano), featuring works by Prokofiev and an Australian premiere for Bodman Rae. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Admission \$5, tickets available at door from 12.30pm.

Saturday 22 May

2pm History of Science, Ideas and Technology Group talk: ‘ET and Don Both and their Iron Lung’ by Dr Pauline Payne (History) in the Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library.

Monday, May 24

12.30pm Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre Seminar: “ITI Implants: The CACDRC experience so

far” by Dr Robert Hirsch (University of Adelaide). Board Room, Colgate Australian Clinical Dental Research Centre, Level 2, Adelaide Dental Hospital.

1pm Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology Seminar: “Chemokine receptors and central nervous system inflammation” by Professor Shaun McColl, (Microbiology & Immunology, School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, University of Adelaide). Room 229, Level 2, Medical School North, Frome Rd.

1.10pm History Seminar: “‘Oh God that our lovely city of Adelaide be not placed in the same category’: Venereal Diseases in Interwar Adelaide 1920-1939” by Dr Susan Lemar. Room 420, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus.

Thursday, May 27

1.10pm Inaugural Lecture: “Extreme astronomy - high energy radiation in our violent universe” by Professor Roger Clay (Physics, University of Adelaide). Council Room, Level 7, Wills Building, North Terrace Campus.

Friday, May 28

1.10pm Elder Hall Lunch Hour Series: Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra, Keith Crellin (conductor), featuring works by Rimsky-Korsakov. Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus. Admission \$5, tickets available at door from 12.30pm.

4pm Obstetrics & Gynaecology Seminar: “Genes that regulate inflammation and impact female fertility” by Dr Rebecca Robker (Obstetrics & Gynaecology, University of Adelaide). Room N229, Level 2, Medical School North, Frome Road.

Monday, May 31

8pm Classical Association Seminar: “Number puzzles, alphabet games and dicing: oracles from Aesop to Astrampsychus” by Dr Vicki Jennings. Council Room, Level 7, Wills Building, North Terrace Campus.

Please send all coming events to:
david.ellis@adelaide.edu.au

Russell Victor Baudinette (1945-2004)

Russ Baudinette loved animals.

In his internationally acclaimed research on the comparative physiology of animal locomotion, everything from cockroaches to red kangaroos was trained to walk, run or hop on a laboratory treadmill. Fish and snakes swam in flume tanks, and wombats entertained him in their burrows. Once, when asked how his research helps mankind, Russ replied that he would be pleased enough if it helped the animals.

After graduating from Monash University, Russ undertook a PhD in the School of Biological Sciences of the University of California at Irvine, and had a post-doctoral appointment in the Department of Zoology at Duke University, North Carolina.

In 1974, he moved to Adelaide with his wife Kaye, and began the academic career during which he served two of South Australia's universities with distinction.

At Flinders University, he established a reputation for his passion for research that brings new ways of understanding things. He became a champion of high quality research, and his own work quickly attracted a stream of international collaborators.

In 1996 he was appointed Professor and Head in the Department of Zoology at the University of Adelaide. This was the time when Russ' leadership skills blossomed; he was a superb team builder.

Russ had the task of forming a new Department of Environmental Biology from the Departments of Botany and Zoology. He provided the new department with a unifying vision and with energy and enthusiasm gave his staff the reasons and the space to work together. More recently, he had task of forming a new School of Earth and Environmental Sciences from four departments on three campuses. The success of this restructuring was a monumental achievement. He was Interim Head of School until a substantive appointment was made late last year.

Throughout this time Russ' research program flourished, he had a reputation for enjoyable and inspiring teaching, and he was a generous mentor to many.

He loved to introduce his research into his teaching. His important work on the energetics of marsupial locomotion, in which a wallaby hopped on the treadmill with a



progressively increasing pouch load, revealed little increase in metabolic energy, a result of elastic energy savings in tendons. This work was published in *Nature* under the title "Young wallabies get a free ride". Russ would later illustrate this discovery by hopping around the lecture theatre on his daughter's pogo stick to the delight of undergraduate students.

Professor Baudinette's research was recognised internationally. He was President of the Comparative Physiology and Biochemistry Section of the International Union of Biological Sciences, and he chaired the Commission on Evolutionary Biology of the International Union of Physiological Sciences. He served

on the editorial boards of several scientific journals and chaired the Editorial Advisory Board of the *Australian Journal of Zoology*.

One of his international collaborators, Professor Fuzz Crompton of Harvard University, commented recently: "Much of Russ' career was devoted to convincing the international scientific community that Australian biology was an unexploited resource that only had to be mined to help answer some of the fundamental problems that biologists are struggling with today. Russ showed the way by example. The variety and scope of topics that interested him and which he explored in depth were truly remarkable."

One of Russ' most prized possessions was a painting of an extinct wallaby, *Lagostrophus faciatus baudinettii*. This wallaby was recently discovered in a German museum, classified and named for him by the South Australian Museum. It is fitting that Russ's name will forever be remembered as a part of the rich history of Australian fauna.

He is survived by his wife and daughter.

Contributed by Alastair Blake

Electricity privatisation fails: expert

The privatisation of South Australia's electricity services has been described as a "monumental failure".

Radical action is required to prevent prices from further spiralling, according to experts speaking at a public forum on the issue at the University of Adelaide last month.

The forum—"The Electricity Crisis: What Can Be Done?"—was organised by the Don Dunstan Foundation.

"The privatisation of South Australia's electricity industry has proven to be a monumental failure, creating unnecessary hardship for thousands of South Australians while failing to address the environmental challenges we face," said Mr John Spoehr (pictured), Executive Director of the Centre for Labour Research and Chair of the forum.

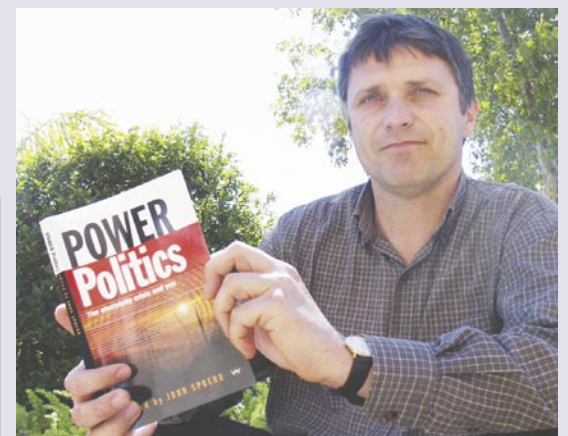
He said action such as the introduction of price caps, the abolition of GST on essential services,

and government involvement in generation and distribution, may be the only ways to control spiralling electricity prices in the future.

"Our analysis indicates that the privatisation of ETSA has not only fuelled spiralling prices, but denied the State Budget the substantial dividends that would have flowed from ETSA to help fund education, health and other services.

"Professor John Quiggin from the University of Queensland and I have estimated that the total loss of income from privatisation to South Australians is likely to be around \$3 billion over 10 years.

"There seems no choice but to consider the introduction of radical measures to ensure that the electricity industry responds to pressing social and environmental imperatives," Mr Spoehr said.



Consumer advocate and forum panelist Rosalyn Williams called on governments to recognise that, "a basic supply of affordable electricity should be a humanitarian right of all Australians".

"A growing number of low income families are sacrificing essentials such as food or medication to try to avoid disconnection or late payment fees," she said.

Jazz singer brings Broadway to Adelaide

Critically regarded jazz vocalist Alison Wedding will be a special guest at the first of the Elder School of Music's evening concerts this year.

Perhaps best known to Adelaide audiences following her performances at last year's Glenelg Jazz Festival and in this year's Adelaide Fringe, Wedding will take centre stage at "Regards from Broadway", to be held in the Scott Theatre at 8pm on Thursday, May 13.

A sensational line-up for the evening includes T-bones Unlimited, the Adelaide Connection, and the Elder School's Jazz Awards Winners of 2003.

Special guest vocalist Alison Wedding (pictured) has made a remarkable impact as a jazz singer since moving to Australia from the United States some four years ago.

She studied jazz at the University of North Texas and began her career by singing professionally in the Dallas area. Wedding has toured as a back-up singer with Kevyn Lettau and recorded with other artists such as Andy Summers (formerly of The Police) on his album "Peggy's Blue Skylight". She has also taught voice and piano at various schools.

Since arriving in Melbourne in 2000, Wedding has taken the Melbourne jazz scene by storm, performing with such notables as Joe Chindamo, Colin Hopkins, Sam Keevers, and Belinda Moody to name just a few. She regularly packs Melbourne's

Bennett's Lane jazz club and is featured on Peter Knight's most recent recording.

As well as performing in the evening concert this month, Wedding will spend 10 days at the Elder School giving workshops, masterclasses and voice lessons in the jazz school. Her visit has been assisted with a grant from the Helpmann Academy.

The Jazz Awards, which will be presented to seven outstanding Elder School of Music students at the concert, include for the first time a female winner for saxophone, Vashti Tyrrell. Vashti has been named the Most Outstanding Undergraduate student, while fellow saxophonist Derek Pascoe has been named Most Outstanding Postgraduate student.

Elder School of Music Evening Concert Series

Tickets: \$25 adult/\$17 concession/\$10 student from all BASS outlets or dial'n'charge on 131 246. (University of Adelaide staff at concession prices.)

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For a brochure contact the Manager, Evening Concert Series on (08) 8303 5286 or 0402 120 478.

www.adelaide.edu.au/events/concert/evening/



PUBLIC FORUM

A Beating Heart: Arts directions for South Australia



with

Greg Mackie OAM Executive Director, Arts SA

Date: Tuesday, May 4
Time: 5.30pm until 7.00pm
Venue: Mercury Cinema, 13 Morphett St, Adelaide
Cost: gold coin donation, but more will allow the Foundation to continue to provide such vital forums
Bookings: essential as seating is limited. Please contact Josie on (08) 8303 3364 or email: josie.covino@adelaide.edu.au

South Australia is a small state, in a population sense, with the cultural aspirations, expectations and infrastructure of a large state.

Since the 1970s our organisational infrastructure has grown, and on a per capita basis the South Australian Government spends more on culture than any other mainland state. Since the 1960s we have become the acknowledged leaders in developing a festivals culture. Nevertheless, a rapidly changing world has caught up with us and we must find new ways to do things if we are to sustain our cultural aspirations and develop the creative potential of our artists.

In July 2003 Premier Mike Rann hosted an Arts Summit to seek the views of the sector on our future and our challenges. In December 2003 Premier Rann released "Strategic Directions for the Arts in South Australia", a discussion paper which distils the views of the Arts Summit.

Greg Mackie has been Executive Director of Arts SA for just over three months, and has been charged with continuing the work of the summit. He will offer us his early perspectives settling into the new job, and will offer some ideas for how we might approach things differently as he works to support the development of the government's Arts Strategy for the coming decade.



Of writer's rage and green sheep

You don't really think of children's authors as suffering from "writer's rage", but it does happen according to acclaimed Australian author Mem Fox.



Sheep: staying calm at the prospect of turning green. Mem Fox's new children's book, *Where is The Green Sheep?*, is released this month by Penguin.

Fox recently gave an entertaining insight into the writing process in her talk "Page-ripping writer's rage: from first idea to final word in a picture book". The talk was the latest in a series of highly successful events for the Friends of the Library Chapter, sponsored by Unibooks.

Fox has written more than 25 picture books for children. Her best known, *Possum Magic*, has sold over two million copies and celebrates its 21st birthday in 2004. But this phenomenal

achievement is only a small part of her work. First and foremost a teacher, her passion is developing literacy. She is a highly regarded consultant in this field, with constant engagements in Australia and overseas, as well as being a campaigner for peace and international understanding.

In her talk at the Barr Smith Library last month, Fox told the 90-strong audience about the creative struggle behind her latest book, *Where is The Green Sheep?*. She shared drafts to show how,

from conception in June 2002 to acceptance for publication by Penguin in May 2004, she finally arrived at just 190 telling and memorable words. All was done in cooperation with her illustrator, well-known artist and cartoonist Judy Horacek.

Fox also gave insights on her writing for children —exposing them to ideas such as loneliness and friendship but without moralising or talking down; allowing them to experience some dire trouble but with recovery from despair, and her signature bonding-at-bedtime-ending.

For more information about the Alumni Association and the Friends of the Library Chapter go to www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/chapters/library_chap.html or contact Farley Wright on (08) 8152 0965

Story by Paul Wilkins

04 Alumni Events

MBA Alumni Association - Mr Vili Milisits, Vili's Pies "Growing the Pie"

Vili's Pies are enjoyed both nationally and internationally (Asia, Europe, the Pacific and United States) – all due to the diligence, tenacity and determination of one of South Australia's leading entrepreneurs: Vili Milisits (and of course his team of family and staff). Vili will discuss the origin of his business and his current export strategy.

Date: Wednesday, May 19

Time: 6pm - 8pm

Venue: Adelaide Graduate School of Business, NAB Room, 5th Floor, 233 North Terrace, Adelaide

Cost: MBAAA Members: \$15 Non-Members: \$20

RSVP: Alison Wood, by COB Thursday, 13 May
Email: alison.wood@adelaide.edu.au or phone 8303 3306

Bookings are essential!

Distinguished Alumni Award

Deadline for nominations: May 28

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 in their chosen fields.

Nominations can be forwarded to the Executive Secretary, Alumni Association (C/- Alumni, Community Relations and Development) by 5.00pm, May 28.

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 Kim McBride on 8303 3196 or email: kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au.

John Bray Law Chapter

Quiz Night for the Chief Justices' Shield

Date: Friday, May 28

Time: 7pm

Venue: Rumours Café, Level 6, Union House, University of Adelaide North Terrace

Quizmaster: Kym Kelly

Cost: \$15 per person

Contestants are invited to bring their own nibbles (cold). Cash bar available for all drinks

The Winning Table will be presented with a Championship Shield donated by the Chief Justice of South Australia. Lawyers/Para Legals/partners/ spouses/ friends are all welcome.

Alumni Association Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 16

Time: 5.30pm – 7.00pm

Venue: Marg Murray Room (Level 4, Union House – opposite Equinox Café)

RSVP: by June 15 to Kim McBride, Ph: (08) 8303 3196, Fax: (08) 8303 5808 or email kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

Light refreshments will be provided

Agenda and documents will be available after May 24 from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office or downloaded from www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni

Alumni Association Annual Dinner

Date: Wednesday, June 16

Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Venue: Equinox, Level 4, Union House, University of Adelaide North Terrace

Cost: Tickets \$35/person or \$300 for a table of ten. Tickets can be purchased from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office

Includes main course, dessert, soft drinks, juices, tea and coffee. Cash bar available.

RSVP: by June 9 to Kim McBride, Ph: (08) 8303 3196 or email kim.mcbride@adelaide.edu.au

All bound up in teen sex drama

The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's first show for 2004 promises twice the cast and twice the entertainment!

Two alternating casts will bring to life Frank Wedekind's classic and controversial *Spring Awakening* this month.

Spring Awakening was written in 1891, but was considered so shocking that it was banned from public performance in Britain until 75 years later. It is based around teenagers' often turbulent experiences through puberty and explores the concepts of sexuality, relationships and self-identity.

The Guild's performance is directed by Greg Elliott, Head of Drama at St Peter's College, who says the number of talented students who auditioned for the play was both "overwhelming and delighting".

"I was so impressed that I decided to have two alternating casts for the main roles, giving more actors the chance to perform and show their skills."

Among the 36 students involved, Arts student Marlon Dance-Hooi and Media and International Studies student Kim Littler both have main roles. For Marlon, it marks his second appearance in a Guild show after a role in *The Cherry Orchard* last year.

"I do it a little bit to get away from study, but mainly for fun," he said.

"Acting should be fun, because if you're not enjoying it, why are you doing it?"

After her involvement as lighting designer/operator on the Guild's *Oh What A Lovely War!* last year, Kim is looking forward to being on stage.

"It's an engrossing play, and while there are certainly some emotional and shocking moments, there are also some very funny moments," she said.

Spring Awakening will be performed at the Little Theatre on Saturday May 8, Tuesday May 11 to Saturday May 15, and Tuesday May 18 to Saturday May 22. Tickets are \$20/\$15 and are available from the Theatre Guild on (08) 8303 5999 or from BASS on 131 246.

Story by Ben Osborne

Spring for a ticket giveaway!

The *Adelaidean*, in conjunction with the Theatre Guild, has two double passes to give away for opening night of *Spring Awakening* on Saturday, May 8.

To enter, phone David Ellis on (08) 8303 3173. The first two callers will receive one double pass each.



Photo by Cassandra Backler



May 2004

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PUBLIC DOMAIN BRINGS YOU

Sunday May 2 - Dave Hickey
art critic and cultural analyst sold out at Artists Week this year.
Sunday May 9 - Anne Somers Cocks
Also from Artists Week Feature Editor of London-based *The Art Newspaper*

Sunday May 16 - Survival of the Fittest
Can the arts survive in SA? Jonathan Biggins hosts this *Festival Forum* with Rosalba Clemente and Greg Mackie

Sunday May 19 - Contemporary Music
Can contemporary fine music survive - panelists Michael Kieran Harvey, John Crawford and Graeme Koehn join Jonathan Biggins in this *Festival Forum*

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