

Students to benefit from software agreement

COMPUTER SOFTWARE worth about \$8.4 million is being made available free to 1500 University of Adelaide students thanks to a world-first agreement negotiated by the Faculty of Engineering.

Mathworks and Ceanet Pty Ltd (the US-based manufacturers and Australian distributors of Matlab products, respectively) are delivering sets of Matlab software to engineering students free of charge for teaching and homework use. The individual academic value of the software packages is \$5600—for 1500 individual copies, this equates to \$8.4 million.

Matlab, which stands for Matrix Laboratory, is arguably the world's most popular engineering and technical computing software package, with more than two million users.

The University of Adelaide's Faculty of Engineering has been a significant user of Matlab for some time. The departments of Mechanical and Electrical & Electronic Engineering in particular have utilised Matlab for both teaching and research for years, and have developed a large volume of tutorial material based around the software.

"The faculty was able to leverage its past and present academic and financial commitment to the software in arranging the deal, which is the first of its kind in the world," said Dr Scott Snyder, the Faculty of

Engineering's Associate Dean for Information Technology.

"For the Mathworks company, this agreement guarantees that the country's top engineering students are fluent users of their software when they graduate. The Matlab deal is also another major step in what the faculty sees as its development of Information Technology in Teaching," he said.

Dr Snyder said providing students with the software they needed was a more practical approach than making it available via the internet.

"At present, the majority of technology-based teaching projects are being directed at putting material 'on the web'. But this general notion is often a poor one for engineering subjects, particularly those taught in latter years. Solution of non-trivial engineering problems requires computationally intensive mathematics software, which is difficult to run on a single host machine in response to web-based input from students.

"A more practical approach for undergraduate engineering education is to start with a suitable software package, one which can be made widely available on in-house computers and provided to students for home use, and develop teaching and learning programs around it."

The Engineering Faculty has four large computing suites and a plug-in



Dr Scott Snyder—\$8.4 million software agreement. Photo: David Ellis

suite for laptop computers which are open to students 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Dr Snyder said Matlab would continue to be available to all students on these facilities, but he hoped many students would now decide to use the software on their home computers.

"About 75% of the student body has home access to computers. If they use the free software to solve tutorial

exercises at home, that will help free up in-house terminals which can be used by those students who don't have home computer access."

The free Matlab software was already being delivered to students on the Faculty of Engineering's 1998 CD-ROM, along with other software packages and electronic course notes, Dr Snyder said.

—David Ellis



Mr Bruce Webb—new Chancellor.

Adelaide's new Chancellor brings impressive credentials to post

MR BRUCE WEBB, a senior figure in Australia's minerals and energy industries, has been appointed Chancellor of the University of Adelaide.

Mr Webb, former Director-General of the South Australian Department of Mines and Energy and former Managing Director of Poseidon Limited Group, was appointed to the position by the Council last week.

Mr Webb is Convenor of the University's Finance Committee and has been a member of the University Council since 1995. He succeeds Mr Bill Scammell, who retired from the position late last year.

Mr Webb is an Executive Consultant to the SA Chamber of Mines and Energy, a Consultant to the Australian Mineral Foundation, a Director of Frontier Exploration Limited and Deputy Chairman of the Australian Minerals and

Energy Environment Foundation. In 1992 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to the Australian minerals and energy industries.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, welcomed the appointment.

"Mr Webb's impressive mix of experience in education, industry and the public sector will be invaluable in a period in which the University of Adelaide seeks to establish itself as one of the world's leading universities," she said.

On his appointment, Mr Webb explained his role in the University's vision to become one of the world's leading universities.

"My job will be to ensure that the active and varied interests represented on the Council are unified in working toward this vision and that all sections of the University—the students, the academic and general staff and the administration—are

able to feel directly involved," he said.

Mr Webb said he wanted the University increasingly to become part of the life of the city, with closer relationships with the public, business, and the University's alumni.

Mr Webb has extensive private and public sector experience. He was Director-General of the SA Department of Mines and Energy from 1972 to 1983, and from 1983 to 1988 he was Managing Director of Poseidon Limited Group.

Previously he held a number of positions in industry and the public sector, beginning as a geologist and advancing to exploration manager.

Mr Webb has served on numerous government and professional bodies, including the Bureau of Mineral Resources (now AGSO), where he was Chairman of the Advisory Council for five years.

Continued Page 4



Learning at the Festival

Most people I have run into over the last couple of weeks seem to have had an enjoyable Festival. The University itself has been involved, staging performances and providing venues. Our Theatre Guild's *Slum Clearance* magnificently staged in Bonython Hall has been a great success with audiences and critics. Urrbrae House is the site of "The Weaver of Life—La Tejedora de Vida", an exhibition put on by the National Textile Museum of Australia, which was officially launched by Senator Richard Alston right at the start of the Festival.

The Inaugural Adelaide Writers' Week lecture was organised by Professor Wilf Prest and the Department of History. Professor Norman Davies of the University of London, author of *Europe: A History* gave a magnificent lecture entitled "Europe Overseas and Overland", with a large overflow from Napier Theatre 102.

For me, however, there were some very special parts to this Festival which have to do with learning. On 4 March, *Iron Lace* was launched. This is the first collection of writing produced by the students in our new Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing. The quality of these pieces was evident in the readings by various authors. Comments from these same students made it clear what a joy it has been to be in this course and how much they feel they have learned from Tom Shapcott, Professor of Creative Writing. Congratulations Creative Writers!

A performance by the Australian String Quartet in the court-yard of the Supreme Court marked the beginning of a new phase for the ASQ. As well as continuing its performances and national and international tours, the Quartet is moving to develop a new course—a Graduate Certificate or Graduate Diploma—which will take the form of extended master classes for people from around the world wanting to play chamber music in small groups. The sponsorship of both the University and Arts South Australia will bring people to Adelaide to learn chamber music performance.

The Festival is also exactly the right time at which to appoint a new Chancellor. In these times of massive change in universities, change which brings with it considerable financial challenges, the Chancellor takes on the responsibility of guiding Council in its most important roles of devising the strategic plans for major policies, overseeing management and monitoring and reviewing operations. A challenging office indeed, but the University has been extraordinarily fortunate. The four Chancellors that I have known—Dr John Bray, Dame Roma Mitchell, Mr Bill Scammell and Mr Bruce Webb—are all outstanding people, wonderful individuals and also great leaders for stirring times.

MARY O'KANE

COMMENTARY

THOUGHTS ON THE ROLE OF ACADEMIC BOARD

Before the election for Convenor of Academic Board held late last year, I circulated a statement of my approach to the job. Limited to 150 words, the statement was a bit gnomic. Here I will expand on what I then wrote, and discuss further some of the issues facing the University of Adelaide community.

by
Professor Jonathan Pincus
Convenor of Academic Board

Divisional leadership will be rendered largely nugatory without there being high levels of leadership in Departments and Centres.

"My objective is to strengthen the position of Academic Board as the academic advisory body in the University, so enhancing the quality of University decisions," is how I began my statement. What weakens Academic Board, and how can it be strengthened? Some answers will be suggested and remedies proposed in the report of the working party on Academic Board, which should be available in April.

Meanwhile, I suggest that a major source of weakness is that a structural transition is still being completed—the transition from a University of Faculties with elected Deans, an Education Committee and an elected Executive Committee, to one of Divisions with appointed Heads, an Academic Board, and central management team all but one of whom are appointed.

Academic Board is yet to meet with a membership that includes all from the central management team: most members of the team have taken up their posts only recently; the last appointee, the Director of Finance & Infrastructure, is to start later this month.

Among other things, Academic Board provides a two-way channel of information, by helping the Vice-Chancellor's Committee collect dispersed knowledge of needs and possibilities, by providing an opportunity for Departmental and other leaders to hear what the VCC believes are the "major issues for the University that are coming over the horizon, internally and externally, that require serious policy attention" (as the Richardson working party put it); and by gathering creative ideas for policy response.

Academic Board generates academic policy advice for transmission to Council and the Vice-Chancellor, especially on matters that transcend Divisional boundaries. For the Board to be an effective contributor to the formulation of policy, its Policy and Agenda Committee has to bring issues to the Board in a timely fashion. In this task it is helped by the fact that as Convenor of Academic Board I am a member of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee (or in my absence, Professor Rob Saint or Dr Angela Pierce as Deputy Convenors) and the Vice-Chancellor's central management group. There is of course in these memberships a danger of cooption, to which I am alert.

Good central leadership is necessary for the University to adjust to falls in the quantity of public funds when costs are rising, within an increasingly competitive but incompletely de-regulated environment. However, central and

In the academic community that is the University, leadership is dispersed. It is true in the last several years that responsibility for University-wide decisions has been clarified and concentrated in the hands of appointed officials. By the nature of academic life, however, the "centre" cannot know in detail what is known by those working in the "areas"; what academic and general staff and students know about how their part of the University works, about how and what they are doing as they go about the essential activities of teaching and learning, of scholarship, of research. More importantly, the centre cannot command the level of effort required of staff and students for the attainment of academic excellence. That effort comes only as an eager and voluntary commitment of staff and students to their chosen work.

Academic Board brings together academic and administrative leaders from across the University. The majority of the 112 places on the Board are for Heads of Departments. They have managerial responsibilities in their departments as well as leadership roles in their disciplines or fields. As managers, Heads can delegate but they still retain full and sole responsibility, under their Deans and Heads of Division. In contrast, academic leadership is frequently shared by Heads of Departments with other academics, in proportions that differ greatly among Heads of Department. There are places reserved on Academic Board for some of those other academic leaders, as well as leaders from general staff.

Although it cannot make general management decisions, the Academic Board can provide a venue for discussion of major issues of importance to Heads and of University-wide salience. From meetings of Heads of Departments at the levels of Faculty and Division, Heads of Divisions have frequent opportunity to bring to the Vice Chancellor's Committee matters of University-wide significance, and to contribute to their resolution. Other than at meetings of the Academic Board or its Forum, only indirectly though their Heads of Division do these opportunities extend to Heads of Departments. The working party on Academic Board has discussed ways to enhance these opportunities for Heads of Department, including a form of "questions with notice".

Thus, Academic Board plays an important role in producing and identifying leaders at the "area" or Departmental level, and bringing their talents to bear on the determination of University-wide academic policy.



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Library 'shrinks' its catalogue to \$35

IT USED TO WEIGH several tons but is now so light you can hold it in one hand. It once occupied the area of a badminton court and now fits in the glovebox of a car.

This mysteriously transformed object is the Barr Smith Library catalogue—and it's now available on CD-ROM for just \$35.

The newly-released CD-ROM includes all items listed in the Library's on-line catalogue. That represents around 914,000 monograph volumes, 336,000 items in non-book form, and 620,000 volumes in continuing and discontinued journal titles.

It covers the holdings of all five libraries—the Barr Smith, Law Library, Performing Arts Library, and the Roseworthy and Waite libraries.

The Barr Smith's Facilities and Planning Librarian, Stephen Beaumont, said the CD-ROM catalogue includes sophisticated search software and informative Help screens, with specific searching by keyword. The file can also be browsed by title or author.

"The descriptive catalogue records give the locations of copies within the five libraries of the University of Adelaide, and, in most cases, will be adequate for detailed bibliographic citation," he said.



Librarian Ray Choate with the new catalogue in his hand; behind him the old catalogue storage system.
Photo: David Ellis

"We developed the catalogue with a Sydney-based (US-owned) company, Dataware Technologies. They are now marketing the concept more widely, using our joint development."

To run the catalogue you need a CD-ROM drive and a PC with Windows 3.1 or later; it's not available for the Mac.

Stephen Beaumont said it was planned to issue the catalogue twice a year.

"It replaces the microfiche

catalogue, in comparison with which it gives enormously enhanced functionality at one-third the price," he said.

The CD-ROM catalogue will be used within the libraries of the University of Adelaide in the event of interruptions to the main computing systems or to the University computing network.

A copy is available for use and inspection in the foyer of the Barr Smith Library,

and can be purchased for \$35 (\$40 for mail orders).

—John Edge

• Personal purchases may be made at the Services Desk in the Barr Smith Library. Orders by mail should be addressed to: The Librarian (CD-ROM Catalogue), Barr Smith Library, University of Adelaide, Australia 5005. Cheques should accompany mail orders from individuals. Letterhead orders from organisations.

Appointment of new Director, Finance and Infrastructure

MR TONY SIEBERT, most recently employed by the South Australian Department of Treasury and Finance, has been appointed Director, Finance and Infrastructure, at the University of Adelaide.

Mr Siebert has been employed by the Department of Treasury and Finance since March 1997 to conduct a review of its financial management and reporting performance.

Before this, he was Chief Financial Officer of the Bank of South Australia Limited and a member of its Executive Committee.

"This is an excellent appointment," the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, said.

"Mr Siebert has extensive experience in change management, and he impressed the appointment committee with his people skills, enthusiasm and commitment.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Siebert's predecessor, Mr Bryan Scherer, for his valuable contribution to the University."

Mr Siebert will take up the position in late March.

Sponsors urged to support country science students

INDUSTRY SUPPORT is needed to help bring promising secondary science students from remote areas of the State to Adelaide for National Science Week in May.

National Science Week—a joint initiative of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, the Australian Teachers' Association and the Australian Science Festival—is aimed at giving students a hands-on experience of science, technology and engineering.

"All students, especially those from the country, will benefit greatly from the stimulus provided by Science Week activities," said Mr Philip Stott, Associate Dean for External Relations from the University's Faculty of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences.

"Unfortunately, rural students are often disadvantaged by their lack of access to the city. Since National Science Week will have a very strong urban focus, students from South Australia's more remote areas need industry support to ensure they don't miss out."

Mr Stott said generous sponsorship of a number of students had already been received from Optima Energy, GH Michell and Sons Pty Ltd and Western Mining

Corporation. Students being sponsored were from Leigh Creek Area School, Port Augusta schools, Quorn and Hawker Area Schools, and Roxby Downs Area School.

But more support was needed to bring students to Adelaide for the event from 2-10 May, Mr Stott said.

"This may be the only opportunity many of these students get to experience a hands-on, comprehensive showcase of science, engineering and technology.

"Hopefully, with the help of industry, we can foster the interest these students have in science. This experience could not only shape the students' future, but it could also be of great benefit to South Australia's future," he said.

Mr Stott said the cost of sponsoring one student during National Science Week was only about \$400, an investment which may provide a student with a career path and ensure that science retained "the best people".

Many of the National Science Week activities in South Australia will take place at the world-class teaching and research facilities of the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus.

—Anne Lucas
—David Ellis

NEWS IN BRIEF

END OF THE ASIAN MIRACLE?

Australia has spent the last decade trying to attach itself to the Asian Economic Miracle. Is it now going to deflate with the Asian Economic Meltdown? On Friday 3 April the Division of Humanities & Social Sciences will present a public Forum to investigate these issues.

Speakers include Dr Bob Catley, Associate Professor Christopher Findlay, Professor Purnendra Jain, Dr Greg O'Leary and Associate Professor Lesley Potter.

The Forum will provide an opportunity to listen to some resident specialists on Asia and to engage in discussion on a range of economic, political and social challenges the Asian nations confront today, especially in the aftermath of the recent Asian financial crisis.

• 3 April, Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, from 2.30pm to 5.00pm. Further information: Purnendra Jain, tel 8303 4688, fax 8303 4388, email <pjain@arts.adelaide.edu.au>.

LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

Enrolments are now open for the University of Adelaide's Continuing Education language program, which this year will offer courses in 13 languages.

Year-long language courses begin in mid-April, with intensive "survival" classes for travellers mid-year. Two "Vietnamese in the Workplace" courses are also scheduled mid-year.

Continuing Education, under the leadership of Aggie Lim, is this year also offering 25 continuing professional education courses in interpersonal communication, professional and personal development, supervisory development and leadership, management and business development.

Brochures on both the languages and professional development programs are now available from Continuing Education (tel 8303 4777).

COLIN HORNE ON BOOKS

Emeritus Professor Colin Horne is the guest speaker for the next in the monthly "Books in My Life" series organised by the Friends of the State Library.

Colin Horne was Jury Professor of English at the University of Adelaide, and a former Dean of the Faculty of Arts. He has chaired the Adelaide Festival Writers' Week Committee and is an Honorary Life Member of that committee and of the Friends of the State Library.

• Wednesday 1 April at 1.00pm. Institute Building, North Terrace. Admission \$5 (\$3 concession and Friends of the State Library).

DESTINATION ADELAIDE A MUST

South Australian academics have been urged to attend this year's "Destination Adelaide" exhibition as the Adelaide Convention and Tourism Authority (ACTA) continues to target the tertiary education conference market.

The exhibition is to be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre and Exhibition Hall on 20 March, 1998 and will provide the very latest planning advice from experts in the convention industry.

For further details about Destination Adelaide, contact Anne-Marie Quinn at ACTA on 8212 4794.

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The KI Koalas: sterilisation research

STERILISATION is one of the measures being taken by the State Government to reduce the impact of koalas on South Australia's Kangaroo Island.

In this second part of a three-part story, the Adelaidean looks at University of Adelaide research into the effect of sterilisation on the koalas' behaviour.

Zoology Honours student Ms Melissa Horgan has seen first-hand the damage caused to Kangaroo Island by koalas. Gum trees, stripped and naked, are dying. Salinity is building in the soil and water. The threat is very real to the koalas, their habitats, and the habitats of other native animals and birds.

In a bid to reduce the koala population on the over-burdened island, the South Australian Department of Environment & Heritage has embarked on a sterilisation program.

Ms Horgan is currently studying 30 koalas, half of which are among the 2000 koalas that have so far undergone sterilisation. Her koala group, comprising sterilised male and female koalas, is located at Cygnet River.

"Little is known about the effects of sterilisation on the behaviour of koalas, particularly on their feeding and mating behaviour," Ms Horgan said.

"Obviously we want to have as little impact as possible on the koalas—we don't want sterilisation to affect their natural behaviour. This project will help assess whether or not that's happening."

Using radio tracking devices, Ms Horgan is able to map the koalas' daily movement. Details about their behaviour are also recorded, and this information is compared with the koalas' behaviour prior to sterilisation.

Because koalas tend to be active within a 'home range' (their normal feeding area), they rarely stray from that site unless for special reasons, such as during breeding season. Ms Horgan says one possible result of sterilisation could be that koalas move out of their home range more frequently, thus having an impact on a wider number of trees.

"If the koalas are moving much more often, moving outside of their home range, they will be browsing on different trees, and possibly even on different species of gum trees. This would put pressure on trees that might



Photo courtesy of Soolim Carney.

not have experienced it otherwise.

"Some female koalas will wander out of their home range during breeding season in order to find a mate. Now that they've been sterilised, we're not sure what they're going to do. If they move around a lot more, we could see an influx of koalas into one particular area, which could be devastating for the trees in that area," she said. "A change in their behaviour could also affect the way koalas interact with other animals."

Seven months into the research project, and so far the news is good.

"At this stage, it seems as though sterilisation hasn't had much of an impact on the koalas' movement or behaviour," Ms Horgan said. "However, it might be a long-term thing; you might not notice any change until further down the track."

Ms Horgan said she believed

sterilisation was not the absolute answer to fixing the koala population problems on Kangaroo Island.

"Sterilisation will solve a lot of problems in the future, but it won't solve the immediate problem. If there was another viable option to culling I would prefer that option, but at this stage what's really needed is a once-off cull to get the koala population down to a workable level.

"You need to cut the numbers of koalas quickly, otherwise the trees won't have enough time to recover. Once the population levels are down, programs such as sterilisation and relocation could then be important in maintaining those levels," she said.

• Part three of this story will look at research into the relocation of koalas to South Australia's south-east.

—David Ellis

Chancellor: impressive credentials

From Page 1

He is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering, the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

He is married to Marilyn and has four children (two by a previous marriage) and four grandchildren. His daughter Anna is a student at

the University of Adelaide, studying Arts and Music.

Many members of the University community would remember his brother-in-law, the late Professor John Ward, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney.

Mr Webb has been appointed Chancellor for a four-year term.

—David Washington

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Exciting scholarship win to lead in many directions

JUGGLING full-time study and work isn't easy, but this year's Guy Lloyd MBA Scholarship winner, Ms Barbara Gare, is doing just that.

Not only is Ms Gare the administrator of the University of Adelaide's Teletraffic Research Centre, she is also completing a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. And now, thanks to the \$20,000 scholarship, she has added to her work load by tackling a Master of Business Administration (MBA) at the University's Graduate School of Management.

The MBA scholarship is awarded by Adelaide-based aviation company Lloyd Helicopters and is named after the company's founder, the late Mr Guy Lloyd. Ms Gare is the third recipient of the scholarship since it began in 1996.

Already a graduate of the University of Adelaide (Bachelor of Science with Honours), 32-year-old Ms Gare spent six years working in the oil and gas industry before taking up her current position with the Teletraffic Research Centre.

A lover of languages (she has studied German, Chinese and Spanish) and travel (she has visited 29 countries across five continents), Ms Gare said she applied for the MBA scholarship because it was an excellent opportunity to expand her horizons.

"I'm very grateful to be awarded the scholarship and I think the MBA will be extremely valuable to my future," she said.

"It means I'll be able to take the various elements of my background, which is fairly diverse across the sciences and the arts, and combine them with a highly regarded business qualification. It's exciting because it could lead me in so many directions."

Despite spending so much time and energy seeking international experiences, Ms Gare said she was firmly committed to living and working in Adelaide.

"I'm very keen to stay in South Australia, working for a company that is local but with an international view. In the long term, I have thoughts



Guy Lloyd MBA Scholarship winners (from left): inaugural recipient Alina Lebed, last year's recipient, Denise McMillan-Hall, and this year's, Barbara Gare. Photo: David Ellis.

about starting my own business, but I have a lot to do before I can take that any further. I really like the idea of doing something that promotes South Australia—as a good place for business, or a great place to holiday.

I'll wait and see what I'm drawn to over the next few years."

Ms Gare began her MBA studies in January and should be completed by early 1999.

—David Ellis

Ancient practice a possible 'new' treatment for morning sickness

EXPECTANT MOTHERS take note: Adelaide University researcher Caroline Smith is leading a major clinical trial at the Women's and Children's Hospital to determine whether applied acupuncture can alleviate symptoms of morning sickness.

The Chinese practice of piercing specific areas of the body along peripheral nerves with fine needles has a 3000 year-old tradition. Acupuncture is practised for pain relief, to induce surgical anaesthesia, and for therapeutic purposes.

The idea for trialling acupuncture with pregnant women was conceived after Ms Smith examined a series of studies evaluating the effects of acupressure (the application of pressure on acupuncture points) on morning sickness. The results were encouraging but inconclusive overall, mainly because the studies were not large enough in terms of their sample size.

With qualifications from the College of Traditional Acupuncture in England and a Master's in Demography, Ms Smith

collaborated with Senior Lecturer Dr Caroline Crowther to initiate a PhD project in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

"It's the first trial of its kind in this hospital, and probably the largest, most comprehensive study looking at acupuncture in pregnancy," Ms Smith said.

A suitable "new" therapy for morning sickness seems long overdue. Since the thalidomide disaster, there has been a general reluctance from women to take any pharmaceuticals if they are unwell during early pregnancy. As a result, women are basically left to grin and bear the common curse of the first trimester; nausea is experienced by 79% of pregnant women and 50% experience vomiting.

"Morning sickness is really a misnomer; only about 10% of the women experience it in the morning—the rest have it all day," said Ms Smith. "It's a time when they feel very tired and lethargic—they're really miserable."

Continued Page 6

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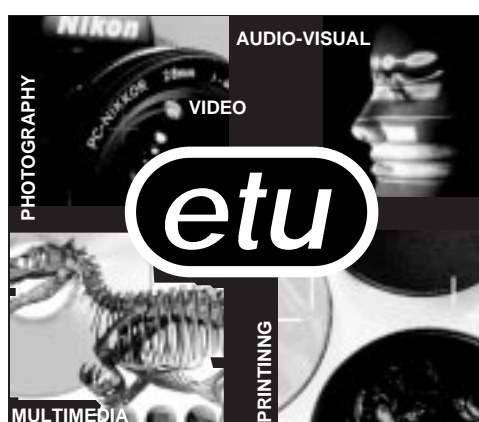
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Peer support an 'untapped resource'

THE DIVISION OF SCIENCE'S 400 first-year students have been linked with student advisers in a peer support scheme which could provide a model for the entire University.

Thirty-two second and third-year science students have been trained to give first-year students advice and assistance in coping with their initial experience at University.

The program is the first of its kind on this scale in South Australia, and is one of the first such schemes to be introduced in Australia.

Ms Karen Walker, Education and Welfare Officer at the Adelaide University Union, said studies in Canada and the United States had shown that linking students with peer supporters could help lower the attrition rate in first year.

"I think we are waking up to the fact there is a resource there which has been untapped," Ms Walker said.

"The Union hopes the lesson learned from the science



Some of the students in the Science peer support group. Photo: David Ellis.

program can be used in the development of peer support throughout the University. The Union's commitment to the project has been considerable, with my time and resources as well as a \$10,000 grant."

Science became interested in such a scheme after Dr Ingrid Belan, Curriculum Officer with the Division of Science, conducted a survey of first year students about three years ago.

The survey highlighted some of the difficulties faced by first years in the transition period from school to University.

"They felt they didn't really know what was going on, or who to turn to," she said.

"The students themselves actually recommended that they have an undergraduate student to help them get on their feet."

Ms Walker conducted two

days of training in which the student advisers were taught skills in managing and leading groups and communication skills. Students were also provided with "bread and butter" information about the University's facilities and services.

The student advisers each work with an average of 10 first-year students, meeting with the group and reporting to Ms Walker and Dr Belan on a weekly basis.

Ms Walker said the issues raised so far had mostly been about how to find places and information on campus and how to use University facilities.

She said she was pleased with the enthusiasm of the student advisers, and their willingness to volunteer considerable time and effort.

"It's really heartening the amount of altruism that is out there," she said.

The student advisers also gain a range of leadership and group skills from the program.

—David Washington

New Honour society for top students

AN INTERNATIONAL student organisation is about to extend its operations to the University of Adelaide.

The Golden Key National Honour Society was founded at Georgia State University in 1977 by a group of outstanding undergraduates to recognise and encourage scholastic achievement.

The Society facilitates interaction among high-achieving students from diverse faculties and degree

programs, and reinforces students' contact with academic staff through chapter programs.

It also provides scholarships and help with career development opportunities. This year, a graduate scholarship of \$US10,000 will be awarded in the Asia-Pacific region as well as undergraduate scholarships at every chapter.

Since its foundation the Society has established

more than 245 university chapters; as part of its continuing expansion the Society is now seeking to establish a chapter at the University of Adelaide.

"In view of the potential benefits to students I am giving the Society my full support in this endeavour," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Doug McEachern.

The University will invite the top 15% of students in each faculty to join the

Society. Invitations will go out soon; information tables will be set up in the Cloisters from 18 to 20 March to answer students' questions about the Society.

New members will be inducted at a reception in Bonython Hall on 14 May addressed by the Vice-Chancellor.

Further information can be obtained from their website at <<http://gknhs.gsu.edu/>>.

—Andrew Starcevic

Ancient practice may treat morning sickness

From Page 5

Although acupuncture is notable for its strong oral tradition, there are some classical texts on the subject which refer to the reduction of vomiting through one point on the wrist. "We call that 'formula' acupuncture—one point. I suspect that one reason the past studies were inconclusive is because this is too simple."

Ms Smith explained that the theory of Chinese Medicine is based on a series of energies—"energetics." There are a number of energetic imbalances that women may have when they are experiencing nausea and vomiting in pregnancy, so it is important to specifically tailor a treatment plan for each individual, according to the diagnosis.

Thus, a more comprehensive approach has been used for the trial at the Women's and Children's Hospital; one group receives 'formula' acupuncture, and the other has acupuncture based

on the underlying energetic imbalance.

"I'm interested to know if one treatment is more effective than another, which may explain why the same treatment doesn't work for everyone. A holistic approach may be more successful," Ms Smith said.

To determine how effective the therapy is, the study design also incorporates a 'sham' group, in which participants receive harmless acupuncture away from the relevant body points.

"Acupuncture has been suggested to have a placebo rather than therapeutic effect, and I am trying to address this," she said.

After their imbalance is diagnosed, women participating in the study return to the hospital for a 30-minute treatment once or twice a week for the following month, depending on their progress.

"It's very hard to predict how quickly they will respond. They really need to

keep an open mind with their first treatment, because it could be a cumulative effect," Ms Smith said.

Along with her supervisor Dr Crowther, Ms Smith is running the trial in conjunction with GP Justin Beilby and Ms Jenny Dandoux, a midwife. The outcome of this trial may result in a wider range of options available to sufferers of morning sickness.

"We hope to offer women a new therapy in a public health setting," Ms Smith said.

The trial needs more volunteers to reach its target of around 600 subjects. Women interested in participating should be less than 14 weeks pregnant and experiencing symptoms of nausea and vomiting which have no other obvious cause. Volunteers can be referred by their doctor or directly contact Caroline Smith at the Women's and Children's Hospital on 8204 7565.

—Emily Collins

Alumni Activities Program 1998

THE 1998 ALUMNI ACTIVITIES PROGRAM is an exciting mix that offers the chance to see the University at work, to meet members of the University staff, and to see the work of the University and its graduates being applied in the community.

•GUIDED TOUR: MAGISTRATES' COURT

Monday 20 April, 6:00pm
The Courts Authority invites alumni to visit the new Magistrates' Court building in Victoria Square.

The presentation will cover the building's architecture and artworks, and an overview of the Magistrates' Court system. Numbers limited.

•WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC GILBERTON

Sunday 17 May, 11:00am.
Local historian Diana Roberts will lead a tour of the historic residential suburb of Gilberton. A taste of South Australia's history, which compares the new and the old.

Approximately one and a half hours. Why not enjoy lunch at a local cafe afterwards? Numbers limited.

•THE HAGUE COLLECTION

Tuesday 16 June, 7:30pm.
In 1997, the Library received as a bequest the personal library of Ralph Meyrick Hague, a University of Adelaide Law graduate and former Crown Solicitor. Special Collections Librarian Susan Woodburn introduces the Hague Collection, which reflects the wide-ranging interests and tastes of the man who built it up over 70 years. A must for book-lovers. Numbers limited.

•CENTRE FOR THE HISTORY OF FOOD AND DRINK

Wednesday 8 July, 5:00pm lecture; 6:00pm reception.
The Research Centre for the History of Food and Drink not only promotes

historical research in this area but also celebrates the fine food and drink available in South Australia. The Centre is hosting its first conference from 8 - 10 July.

Members of the Alumni Association are welcome to attend the opening lecture in Napier 102 and stay for the reception that follows.

•ILLUSTRATED TALK: "IS THE BOOK DEAD?"

Wednesday 5 August, 7:30pm.
University Librarian Ray Choate poses this challenging question and examines changes in the usage and management of libraries in today's changing information climate. As the horizons of our information world expand, will the traditional methods of transmitting and preserving knowledge give way to a new paradigm?

•MEDIEVAL.MSS.ON.NET

Wednesday 30 September, 7:30pm.
English lecturer Tom Burton and Technical Services Librarian Alan Keig bridge the centuries with a presentation on medieval manuscripts as seen on the Internet. A look at how information technology is extending our access to the literature of the middle ages.

•HEALTH IN ANTIQUITY - STUDYING ANCIENT SKELETONS AT POMPEII AND OTHER SITES

Thursday 29 October, 7:00pm.
What can we learn of the lives of people in the ancient world by applying modern forensic techniques to skeletal remains? A presentation by Professor Maciej Henneberg and Mrs Renata Henneberg, of the Department of Anatomical Sciences.

•GUIDED TOUR: AYERS HOUSE

Wednesday 18 November, 6:00pm.
The National Trust welcomes alumni to Ayers House for a sundown tour of

Adelaide's premier historic home. Numbers limited. Cost: \$5 per person, payable at the door.

Other Alumni Association events coming up this year include:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

Thursday 19 June, 8:00pm. All members are encouraged to attend.

EARLY GRADUATES' AFTER-NOON TEA,

Saturday 18 April, 3:00 - 4:30pm.
A particular invitation is extended to alumni who graduated more than fifty years ago. A small charge is made for afternoon tea. (This event has traditionally been held at the end of August. The change of date has been made with a view to avoiding the inclement weather of late winter!)

GOLDEN JUBILEE COMMEMORATION,

Thursday 15 October, 6:00pm, in Bonython Hall, followed by dinner in Union House. Graduates of 1948, together with their families and friends, are invited to join in this celebration.

FURTHER DETAILS:

Call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 if you would like to ask for more information or make a booking.

Further details about venues and meeting places will be published in the *Adelaidean* closer to the date, or will be available from the Alumni Office.

You do not have to be a member of the Alumni Association to take part in these activities: all graduates and friends of the University are welcome.

Events presented by the Alumni Association's Chapters will be advertised in the Alumni Page as information becomes available.

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOMEPAGE

The Alumni Association now has its own homepage at <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni>> or it can be accessed from the University's page at <www.adelaide.edu.au> and click on Work Info then Alumni Association.

The page has been a long time coming due to some technical problems and for this we apologise. The site quite deliberately contains a lot of useful information rather than graphics (which are fine for web surfers) that take an inordinate amount of time to appear on computer screens.

The page contains the 1998 Alumni Activities program and Alumni News section—the news page will be updated regularly with news sent by alumni.

Comments are welcome—please email them to <gsauer@registry.adelaide.edu.au>.

JOHN BRAY LAW CHAPTER PRIZE

The John Bray Law Chapter Prize for 1997 has been awarded to Ms Eliza Mandy Holmes. The Prize, which is given each year to the student who gains the highest aggregate marks for compulsory subjects in the LLB Degree, will be awarded at the Law School's Prizegiving Ceremony on Wednesday 25 March. The Alumni Association extends warm congratulations to Ms Holmes for her achievement.

SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES CHAPTER LECTURE

The Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter invites all interested members of the University community to attend a public lecture on Thursday 2 April, at 7:30pm in the Florey Lecture Theatre in the Medical School building on Frome Road.

Medical practitioner and physicist Dr Philip Nitschke will speak about Euthanasia.

Mr Dean Dowling, of the Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter, said that Dr Nitschke was instrumental in making the Northern Territory Rights of the Terminally Ill Act 1995 work until it was extinguished by a Federal Act of Parliament.

Details: Alumni Office, 8303 3196.

GRADUATION DINNER

The Department of Zoology invites all past and present graduates and staff, undergraduates, their families and friends to the 1998 Graduation Dinner, Skyline Restaurant, South Park Motel, Thursday 30 April 1998. Tickets/details are available from the Department of Zoology, 8303 5576.

CORNELL CHAPTER PRESENTS AN EVENING OF VICTORIANA

Fans of Victorian music and architecture are invited to come to an Evening of Victoriana at Ayers House on Tuesday 26 May.

The Cornell Chapter (Arts & Performing Arts alumni) will present a talk by the distinguished historian of architecture and Churchill Fellow, Mr Brian Andrews, on "Impressions and Associations: an episode in Colonial Taste".

Cost: \$50 per person. Begins at 7:30pm. Period dress may be worn. Details and bookings: Alumni Office, 8303 4275.

PERFORMING ARTS

ON CAMPUS

Advertisement

University increases ASQ support

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE has consolidated the role of the Australian String Quartet on campus with an additional \$40,000 in support for the acclaimed Elder Conservatorium-based group.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, announced the upgrading of support for the ASQ at a function in the courtyard of the Supreme Court on Sunday, 8 March.

The ASQ has also received an allocation of \$34,950 from the Doris West Bequest, with further support of \$20,000 per year from 1999.

Professor O'Kane said the Australian String Quartet was a valued part of the University community and the University was pleased to contribute to its growing importance to music in this State, nationally and internationally.

"These new funds will support the range of activities undertaken by the ASQ and, hopefully, will provide a good base for the quartet's search for a corporate sponsor," she said.

Welcoming the announcement, Peter Tanfield, first violin with the ASQ, said the University's support would enable the Quartet to play an even stronger role in the life of Adelaide University, and "in particular provide a more secure platform on which to pursue such opportunities as the proposed Graduate Diploma in Chamber Music".

Professor O'Kane said that while recent debate about higher education had focused on how universities contributed to the economic competitiveness of the nation, there were other reasons why universities were important to the community.

"The University of Adelaide, for example, seeks to create an environment of intellectual and cultural vibrancy," she said.

"If you walk off North Terrace on most days you will hear strains of all kinds of music—from opera at the Conservatorium, to rock down on the Barr Smith lawns.

"In lecture theatres and tutorial rooms, in the refectory and in corridors, students and staff and visitors will be engaged in debate and inquiry into a huge range of issues.

"It makes sense that these different forms of endeavour and interaction come together on a University campus—because universities are all about knowledge."

Professor O'Kane said that music and scientific inquiry were both ways of exploring the world—bringing new insights and ways of thinking.

"I'm thrilled that the Australian String Quartet has become part of

this endeavour at the University of Adelaide," she said.

The quartet performs regularly on campus and provides chamber music teaching to students, among other activities at the University.

"What a valuable educational experience to be studying in an environment which includes musicians of the calibre of the ASQ," Mary O'Kane said.

The Australian String Quartet recently appointed Stephen Block, former Industry Development Manager for ArtsSA, to the newly created position of General Manager.

An Arts graduate of the University of Adelaide, Mr Block brings extensive experience in performing arts policy and management to the post.

—David Washington & John Edge

Drama graduates keep on keeping on

GRADUATES of the University of Adelaide's soon-to-close Drama Department continue to win the esteem of their peers in the profession.

State Theatre of SA recently announced the names of five young directors to be given Assistant Director positions this year. These positions offer mentoring and professional development opportunities for emerging directors.

Of the five, three are graduates of the Drama Department. They are Kate Sulan, Andrew Garsden, and Chris Drummond.

"Three out of five marks a substantial success, when you consider the quality of other candidates from the Centre for

Performing Arts and Flinders," said the Drama Department's Tony Mack.

This success is not a flash in the pan. In the *Foreplay* project—part of the Adelaide Festival program dedicated to emerging artists—three of the five artists chosen were Adelaide Drama graduates (Fiona Spratt, Stephen Noonan and Alyson Brown).

Tony Mack said it was a "bittersweet irony" that Drama graduates should be so successful in the last year of the department's existence.

"But that won't dampen our pleasure in their achievements," he said.

—John Edge

ACCOMMODATION

GLEN OSMOND: 2-3 br house, unfurn (some b-ins), walking distance to Waite, no pets, lawns mown, close to schools & transport. \$200 pw + bond. Ph 8379 4869.

HIGHGATE: Share unit, close to transport, 10 min walk to Waite. Ph Katherine 8210 0435.

MILE END: Lge rm to let in share house (1 male & 1 female), close to shops, transport & city. Suit mature student or professional. Avail immediately. Ph Anna 8351 7168 (after 5pm).

MODBURY: Non smoker wanted to share house with study close to shops & transport, quiet area. \$75 pw + Bond \$300. Refs required. Ph 8265 3854 after 6pm.

NORTH ADELAIDE: 1 br, fully furn flat, swimming pool. \$120 pw. Ph 8267 1081.

WINDSOR GARDENS: Furn house with 2 br + study, suit visiting postgrad student. Avail now to end of year. \$150 pw. Ph 8369 2220.

FOR SALE

ALPACAS: Diversify your investment portfolio. Selection of pregnant females. Total management & agistment avail. Only 25 mins from city at Lower Hermitage. Ph John or Kathy Holzberger 8380 5454.

BICYCLE: men's 12 spd, lights, pump, lock, full tools, clips, helmet. \$70. Ph 8268 2530.

CAMIRA: SL JE 87 sedan, silver, 5 speed, 2 ltr EI, air, towbar, exc cond, reg until 30 June 98. VNB 070. \$4,950. Ph 8266 5570 (after 7pm).

COMPUTER: Mac IIVX 8/230, plus 14" colour monitor, \$1,500. Laserwriter IIg printer, \$1,200. Ph 8267 5004 (after 7pm).

COMPUTER: Laptop Compal 4/120, Microsoft Office, Word 6, Excel 5, Power Point 4, etc. \$400. Ph 8297 1848 (after 8pm).

DESK: Solid pine, 4 drawers, exc cond, \$150 ono. Ph 8332 5982.

FORD LASER: 1982, 4 door, new tyres, good cond,

ADELAIDEAN CLASSIFIED

urgent sale. UJO 044. \$2,900 ono. Ph 8337 2651 (after 7pm).

HOUSEHOLD GOODS: Microwave, furniture, TV, video, fridge, washing machine, etc. Ph 8332 2445 or 8303 3209 (w).

KEYBOARDS: Ensoniq KS-32 piano action MIDI studio, 76 key with on-board sequencer, \$1,220. Roland MC-500 sequencer with disk drive & extra software, \$650. Ph 8276 5082 (ah).

MISC: Student desk, pine estapol finish, \$95. Pine shelves, \$45. Sharp push button TV, 50cm, \$80. 2 drawer CD cabinet, \$10. Kenwood turntable, \$45. Yamaha tape deck, \$45. Wicker screen, \$55. Bathroom scales, \$10. Lge wicker easy chair, \$15. Vinyl swivel office chair, \$35. Plus more. Ph 8373 2256 or 8274 1849 (evenings) or email: jraftery@camtech.net.au

MISC: Modern, firm single ensemble with bed head, \$40. Shopping trolley, \$18.

Ph Gail or Vlad 8346 0482.

MISC: Westinghouse 289 ltr upright deep freezer, \$200. Complete white colonial kitchen, wall oven, hot plate, double sink, ideal for holiday home, \$450. 4 traditional light fittings. Ph 8291 4128.

MISC: Phillips TV, \$125. Braun mixer, \$75. Leather briefcase, \$55. Wardrobe, \$55. Food processor, \$30. New pedestal fan, \$45. Lowboy, \$40. Cordless kettle, \$45. Sunbeam kettle, \$35. Food warming tray, \$30. All items in exc cond. Ph 8266 5570 (after 7pm).

PERSIAN RUG: New original rug, 1 x 1.5m, wool, rich colours, colourfast, perfect cond. \$800 ono. Ph 8338 4152.

SCUBA GEAR: Oceanic BCD, Datamax dive computer, Oceanic Delta regulator & Alpha 3 secondary reg, Sherwood cylinder with scuba pack. \$1,200 ono. Ph 8234 9499 or 8322 7637 (ah).

SIGMA: 1981 sedan, auto,

air cond, stereo, very good motor. SVO 911. Ph 8332 2445 or 8303 3209 (w).

DEPARTMENTAL

TENDERS: Lot 1 - Linishall belt sander, 3 phase, 1.5 hp, 285 RPM. Lot 2 - Sherline bandsaw, 1 hp, 3 spd, 1420 RPM. Lot 3 - Drill press, single phase, .5hp, 12 speed. Lot 4 - Aston arc welder, 3 phase. Lot 5 - Floor grinder, 3 phase, 12 inch. Lot 6 & 7, 2 sheet metal folders, freestanding units on stand. Lot 8 & 9 - Oxy bottle holder (trolley). Lot 10 - Pipe bender. Lot 11 - Pipe clamp/stand. Lot 12 - Dexion cutter. Lot 13 - Hercus Lathe with bench. Ph Peter Cassidy, 8303 7293. Tenders in a sealed envelope, quoting Lot number to the Executive Officer, Plant Science, Waite Campus by 5pm, 30 March. Neither the lowest nor any tender necessarily accepted.

TENDER: Ford Laser LXi sedan, 1996, auto, silver, 24,500km, air, immobiliser, tinted windows. VUF 422. Inspection 18 March, ph June 8303 5747. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked Tender No. W266 to the

Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Tuesday 24 March 1998.

TENDER: Mitsubishi Magna V6 SE sedan, 1996, auto, white, 40,000km, ABS, air, c/control, airbags. VUH 534. Inspection 1 April, ph Colleen 8303 5551. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked Tender No. W267 to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by 7 April 1998.

WANTED

MICROSCOPE: Binocular or monocular upright. Ph Ron Vanderzwan 8249 6933.

PC: Minimum config 486, 12/120. Ph Coral Baines 8339 2941 or 8303 4606.

MISCELLANEOUS

RAFFLE: Ever wanted to own an autographed Redbacks cricket bat, Crows football, Port Power footy, Thunderbirds netball and many more great prizes? Tickets \$1.00 drawn 5pm, Friday 19 June 98, UniBar. All monies raised support our students participating in the Australian Uni Games. Ph the Sports & Clubs Association, 8303 3410.