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# Touch of a button technology boosts Arts learning

STREAMED VIDEO ON DEMAND is to become one of the most valuable tools for teaching and learning in the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Arts by 1999.

Arts is currently upgrading its computer network to enable real-time and stored video and audio applications to be run in student computer suites, as well as on desktop computers in all Arts departments for staff and students.

Video applications could include pre-recorded tutorial material or live-to-air news and information, all broadcast on the computer screen and available to students at the touch of a button, much like a VCR but with better search capabilities.

The technology, known as "video on demand", is being supplied to the University by US company Tektronix in association with local vendor, Logitech.

"The Faculty of Arts will be the first in Australia to install Spotlight, the

video on demand application from Tektronix, which will enhance teaching and learning capabilities by multicasting streamed video onto the network," said the Arts Faculty's Information Technology manager, Ms Doone Jones.

"Spotlight was selected because of the quality of its performance," she said.

"The idea is to enable students to take advantage of the convergence of technologies, so that at the desktop they can access video, audio, web and library resources.

"Students will have access to the current information they already receive in a much more time-efficient and effective way," she said.

Students who study languages, for example, often make use of audio or video tapes which they watch or listen to in class time and from which they take notes. Ms Jones said video on demand would make life much easier

for these students.

"We're looking at a scenario in which students can go into any of our computer labs, sit down and double-click on today's French news, or double-click on the German news, or even take it a step further—double-click on today's tutorial for Japanese, which might include audio and video, or Japanese texts and questions.

"Similarly, students will be able to use video in reports of their field trips or other multimedia projects.

"It's much less restrictive on the students in terms of what they can and can't do, and it also allows them greater access to the kinds of information they need in order to learn," Ms Jones said.

"For instance, students will not be restricted to watching videos in the five-booth video room."

In addition, the Faculty will be able to extend the useful life of the computers in its computer suites by installing

Windows Desktop Development (WinDD) servers to provide the latest 32-bit applications to the existing PCs and Macs, which will act as "intelligent terminals" rather than as stand-alone machines.

"We're also now in the process of upgrading our network so that the video, audio and WinDD applications will not saturate the network.

"This has been a major planning operation, spanning all our departments across six buildings and involving full 10MB switching to the desktop, which will relieve network congestion across the entire University.

"Stage two of the process, in December, is to install the video on demand technology, which will be tested and ready for students in 1999.

"The amount of support that Tektronix and Logitech are giving is fantastic," said Ms Jones.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Interactive CD-ROM aims to reduce need for animal models

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE'S Department of Surgery at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital has won a grant to develop a new CD-ROM to be used as an interactive teaching aid.

The \$10,000 grant was awarded by the NEAMS Trust (New Educational Aids in Medicine and Science) to a team comprising Mr Rod Cooter, Mr Peter Sylaidis, Mr Timothy Proudman and Ms Elizabeth Owen.

Their aim is to develop a fully interactive CD-ROM dealing with basic surgical wound management.

The CD-ROM, containing text-book style information, graphics and multimedia, will guide users through a range of options of skin wound management, including anaesthesia, suturing and wound care. It will be used as a teaching and learning tool for the benefit of medical, dental and other biomedical students and general practitioners.

One of the other main outcomes of the interactive teaching package is that it will reduce the need for animal models.

The NEAMS Trust was established to support and encourage Australian universities to develop teaching courses which substantially reduce or eliminate the use of animals.

"We hope that this new CD-ROM will be a major step forward in reducing the need for animal models in the teaching of surgical wound management," said one of the NEAMS Trustees, Associate Professor Garry Scroop.

*Continued on Page 3*



*These students will show why they are the cream of the crop at the Second Jazz Awards Concert in Scott Theatre on 7 May. Back (l to r): Jason Slack, Adrian Whitehead, John McDermott. Front (l to r): Sheree Dunford, Natalie Ruiz, Julian Ferraretto. Photo Mick Bradley. Story Page 8.*

## Joint Germany-Adelaide degree offered

A NEW COURSE, the first of its kind in Australia, will enable law students to study for a Masters degree both in Adelaide and in Germany.

The Master of Comparative Law is a joint postgraduate degree established by the law faculties of the University of Adelaide and the University of Mannheim.

Comparative Law is a study of the different codes of law throughout

the world, such as common law, civil law and Islamic law.

The course will also enable Australian students to get a more detailed understanding of the legal framework in the European Union.

Students will be able to enrol in the course at either Mannheim or Adelaide. It is anticipated that enrolments will be received from across Australia for this course.

Students will spend one semester at each university and will also write a thesis at their chosen institution.

The course begins in 1999 for Australian students and October 1998 for Mannheim students. It will be conducted entirely in English but some Australian students proficient in German will be able to study in that language at Mannheim.

*Continued on page 6*





## The Wicked Witch of the West

When I look back on my comments in the press after the release of the West Committee's discussion paper late last year, I observe a distinctly shrill and cackling note, a very witch-like tone indeed. I was pointing out the enormous philosophical dangers embodied in the discussion paper, in particular the dissociation of learning and scholarly activity, and a lack of understanding of the role of universities in the national research and research training system.

I am not at all sorry I brandished the broomstick. The final Report addresses these issues squarely, with an acknowledgment in paragraph one of the Chairman's foreword of the distinct nature of university education, in which learning is carried out in an environment dedicated to research and scholarship. Student learning is emphasised throughout the Report and the issue of research training has been given a great deal of detailed attention; quite a sensible scheme for encouraging mobility at this level has been put forward. It is acknowledged that research training should take place in areas of research concentration with a new research training index suggested to allocate resources. These are all things we suggested at various stages in submissions to the Committee.

There is also recognition of the inadequacy of infrastructure in universities, particularly research infrastructure, and a good analysis of many of the tensions apparent in universities.

That said, there are still some major disappointments. Above all, the Report does not adequately address the question of what level of public funding should be provided to the higher education system in Australia, sidestepping the issue by saying the level of funding is a matter for governments. The best we get out of the Report is a statement in the Executive Summary that "government funding ... for higher education should be made on the basis that the risks associated with underinvestment ... are greater than those of overinvestment." The debate on our educational future, which is tightly linked to our economic future, is as important as that on nationhood, the republic or Wik, and focuses attention on the prospects of the country's youth.

Other disappointments are revealed as the Committee moves on to implementation of various schemes. Major reviews and reports such as this raise issues that a Committee meeting part-time for a relatively short period cannot address fully. To put it another way, the Report provides a first attempt at the principles which should inform the design of our higher-educational yellow-brick-road. But the plans for building the road would give us a very bumpy ride indeed. What we need now are expert assessors of the principles, and people who can plan and build the sort of yellow-brick-road this country deserves.

MARY O'KANE

## COMMENTARY

### ORWELL, UMBERTO ECO, AND THE MAI

I trust it is not a habit unique to myself to experience a very good feeling on the sighting or hearing of certain words—for example, humanitarianism, civilisation, impartial judgement, restitution. Some words that refer to one or another aspect of human morality have historical associations so sweeping and so beneficial that there is an automatic reaction of pleasure or contentment when one encounters them.

Consider, on a less exalted plane, the following four terms: non-discrimination, dispute resolution, transparency, and harmonisation. The first three are readily equatable with, respectively, the twentieth-century experience of the civil rights movement, the discovery of ways of avoiding war or other violence, and the demand for government behaviour to occur in the sunshine, rather than in secret. "Harmonisation" is a bit harder to link to a particular social experience but in music it connotes a pleasant blend of the parts within the whole.

The MAI—Multilateral Agreement on Investment—conjured up in Paris by the OECD makes major use of the terms non-discrimination, dispute resolution, transparency, and harmonisation. But these now signify something different from their usual associations. Non-discrimination, instead of meaning "let's be fair to every person equally" (or even "let's overcome our bad habit of demeaning the humble") now means "let's give the Fortune 500 a fair go". Seriously. In the proposed treaty, non-discrimination means no nation should commit the abominable deed of erecting a barrier to foreign investment. Even a town council that has a policy of favouring the employment of locals is seen to be in need of some kind of enlightenment here. They should stop discriminating. The OECD will see to it that they do. Any government that signs the MAI (have sheep ever gone so merrily to slaughter?) will be prohibited from "discriminating".

The next term, dispute resolution, has undergone an even more radical change. What does the phrase connote to you? Perhaps balance? compromise? justice? Well, here's what it connotes to the Paris Twenty-Nine. A corporation that is unhappy with (or let's say, feels oppressed by) a host-government, can take that government before a tribunal. Will this be the ICJ—the International Court of Justice (which has so far permitted only states to bring action)? No. Will it be the domestic courts? No. It is a new tribunal. The wording is, "The tribunal may award pecuniary compensation for any loss or damage to the requesting Party's investor or investment ... Tribunal awards shall be final and binding."

These tribunals have to do with the greatly extended concept of a foreign corporation's right to be compensated if new legislation, such as environmental protection, causes them to lose out on future profits. According to Robert Howse and Jonathan Feldman of the University of Toronto Law Faculty (are you sitting down?), "The arbitration rules that apply to investor-state dispute settlement under the MAI contemplate a secret process, where neither the pleadings ... nor the reasons for decisions are public unless permitted by both parties."

As for the word transparency, it has not undergone

by  
**Mary Maxwell**  
Graduate, Politics Department

such a redefinition as non-discrimination and dispute resolution, since the original was never very emotional anyway. To be transparent is to be stripped of

one's tricks and deceptions. Because the MAI has to do with an almost impenetrable area—foreign investment (think of the tax loopholes known only to corporate accountants), it might be expected that a new transparency is being urged here. Wrong. All states are now to be open about their regulations (no bad thing), but there is no comparable requirement for the investors. Indeed, the MAI is a remarkable contract, being entirely one-sided. It issues privileges to transnational corporations and demands nothing in return.

Finally, then, to harmonisation. To hear the OECD hold forth on this is to be reminded of the Australian heroine in Frank Moorhouse's succulent novel *Grand Days*. One of her first disappointments of working for the League of Nations consisted of facing the fact that Britain and Europe were never going to harmonise their traffic rules because Brits were not going to give up (even for "world peace") their driving on the left-side. Still, the MAI writers have more clout than the League of Nations: they could succeed in bringing "harmony". For this, they need not persuade states to make new laws, but only to get rid of laws. To harmonise by deregulation is the sublime goal. The point of the globalised economy is, after all, to break down those irritating state obstructions.

Perhaps we need a new Orwell to deal with this on-beyond-Newspeak. Italian semiotician Umberto Eco, in his book of political essays *Faith in Fakes*, recommends that we who are on the receiving end of coded messages must simply practise decoding them. The Africans have already found a way to decode SAPs (Structural Adjustment Policies): they call SAP "suffering African people". Whenever the IMF orders structural adjustment, it tells the state to diminish itself. National industries must be privatised; subsidies need to be cut, exports must be emphasised, and so forth. The budget for health and education (the "real" investment) is slashed. Maternal deaths in childbirth reportedly doubled in Harare when fees for hospital admissions were introduced under Zimbabwe's structural adjustment. (See Kevin Danaher's *Fifty Years is Enough*.)

I recommend we decode "MAI" to reveal its main purpose—the Maximum Avoidance of Irritants: the irritants being laws, states, cultures and, in the final analysis, people. More importantly, I recommend that we prevent the global economisers from expanding into the space of our emotional and moral language by occupying it, ourselves, with that with which it is supposed to be occupied.

Let's chat up "humanitarianism" and "civilisation" before these, too, get overlain with some pathetic and disgusting new definition.

• Mary Maxwell earned her PhD in Politics at the University of Adelaide. Her speciality is the sociobiology of international behaviour. She was one of three speakers on the subject of the MAI at a meeting of the Australian Institute of International Affairs at the University on Wednesday 15 April.



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# Western thinking meets world's oldest science in first-time course offering

WILTO YERLO, the University of Adelaide's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander program, is providing students with a unique opportunity to study one of the world's oldest sciences.

Students in the Wilto Yerlo Foundation Science Course are for the first time this year being offered the subject "Indigenous Australian Perspectives in Science and Technology". The subject provides students with the chance to learn from Indigenous teachers who are highly skilled and knowledgeable about "traditional sciences" such as bush medicine, tracking by the stars, and environmental management.

Lecturer Ms Natalie Harkin says the subject provides a unique opportunity for Wilto Yerlo students to learn about scientific research and knowledge outside of the dominant Western ways of thinking.

"At Wilto Yerlo we believe it is important that Indigenous students realise Western science is only one way of understanding the natural world. Of equal value is their own Indigenous way of knowing the world," Ms Harkin said.

"Colonisation and the impact this has had on Indigenous communities has meant that many Indigenous students do not have the opportunity to learn from their traditional elders. Through this course, we all have the privilege of learning from those who are experts in their field.

"At the same time we develop an understanding and respect for this very old, yet still very relevant way of knowing the natural world," she said.

Indigenous Australian Perspectives in Science and Technology begins at the end of April. The subject is taught at the University's North Terrace campus, but an essential

part of the course involves learning which takes place outside of the class room.

Wilto Yerlo science students travel to Central Australia on a field trip where they meet with elders from the Anangu-Pitjantjatjara lands. These elders share with students some of their traditional knowledge such as tracking by the stars and collecting and using bush medicines.

The field trip also includes a visit to the Centre for Appropriate Technology in Alice Springs where students test some of the technical equipment that has been specifically designed for use in remote Aboriginal communities.

On the final stage of the trip

students visit Uluru and meet with the traditional owners of the land, from the Mutijulu community. At Uluru they learn about the joint management of the National Park by the traditional owners and National Parks and Wildlife.

"This shows students it is possible for traditional and Western knowledge to come together in a way that is mutually beneficial," Ms Harkin said. "We want students to value their own culture but to see also that the new skills and knowledge they are learning through university study can be used in a way that will benefit Indigenous people".

—Sonja Kurtzer

## National Science Week is here

HIGH SCHOOL students and the general public will have the opportunity to learn more about this unique subject at the University of Adelaide during National Science Week. On 8 May, Wilto Yerlo will present a series of short, illustrated lectures on traditional Indigenous scientific knowledge, including displays of bush medicines, fire lighting, bush food tastings and hands-on activities.

Bookings are essential and can be made through Wilto Yerlo on freecall 1800 651 763, or 8303 3623. Session times are 9.30 & 11.30am, and 1.30 and 3.30pm.

This event is one of several happening at the University of Adelaide during National Science Week from 4-8 May. Other activities include: lectures on the life and work of Howard Florey,

Dinosaurs in the Movies, and Gravity Waves; a showcase of science, engineering and technology careers; and tours of the Waite Campus laboratories.

The Investigator Centre at Wayville also has a range of events during the week, including sessions on the wonderful world of music technology in the recently-opened and University-supported SoundHouse.

Neighbouring institutions such as the Adelaide Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Art Gallery and South Australian Museum will also be active during Science Week. On 3-4 May, the Museum will open the doors to the State's natural science laboratories, workshops and collections, giving people the chance to explore behind the scenes and learn how the Museum researches, collects, interprets and preserves our natural heritage. Admission is free.



Members of the Vice-Chancellor's Committee with Sepang Institute of Technology senior management and the University's Academic Director for the S-I-T program watch a welcoming lion dance during the VCC's visit to S-I-T on Tuesday 31 March. The visit was part of a three-day familiarisation trip to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore. The VCC also met with colleagues from Universiti Putra Malaysia, the Ngee Ann Education Centre in Singapore, and alumni from Malaysia and Singapore.

## Interactive CD-ROM

From Page 1

"The CD-ROM technique will replace animal tissue-based learning with high quality demonstrations, using redundant human abdominal tissue excised at 'tummy tuck' operations," he explained.

"Last year, NEAMS also awarded a grant to a doctor in Melbourne for teaching development work using video presentations in a similar field. It is possible that the team here in Adelaide could collaborate with him on the CD-ROM, and we would encourage such a collaboration."

—David Ellis

## Video on demand

From Page 1

"We have no doubt that this new technology will greatly benefit students and staff alike."

Ms Jones said the Faculty of Arts has recognised the need to upgrade its computer facilities some years ago.

The Arts Information Technology Committee, convened by Dr Kingsley Garbett, had consulted widely on the effective use and planned use of Information Technology in teaching and research.

A demonstration of video on demand technology will be held on Thursday, 30 April. Staff interested in attending should contact Doone Jones on ext. 33394.

—David Ellis

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### LIBRARY DIRECTOR ON BOOKS

The Friends of the State Library's "Books in My Life" series continues on Wednesday 6 May with guest speaker Robyn Collins, director of the State Library since November last year.

Robyn Collins came to South Australia from Tasmania, where she had been Director of the Tasmanian State Library. Before that she was Chief Librarian of Logan City Libraries in Queensland. She was a founding director of Jam Roll Press, a small publishing house specialising in books for children.

Institute Building, North Terrace, 1.00pm. Admission \$5 (\$3 concession and Friends of State Library).

### INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE SECONDMENT

The Barr Smith Library's Stephen Cramond has been seconded to the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC) in the position of Executive Officer, Information Infrastructure Liaison.

The position will support international collaboration among the communities involved in higher education information infrastructure and also develop the collaborative agreement announced in 1997 between the UK Joint Information Systems Council (JISC) and the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL).

Areas identified for collaborative activity include consortium purchasing and licensing of commercial databases, cooperative subject-based gateways to Internet resources, mirroring of datasets, and user authentication and authorisation.

Funding for the opposition was made available through the National Priority [Reserve] Grant Fund for Library Infrastructure.

Stephen Cramond will be seconded to the AVCC until early 1999. He is based at the Barr Smith Library.

### ENVIRONMENTAL POLITICS

Dr Tim Doyle from the Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies, and the Professor of Politics, Doug McEachern, have published a new study of environmental politics in the Routledge "Introductions to Environment" series. The book was launched by Emeritus Professor Hugh Stretton at Unibooks on 14 April.

The book is intended as an introduction to environmental politics, explaining key concepts, conflicts, political systems and practices of policy-making, and drawing on a wide range of examples from around the world.

Areas examined include institutions such as parliaments, non-government organisations and social movements, the business sector and international ecopolitics.

*Environment and Politics* is available from Unibooks (rrp \$29.95).

### GEOLOGIST HONOURED

The petroleum industry has recently given a posthumous honour to the former director of the National Centre for Petroleum Geology & Geophysics, Dr Bill Stuart.

Dr Stuart, who died in 1996, was awarded the Lewis G Weeks Memorial Gold Medal. It is the industry's highest award.



# Alumni Medallist to share spotlight with father

FATHER AND SON combination Ian and Anthony Dick have a number of reasons to celebrate at this year's graduation ceremonies.

Not only will they share the stage in Bonython Hall to receive their degrees, Anthony will also receive one of the University of Adelaide's most prestigious awards—the Alumni University Medal.

Established by the Alumni Association in 1992, the medal is awarded to one Honours student each year in recognition of their academic excellence. Mr Dick achieved first-class Honours in Mathematics & Computer Science.

His Honours project was a study of "computer vision", using digital cameras and specialised software normally used for aerial photography.

"If you had two overhead images of, say, a mountain range, this program is able to reconstruct that mountain range in three dimensions.

"I was more interested in looking at human faces, getting the computer to reconstruct the shape of a face from the images it sees through the digital

cameras," Mr Dick said.

"The idea behind this is to get computers to infer a 3D environment from a 2D one, which would allow robots with camera eyes to navigate around rooms, for example."

Mr Dick said although the Honours project was a lot of hard work, he enjoyed the freedom that working in a research lab enabled him. His work in computer science also came as an unexpected pleasure, he said.

"Before I went to university I hadn't done any computer programming or anything like that. I'd used a word processor a couple of times and that was about it, really. At school, maths was my favourite subject and so that's what I focused on at uni.

"But since computer science is closely linked to maths, I did half maths and half computer science. When my Honours came around, I decided to go with computer science."

As well as receiving the Alumni Medal, Mr Dick is one of 13 students to be awarded a University Medal for academic excellence (see p.5).

*Continued on Page 5*



Father and son graduates Anthony and Ian Dick—both to be at same ceremony on Monday 27 April.  
Photo: David Ellis

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Linedlight ACTA091

## Affirmative Action Forum a success

HAS EQUALITY for women in the workplace been achieved? Is affirmative action working for women or could it work better? Will Australia abolish affirmative action and does it matter? How do you measure the benefits of affirmative action to the community?

These were some of the questions considered by a group of 80 people who attended a forum on affirmative action organised by the Equal Opportunity units of the three South Australian universities earlier this month.

The Affirmative Action (Equal Employment Opportunity for Women) Act is currently being reviewed by a committee appointed by the Commonwealth government. The forum—bringing together views from the universities, the private sector and the unions—was held to stimulate debate and encourage people to lodge submissions.

The speakers—Assoc. Professor Eleanor Ramsay (University of South Australia), Assoc. Professor Carol Bacchi (University of Adelaide), Ms Max Adlam (Australian Manufacturing Workers Union) and Ms Judith Sellick (CPS Credit Union)—all supported continuation of the legislation from their different perspectives. There was also comment about the problematic context

in which the review has been framed.

The forum generated a high level of energy and commitment by participants and the message was loud and clear:

- equality for women in the workplace has not been achieved
- affirmative action legislation has produced significant benefits for women, organisations, and the community
- the Affirmative Action Act must be maintained to build on the gains made
- accreditation and other incentives should be considered to encourage better compliance and reward good practice
- penalties for non-compliance should be maintained and strengthened.

Speakers' papers are available at: <<http://www.unisa.edu.au/eqo/projects/review.htm>>. A copy of the forum proceedings can be obtained from the EO Office (8303 5962) or email <[jcopeland@vco.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:jcopeland@vco.adelaide.edu.au)>.

The closing date for submissions to the review of the Affirmative Action Act is 28 April. The issues paper for the review is on the web at <<http://www.dwrsb.gov.au>>.

—Jane Copeland

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# Biometrics team aims to ‘get the design right’

A COLLABORATIVE GROUP aimed at enhancing the research abilities of the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Research & Development Institute (SARDI) has been established at the Waite Research Precinct.

Called Biometrics South Australia, the group is unique in Australia, representing a pooling of resources by the University of Adelaide and SARDI. Of the cooperative group, three staff are from the University's Faculty of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences and three staff are from SARDI. The director is Dr Ari Verbyla, who was seconded from the Department of Statistics to head the group.

Biometrics is statistics applied to the agricultural, biological and environmental sciences. BiometricsSA assists researchers and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resource Sciences and SARDI with the design and analysis of experiments and surveys.

“There are many major agricultural, biological and environmental studies being conducted at the Waite campus and throughout South Australia.

“Our main role is to enhance those research efforts, to consult and collaborate with scientists, postgraduate students and Honours students, to help ensure they obtain sound scientific results,” said Dr Verbyla.

The first stage of the process is to help in the design of experiments.

“Getting the design right is probably the most crucial part of any study,” said Dr Verbyla.

“Scientists require an experiment which is designed to allow for, and hence remove, the extraneous variation which can hide or confound the effects of interest. That’s essentially what we do—we try to allow for the variation and get to the core of the issue. If the design’s not correct, researchers may not be able to extract the effects they’re interested in.”

An example of this is a field trial of wheat varieties. The design of the experiment will take into consideration spatial variation in the field, competition for resources, and the balanced placement of the wheat varieties planted.

Once an experiment or survey is completed, BiometricsSA can assist researchers with the statistical analysis, which includes a detailed report.

“We’re trying to push the level of analysis up to a very high standard, using modern methods to extract maximum information,” Dr Verbyla said.

“In addition, it is crucial to provide a report to scientists and students, which includes an explanation of the method of analysis. Because the mathematical and statistical models we’re using can be complex, we need to convey the basic ideas and principles to the people who are utilising our services.



The BiometricsSA team (from left): biometricians/consultants Helena Oakey, Michelle Lorimar and Debra Partington, senior lecturer Trevor Hancock and director Ari Verbyla. Not pictured: Kathy Haskard and Colleen Hunt. Photo: Jennie Groom, ETU, Waite.

“Our group is comprised of uniformly excellent staff, we have a state-of-the-art computer network (both PC and Unix) and a wide range of statistical software packages. We’re very well placed to be able to help agricultural, biological and environmental scientists in their research efforts, and the

response so far to our work has been tremendous,” he said.

-David Ellis

For more information about BiometricsSA, contact Dr Ari Verbyla on (08) 8303 6760.

## Alumni Medallist in spotlight with father

From Page 4

He has also begun his PhD in computer science, continuing work into the field of computer vision.

While Anthony’s family will be celebrating his success, they will also be applauding the efforts of his father, Mr Ian Dick, who will graduate at the same ceremony (Monday, 27 April) as a Master of Engineering Science in Materials Welding & Joining.

Mr Dick first graduated from the University of Adelaide with a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1969. Having spent more than 25 years specialising in electronics and scientific instrumentation design with the CSIRO, he returned to the university to gain qualifications in welding and metallurgy.

“The CRC for Materials Welding & Joining offered a Graduate Diploma which involved basic metallurgy right through to welding engineering, so I decided to apply for it and was accepted into the first intake of that course. Halfway through the course I was offered the opportunity of converting to a Masters by the addition of a thesis, so I decided to go for it,” he said.

Mr Dick’s thesis focused on safety issues surrounding the use of industrial welding equipment.

“It’s an important topic in that there are several people in Australia killed every year by contact with welding power supplies. And it’s not widely known that a person can be electrocuted in this way,” he said.

His thesis examined the number of electrocution incidents, how they occur, and how they can be prevented. This included a detailed study of the kinds of protective clothing used by industrial welders and their effectiveness under sweat absorption conditions.

The thesis also explored the relatively recent field of voltage reducing devices (VRDs), which automatically guard the welder from electrocution. These are important because they offer protection regardless of the work environment or the state of protective clothing.

“Shipyards and mines are the two most dangerous work environments for welders. Mines because

you’re underground and you’ve got hot and wet working conditions to contend with; shipping because you’re welding in a vessel surrounded by metal, which is connected to the return of the welder, so it’s easy to connect yourself across the source.”

Mr Dick said he was looking forward to graduating with his son, which would be a proud moment for him and his family.

“I think it’s great. Anthony’s done extremely well. He’s always been bright, and I think one of the most important things for me is that he really enjoys his studies. It’s very pleasing for the whole family to see him succeed,” Mr Dick said.

—David Ellis

### University Medals

THIRTEEN of the University of Adelaide’s top graduates will be awarded the University Medal for academic excellence at this month’s commemoration ceremonies.

The recipients, by Division, are:

*Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences*

Julian Grubb – BAgSc (Oen) (Hons)  
Tara Hage – BEnvMan (NRM) (Hons)

*Humanities and Social Sciences*

Rachel Buxton – BA (Hons)  
John Byron – BA (Hons)

*Health Sciences*

George Atsikbasis – BDS  
Anna Neldner – MB BS (Hons)

*Engineering and Mathematical Sciences*

Adrian Querzoli – BE (Chem) (Hons)  
Anthony Dick – BSc (Ma & CSc) (Hons)

*PALACE (Performing Arts, Law, Architecture & Urban Design, Economics & Commerce)*

Brenton Goldsworthy – BEc (Hons)  
Joanna Rees – BArch (Hons)  
Elisa Holmes – LLB (Hons)

*Science*

Lisa Gale – BSc (Hons)  
William Detmold – BSc (Hons)

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# Michell Professor champions clinical research

THE NEWLY-APPOINTED Michell Professor of Medicine, Richard Ruffin, wants to add a new agenda item to the public debate on hospital funding—and that is the pivotal role of clinical research in improving the lives of patients.

Professor Ruffin, a specialist in thoracic medicine, says the effect of funding cut-backs on clinical research—and therefore patients—has never been properly evaluated.

"Bureaucracy sees research as expensive," he says.

"But we lose sight of the fact that people work in teaching hospitals in order to look at ways to improve treatments and develop new ones. I don't think the effect of losing some of that has been evaluated."

Professor Ruffin, who took up the University post at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital this year, says he will take a leadership role in promoting research, particularly collaborative projects.

He has established a track record in clinical research in respiratory medicine, particularly in relation to the prevention and treatment of asthma and smoking-induced lung disease.

In relation to asthma, he has been active in clinical trials of two new classes of drugs as well as a range of epidemiological studies of the prevalence of asthma, patterns of management, and attitudes and beliefs of patients about their condition over time.

His work with asthma patients dovetails with his work on smoking-induced lung disease. In one respect, the two diseases link in a strange way.

Professor Ruffin's work indicates that asthma-related deaths, particularly in the over-60 age group, have been over-estimated by up to 50%.

"In South Australia in 1996, there were five (asthma) deaths in the under-60 age group, and 31 deaths in the over-60 group," he says. "I bet my bottom dollar that at least half of those in the over 60 group did not die of

asthma but of smoking-induced lung disease."

Why? Mostly because of the stigma attached to smoking. "Patients (with smoking-induced lung disease) will often use the word asthma to describe their condition," Professor Ruffin says.

Smoking-induced lung disease—also known as emphysema—is an extremely disabling disease which affects about one-third of all smokers. In 1996, over 500 South Australians died from emphysema.

"The end stage of the disease, where you can't get enough breath, is a disastrous existence," he says.

In order to stave off this stage as long as possible, Professor Ruffin has been trialling a new surgical procedure which involves removing the diseased part of the lung. This "lung volume reduction surgery" is a new technique which allows the diaphragm greater movement, thus improving the intake of air into the lungs. Previously, there was no surgical procedure available.

Although the trial is in its early stages, the results so far have been impressive.

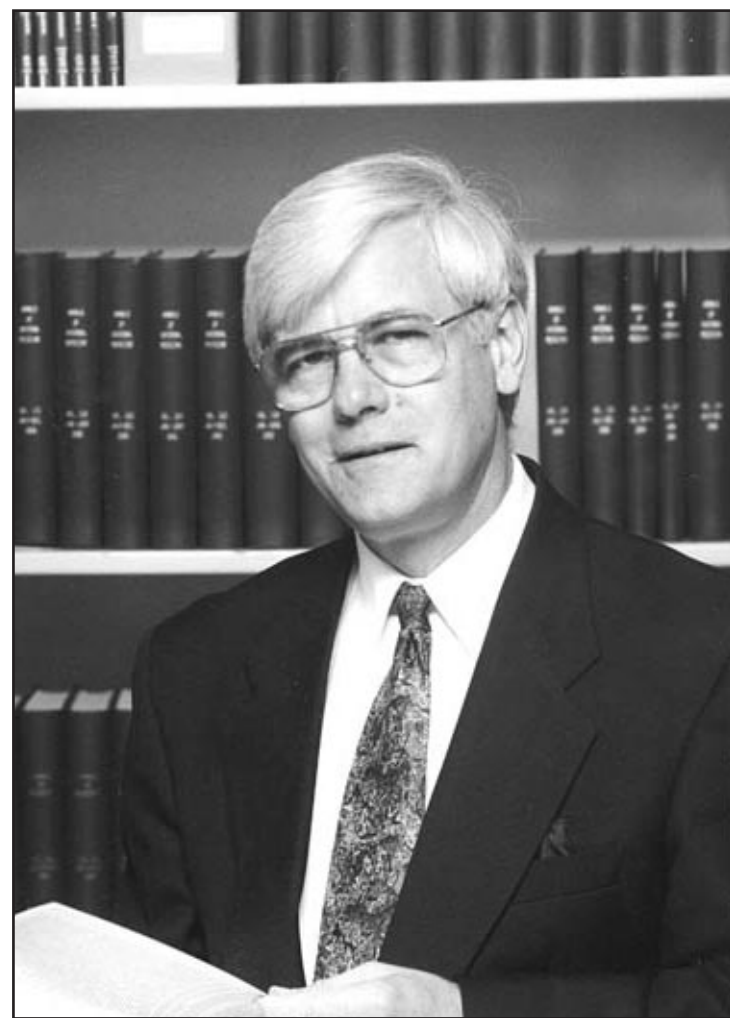
"On average there's been a 50% improvement in lung function. Patients say the operation takes them back to where they were four to eight years previously."

This means a significant improvement in lifestyle for people whose severely reduced lung capacity means they often struggle to do normal tasks such as walking to the shops or working in the garden.

Naturally, Professor Ruffin takes a keen interest in campaigns to reduce smoking. He says the smoking rate had stopped falling and had reached a plateau, indicating that a new approach is needed.

He believes the best approach is to involve smokers in developing a co-ordinated plan to stop smoking. This plan should involve some cost to the patient, as a sign of their commitment.

"People must make some



Professor Richard Ruffin. Photo: Clinical Photography, TQEH.

contribution—we shouldn't be giving away free nicotine patches. Paying money shows a degree of commitment."

Apart from his wide range of research interests, Professor Ruffin also plans to take a leadership role in teaching.

He is involved with a network of respiratory physicians which has developed an interactive computer program for teaching medical students about respiratory medicine, particularly treatment of asthma.

This is partly a response to reduced hospital funding which has meant that medical education must be delivered in a more innovative fashion.

"The old style of students coming to a hospital and being able to learn everything here doesn't work any more," he says.

"Hospitals are more involved in ambulatory care—there isn't such a big captive core of patients any

more.

"The days when patients came into hospital to lie down in a bed are over. For example, the ward down below had 32 beds and just two toilets (meaning people were cared for in their beds). Now, the first objective is to get people mobile.

"This requires a change in architecture—a change in thinking. But a lot of the changes (in hospitals) are happening so rapidly that there isn't time to evaluate their effects."

Professor Ruffin sees management of clinical education in the face of these sorts of changes as a key part of his role.

Educated in Melbourne, Professor Ruffin was last year appointed Head of the Division of Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. From 1990 to 1997 he was Director of the Respiratory Medicine Unit at the hospital.

—David Washington

## Germany-Adelaide degree

From Page 1

The Rector (Vice-Chancellor) of the University of Mannheim, Professor Dr Peter Frankenberg, visited Adelaide last month to officially sign the course agreement with University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane. He was accompanied by the Deputy Rector, Professor Dr Eibe Riedel, who was previously Dean of the Law School at Mannheim.

"This joint Masters degree represents a continuation and a deepening of the close ties between Adelaide and Mannheim," said the University of Adelaide's Dean of Law, Associate Professor Rob Fowler. "It is, in its joint structure, the first arrangement of its kind for an Australian Law school."

—David Ellis



News

• 5UV/5MBS recently made a major move into digital operation with the installation of a Novation operating system. The new technology allows producers to record, edit and play to air material all 'on-line'. In addition, all the legal 'logging' requirements of the station are carried out automatically. The system will facilitate the station loading programming into 'on-line' audio archives on the web.

• 5UV has facilities for recording all types of music performance. Contact Jeff Langdon at the station if you want to be recorded.

• The third in our series of sampler CDs is about to be released. This project allows emerging South Australian musicians to receive promotion on community radio stations throughout the country.



# Architecture and Planning Chapter: call for more alumni involvement

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SOME YEARS AGO, an Architecture and Planning Chapter of the Alumni Association was inaugurated. Several hundred graduates and their partners travelled from various parts of Australia to celebrate the occasion in the Bonython Hall with a dinner and an evening of entertainment. Since then, a number of informal reunions and other activities have taken place. However, for a variety of reasons it has been difficult to establish a viable committee of interested people to initiate and coordinate activities.

It should be stressed that the activities of the Chapter are not intended to compete with those of the professional associations to which architects and planners may belong. On the other hand there may be

occasions when collaboration between the Alumni, the Faculty and the professional organisations would be beneficial to all.

An example of this is the forthcoming Evening of Victoriana on 26 May at Ayers House. This event is being organised by the Cornell Chapter in collaboration with the Architecture Chapter, with the cooperation of the Elder Conservatorium and the Royal Australian Institute of Architects SA Chapter.

Being part of the Architecture and Planning Chapter offers the following benefits to members:

- fellowship among graduates of the University of Adelaide
- networking among people from other disciplines

- access to information about a wide range of University activities
- access to library and sporting facilities
- access to social and intellectual activities arranged by the Alumni Association and its various Chapters.

The Architecture and Planning Chapter is looking for graduates who are willing to become involved with its organisation and planning of activities. Anyone interested should contact Albert Gillissen, trustee for Architecture and Planning, at Aldinga Beach on (08) 8556 3702.

—Albert Gillissen  
Trustee: Architecture and Planning

## An evening of Victoriana

THE CORNELL CHAPTER and the Architecture and Planning Chapter jointly invite all enthusiasts of the Victorian era to an “Evening of Victoriana” at Ayers House, one of Adelaide’s most splendid nineteenth century homes.

Enjoy a three course meal with wines, Victorian drawing room music for voices, flute and piano, and an address on the architecture of nineteenth century Adelaide by distinguished architectural historian Brian Andrews.

Tuesday 26 May, at 7:30pm. \$50 per person. Period dress may be worn.

Bookings and enquiries: Ms Kinga Gasiorowski at Alumni House, telephone 8303 4275. The Alumni Office accepts cheque or Visa Card/Mastercard/Bankcard; cash payments may be made in person at Alumni House.

## Leonardo da Vinci Chapter Newsflash

ALUMNI ARE INVITED to participate in an exciting Cultural Grand Tour of Italy from 6 September to 5 October 1998 under the auspices of the University of the Third Age.

From Venice to Sicily and the Lipari Islands, this 29 day tour is designed to take you to well known tourist spots and to other historical and natural treasures waiting to be rediscovered. For an all-inclusive cost of approximately \$7,000 you will receive a return flight to Rome, valid for one year, three or four star twin share accommodation, breakfasts and all evening meals, and the enlightening commentaries of your escort Gennaro del Vecchio, eminent historian, hagiographer and member of the Leonardo da Vinci committee.

Further enquiries: Gennaro del Vecchio, tel 8276 6923; Bice Della-Putta (Chaper Vice-President), tel 8269 6464; Ruth Walsh Travel, tel 8231 7480, fax 8212 4877.

## Walking tour of historic Gilberton

THE AREA which is now Gilberton was purchased in England by Richard Blundell, a proprietor of the South Australia Company. In 1839, he was found guilty of embezzlement and sentenced to transportation for 7-14 years. By 1846 the land had passed to Joseph Gilbert, after whom the area is named. Gilbert did not live in the area but gradually released land for subdivision.

Local historian Diana Roberts will lead a walking tour of the historic residential suburb of Gilberton on Sunday 17 May at 11:00am. The tour will take about an hour and a

half, finishing in good time to enjoy lunch at one of the cafes or hotels in Walkerville.

The tour will compare old and new developments in Gilberton. Places of interest to be visited include a number of private houses, public facilities, and entertainments of yesterday and today.

Numbers are limited, but there are plenty of places left. Please call the Alumni Office on 8303 4275 to make your booking. Alumni will meet at the Walkerville Town Hall. Please make your own arrangements for lunch.

## Mutual Community travel grants

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is pleased to invited applications from doctoral students for its second round of Mutual Community Travel Grants.

The Travel Grants have been established through the successful program developed between the Alumni Association and Mutual Community, through which hundreds of alumni have been able to play an active role in raising

funds to support students.

Application forms and guidelines are available from the Alumni Office: telephone 8303 3196 or email [aeccles@registry.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:aeccles@registry.adelaide.edu.au).

Two grants are available, each of \$2,500, to assist doctoral students in travelling to present work at a conference or to visit other institutions to learn particular techniques germane to their work.

## Public Health honour

ADELAIDE GRADUATE Dr Kerry Kirke (MBBS 1964, MD 1971) won the 1997 Award for Leadership in Public Health given by the SA Executive of the Public Health Association of Australia.

The award recognises a public health practitioner who has demonstrated particular excellence and leadership in the field.

Dr Kirke is currently Executive Director of the Anti-Cancer Foundation, a post which he took up at the beginning of this year. He was previously head of the South Australian Health Commission’s Public and Environmental Health Service.

The South Australian PHA has also introduced “The Kerry Kirke Award”. This will be presented annually to a postgraduate student for excellence in an aspect of Public Health in South Australia.

## AFUW BREAKFAST CLUB

The Australian Federation of University Women SA Inc invites all women to take an interest in its Breakfast Club, which meets at the Students in Training Cafe at the Adelaide Institute of TAFE, Currie Street, on the first Monday of the month.

Enquiries should be directed to Judith Francis: telephone 8201 2601 or email [<Judith.Francis@flinders.edu.au>](mailto:<Judith.Francis@flinders.edu.au>).

### GUIDED CAMPUS TOURS

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# PERFORMING ARTS

## ON CAMPUS

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# Jazz best to strut their stuff

**THE BEST** of Adelaide's emerging jazz artists can be heard on Thursday 7 May in the Elder Conservatorium's Second Jazz Awards Concert.

Eight jazz musicians from the Conservatorium's Jazz course were chosen top of their class for 1997—and for the second time Adelaide businesses have awarded cash prizes for their endeavours.

The awards were donated by dB Magazine, John Davis Records, John Reynolds Music City, AUSMUSIC, B Sharp Records, Jazz Action and the Helpmann Academy.

The winning performers are John McDermott (drums), Julian Ferraretto (violin), James Atkinson (bass), Lucas Kennedy (drums), Jason Slack (guitar), Sheree Dunford (piano), Adrian Whitehead (saxophone) and Natalie Ruiz (voice).

For two of the students, it's their second win in a row. They are Julian Ferraretto and John McDermott, who will receive awards for Most Outstanding Undergraduate and Postgraduate, respectively.

Two others won't be able to attend the awards night, because they are busy performing professionally—James Atkinson is on a world-wide Hard Rock Café tour, while Lucas Kennedy is with a Royal Navy band.

The Jazz course concert manager for 1998 is saxophone lecturer Dustan Cox, who was a guest artist at last year's awards concert.

"This is the beginning of my second year here and I heard all these students play when I first arrived and was amazed at the level of ability. Now to hear how they've progressed a year later, and to see

two returning winners in the awards, is even more outstanding.

"And, it's wonderful to have return sponsorship from the business sector, especially in this age of budget cuts for the arts," he said.

The program for the Jazz Awards Concert will feature classic compositions by Thelonius Monk and Billy Strayhorn as well as original compositions by the award winners.

The prizes will be presented by Dr Anita Donaldson, Dean of Performing Arts.

• **Thursday 7 May, at 8pm, Scott Theatre. Tickets \$8 (\$5 concession) at the door. (Students from Helpmann Academy partners admitted free).**

# Music meets technology in Investigator SoundHouse



Just two of the many students who've enjoyed the hands-on experience of composing their own music at the Investigator SoundHouse. Photo by Lorna Parker.

**KIDS** can become composers at the new SoundHouse based at the Investigator Science & Technology Centre, Wayville.

Sponsored by the University of Adelaide, the SoundHouse is a hands-on multimedia music technology centre which enables school students to compose, record and perform their own music.

SoundHouse is an international program aimed at developing young people's awareness of the musical possibilities of combining music and technology.

It gives everyone the chance to make music at their own pace and in their own way, regardless of their experience or expertise.

In the SoundHouse, and in the University of Adelaide's new Discovery Lab at the Investigator Centre, kids can work with keyboards and computers to create their own new sounds.

The interface with computers allows them to produce compositions of their very own and record them on tape to take home.

But it's not just young people who are making use of the SoundHouse—more and more adults, community groups, music students and teachers are becoming attuned to the wide range of learning experiences.

"The benefit of introducing anyone to music and computer technology is that they grow with

it," said Investigator Centre education coordinator Ms Lorna Parker.

"They can soon compose music, using up to 16 tracks and more, learn editing functions and how to record onto a cassette.

"They also learn how to print a musical score of their compositions. This is another experience that can introduce technology in a user friendly and fun way."

The University of Adelaide's musical connection with the Investigator Centre doesn't end there.

Over the past two weeks, groups of students from the University's Elder Conservatorium have been performing live music concerts at the Investigator.

The performances, often in front of large crowds visiting the centre during the school holidays, served to highlight the centenary of the Elder Conservatorium to the wider community.

As part of a two-day music technology course run by the Investigator, one group of young people was also treated to a tour of the Conservatorium.

The students were shown the many teaching and practising areas of the 100-year-old Conservatorium. They also attended a lunchtime piano concert performed by Lance Dossor.

—David Ellis

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**GLENELG BEACHSIDE:** Person wanted to share furn unit with mature female. 2 mins walk to transport. \$80 pw. Ph Natalie 8295 4643.

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**NORTH ADELAIDE:** Delightful heritage-listed stone & brick row cottage in

quiet cul-de-sac on parklands frontage. Furn if required, 1 br + sofa bed, off street parking. Short or long term, rent neg. Ph/fax Tim Simpson 8267 5786 or email: <asa@adelaide.edu.au>.

**NORTH ADELAIDE:** Lge, air cond bedroom overlooking parklands available in 2 br maisonette. Off street parking. \$95 pw + share exp. Ph/fax Tim Simpson 8267 5786 or email: <asa@adelaide.edu.au>.

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**COMPUTERS:** Apple Macintosh SEs, includes keyboard and mouse. \$50 ea. Ph Alex 8356 3925.

**FIREWOOD:** Norfolk pine, pine, gum. \$150 the lot or

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## DEPARTMENTAL

**TENDER:** Ford Falcon sedan 1995, auto, 56,500km, white, ABS, air cond, immobiliser, driver's airbag, floor mats, headlight protectors, mudflaps. VSP 273. Inspection Friday 1 May, 9.30-10.30am, ph P Kempster 37402. Tenders in a sealed envelope marked Tender No W270 to the Purchasing Manager, Waite Campus by Thursday 7 May 1998.

## MISCELLANEOUS

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