

# Adelaidean

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News from Adelaide University

May 2001

I N S I D E



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3-14 May  
special edition



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## Unsung hero wields weapons of cold steel

ADELAIDE University researcher Gil Hollamby has been named this year's **Unsung Hero of South Australian Science**.

The **Unsung Hero** award is one of the features of National Science Week. The annual award is made by the Australian Science Communicators (SA) to a scientist whose work has not received adequate public recognition.

The recipient is also chosen as one who has shown a respect for science communication and actively promoted the benefits of science to individuals and society at large.

In announcing the award, Mr Robert Perrin, coordinator of the South Australian Science Communicators, paid tribute to Associate Professor Hollamby's achievements.

Associate Professor Hollamby leads the wheat breeding research team at Adelaide University's Roseworthy Campus.

Since his appointment as Assistant Plant Breeder in 1961 he has released major new wheat varieties such as Spear, Machete, Trident and Excalibur, bred specifically to grow in the dry Mediterranean agricultural environments of South Australia.

More recently, Mr Hollamby's expertise has been called on for breeding experiments in Western Australia. The breeding of plant varieties requires scientific rigour, long-term planning and innovation, with conventional breeding considered to be the origin of modern molecular marker and genetic engineering technology.

Mr Hollamby said he was "proud to represent the Australian wheat breeding community by bringing to the fore the



Associate Professor Gil Hollamby with a crop of cross-pollinating wheat at Roseworthy.

important work they do".

"I'm very humbled that someone has chosen me as this representative, and I'm proud to be able to represent my colleagues in our wheat breeding team at Roseworthy," he said.

"I didn't think of wheat breeders as being unsung heroes, because farmers know who bred a new variety, and what they think of it and thus of the breeder.

"Most breeders name their varieties along some theme, and Roseworthy varieties are named after cold steel type weapons, so Halberd, Spear, Dagger, Machete, Trident, Excalibur, Stiletto, Bowie, Kukri and others

are easily recognised as coming from Roseworthy, and so are expected to have some particular features," he said.

"I guess we are more unsung in the scientific community because, although we conduct a large number of scientifically rigorous experiments, these are to discriminate between likely good and bad lines within the South Australian wheat belt. As such they don't produce results that are scientifically profound or even capable of extrapolation to other areas," he said.

The Plant Breeding Unit at Roseworthy has received steady external funding over the

years, but has not attracted the input and prestige of the Waite centre, despite its fundamental role in continuing to provide new variety releases. However, the Grains Research and Development Corporation and the University have recently allocated \$250,000 to upgrade and enhance the Roseworthy facilities—a direct recognition of Professor Hollamby's abilities and his importance to the future of wheat breeding in South Australia.

The **Unsung Hero** award recognises a scientist who also values science communication.

"Professor Hollamby has always gone out of his way to communicate to all who would listen—students, growers, industry and the wider community," said Mr Perrin.

"Each year he speaks at farmer and adviser update sessions, Agricultural Bureau events and Research Centre field days. His down-to-earth practical approach is welcomed by farmers, and his extensive knowledge of agricultural crops and insects is an invaluable resource for his students and peers."

Mr Hollamby said: "I guess the most satisfying experiences are to drive through the wheat belt and recognise wheat crops that are partly from my handiwork, or to have farmers come up to you and shake your hand when they've had a good experience with your varieties."

Associate Professor Hollamby takes over the title from last year's winner, Associate Professor Keith Walker, also from Adelaide University (Department of Environmental Biology), who was recognised for his work on the ecology of the River Murray.

—Rob Morrison

## Faculty change to create "powerhouse of science"

SCIENCE education and research at Adelaide University is being given a major boost, with the announcement of a new Faculty of Sciences for 2002.

The new Faculty will be formed by combining two current ones: the Faculty of Science and the Faculty of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences.

This will create a "powerhouse" of teaching and research in a wide range of science fields, according to Adelaide University Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane (see her *Voice* column on page 2).

The move, part of a process of reshaping academic structures in the University, brings together strengths in biological, physical, chemical, environmental and agricultural sciences. The change will further build on Adelaide's reputation as an Australian leader in the sciences.

The new Faculty of Sciences will have research and teaching programs throughout all four of the University's campuses: North Terrace, Roseworthy, Waite and Thebarton.

Dr Alastair Blake, Executive Dean of Science, said the move enabled Adelaide to offer a consolidated approach to the basic and applied sciences supported by active programs in research.



"The new Faculty of Sciences will continue to offer the degree programs which have gained international reputations for excellence in agricultural and natural resource sciences, biotechnology, biomedical science, viticulture and oenology," Dr Blake said.

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## VC named among science tall poppies

PROFESSOR Mary O'Kane, Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University, has been named one of Queensland's Tall Poppies in Science in recognition of her outstanding research achievements.

The award, announced by the Australian Institute of Political Science (AIPS), was presented to Professor O'Kane at a Tall Poppy dinner in Brisbane on 1 May.

The three other scientists to be honoured as Tall Poppies were Nobel Prize winner Professor Peter Doherty, gastroenterologist Professor Lawrie Powell, and pathologist Professor John Kerr.

The Queensland awards are part of a national campaign by the AIPS to celebrate Australian scientific and intellectual excellence.

Queensland-born Professor O'Kane, a computer engineer, is a leading Australian specialist in her main research field of spoken language understanding and automatic speech



recognition. She was awarded the Australian Telecommunications and Electronics Research Medal in 1990 for her research in this area.

Professor O'Kane is a Fellow of the Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and an Honorary Fellow of the Institution of Engineers, Australia. She is also a director of leading Australian pharmaceuticals company FH Faulding and a member of the board of CSIRO.

Continued Page 4



## Celebrating our scientific strengths



National Science Week, traditionally held in the first week of May, grows bigger each year. In fact, it is now more like National Science Fortnight.

This growth is a welcome sign. Science Week (3-14 May) aims to bring science to the wider public, and the ever-increasing number of presentations and events shows that public interest in science and technology is undiminished.

Adelaide University is one of the nation's strongest performers when it comes to an active involvement in science, and this profile will be boosted with the establishment of our new Faculty of Sciences, combining the current Faculty of Science with the Faculty of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences.

The new Faculty will embrace scientific research and teaching programs across all four campuses. It will be a powerhouse of research and education in a wide range of biological, physical, environmental and chemical sciences, with applications to important national issues such as agriculture and the environment. Each of these fields will benefit greatly from its new position within the one main organisational unit. This will, in turn, make us more competitive internationally.

The new academic structures also provide for new research institutes and a graduate school. These will enable us to focus more strongly on the particular research strengths—such as food, wine, nutrition and the environment—for which the University is internationally known.

The changes will be implemented by 1 January, 2002, the start of another important scientific year. The year 2002 marks the bicentenary of the meeting between Matthew Flinders and Nicolas Baudin, leaders of two of the most significant maritime and scientific expeditions ever mounted from Europe. Celebration of their meeting, under the banner of Encounter 2002, will last from February until April, and the University's role includes the creation of the Collex scholarship (see story page 4), exhibitions, and progress towards the development of the Flinders-Baudin Research Centre on Kangaroo Island.

We are heavily involved in National Science Week, too, of course. As well as being a celebration of science, the Week promotes science communication—the importance of dialogue between scientists and the general public, who need to understand the significance of science research and who ultimately pay for it. A highlight of the week is the presentation of the award of the title Unsung Hero of South Australian Science to a researcher who has won distinction both as a scientist and a science communicator.

Last year's Unsung Hero was Associate Professor Keith Walker, who was recognised for his work on the ecology of the River Murray. This year the honour has gone to another Adelaide University scientist, Associate Professor Gil Hollamby, from the Department of Plant Science (our most successful department in terms of research earnings). The award recognises his outstanding work in breeding new wheat varieties that are appropriate to the Australian environment (see story page 1). Congratulations to Gil on a well-deserved honour.

MARY O'KANE

# Q&A: Charles Bodman Rae

ONE of the most prestigious positions in Adelaide music will be filled in July when Professor Charles Bodman Rae takes up the position of Elder Professor of Music.

Currently the Director of Studies at Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, Professor Bodman Rae will also be the foundation Director of the Elder School of Music, which is being formed out of the merger between the Elder Conservatorium and the Flinders Street School of Music.

Professor Bodman Rae was recently in Australia in a reconnaissance capacity for his new role, and took time out to speak to the *Adelaidean* about the challenges facing not only him but also the Elder School of Music as a whole.

*Why take this job, and what were the attractions of the position?*

The Elder Professorship is, of course, a very prestigious position, and I hope I will prove worthy of it. The real attraction, however, is that of directing the new Elder School of Music. The merger which is taking place, although it presents a certain number of problems, also presents lots of interesting challenges. So, somewhat perversely, the things which might deter many people from taking on this job are, in fact, the things which attract me to it.

*What are the major issues facing you in your new role?*

The merger is, of course, the major issue. It is a question of bringing together two sets of staff, two sets of students, and of merging the different ways of operating. Then there is the question of accommodation for the new Elder School of Music. Initially, it will make use of existing accommodation on the main campus, but perhaps in the near future there may be opportunities to adjust things so that the School will be cohesive and have a clear focus and identity. So these matters of accommodation, buildings, and so forth, will doubtless take up quite a bit of time and energy, not just for me but for others as well.

*What are the difficulties associated with the forthcoming merger? Do you have the necessary background in order to drive this merger?*

My present institution, the Royal Northern College of Music (in Manchester) was created in the early 1970s from exactly the same kind of merger which is now happening in



The new Elder Professor, Charles Bodman Rae. Photo: Ben Osborne.

Adelaide (bringing together one long-established, venerable institution with a much younger and dynamic one). So I am well aware of the issues. At my previous institution, Leeds College of Music, I carried out a major restructuring which involved affiliating the College to Leeds University; which is directly akin to the present situation of bringing the Flinders Street School of Music within the framework of Adelaide University. So, as the saying goes, I have "been there, done that!" The present merger, of course, has its own particular character, history, circumstances, and so forth, so there will inevitably be differences from the situations I have been involved with before. But, at least—to use a musical expression—I won't be "sight-reading"!

*What can staff and students expect from the merger? From your visits to Adelaide thus far, how would you describe the mood or morale of staff and students not only in general but also towards the merger?*

I hope that staff and students will gradually adjust so that they feel comfortable in transferring their allegiance from both of the current institutions to the third one—the new one. One of the obvious advantages of an outsider, such as myself, is that I have no prior allegiance—to either of the current institutions—and my focus is firmly on the concept of an identity for the new school.

As far as morale is concerned, it is fair to

say that staff and students in both institutions have been through a pretty unsettling period, and there are still plenty of fears, insecurities, and all the other perfectly understandable reactions which people inevitably have when they feel they are taking a leap in the dark. But I suppose it is part of my task to turn the light on!

I think one of the crucial issues—to raise morale—is to show staff and students that the new school will have a clear identity and will be visible, conspicuous, with a high public profile, not concealed from the outside world.

*How can you raise the profile of the new school not only nationally but also internationally?*

The best way of raising the profile of any music school is for its students to be successful, in the wider world of music, and for its staff to be active outside the institution. So the school needs to "reach out" in these ways. In Australia there are obvious geographical considerations which make this "reaching out" quite tricky, but it's not impossible. Any music school needs to reflect the realities of the music profession; thus its main mode of communication is through live concerts, broadcasts and recordings. But there are other "modes" as well, such as conferences, publications, and so forth. The upcoming Music Education Conference to be hosted by Adelaide University is a good example, so this kind of thing is already happening.

## LETTERS

### TO THE EDITOR



#### Graduations' official status

I am very concerned with what to me are the misleading assertions in the April 2001 *Adelaidean* (V.10, No.3, p.p. 2/3) that the University's first official graduation ceremony held in Singapore was at the Westin Stamford Hotel on 17 March last while the Malaysian ceremony held at the Hotel Nikko in Kuala Lumpur was the eighth such event.

Official graduation celebrations as approved by and reported to the Council were first held in Kuala Lumpur at the Hotel Istana on Sunday 29 May 1994 and in Singapore at the Shangri-La Hotel on Sunday 28 May 1995. I presided as Acting Chancellor with the approval of the Chancellor on both occasions in the presence of the then Vice-Chancellor (Prof Gavin Brown) and the then Registrar (Mr Frank O'Neill) together with University staff, official Mace Bearers, graduates, not graduands, and their friends and families. Testamurs were presented to all graduates and in some cases certificates were

presented or re-presented to those who had graduated in absentia in Adelaide. Some 500 attended in Kuala Lumpur and some 200 in Singapore.

It is a fact that the conferring of degrees was regulated, until March 2000, by the then Chapter XI of the University's Statutes. One condition was that admission to a degree be "at a meeting of the Council and Senate to be held at such time as the Council shall determine". I am however the only person who presided at a graduation ceremony anywhere whom I ever heard either declare it to be a meeting of the Council and the Senate or recognise the presence of the Warden of the Senate. Graduands could also be admitted to degrees "at a meeting of the Council only". Nevertheless it was deemed to be prudent to declare the off-shore occasions to be graduation celebrations rather than graduation ceremonies. Apart from that the occasions were indistinguishable. One graduand was indeed presented for admission to an earned degree in Kuala Lumpur in 1994 but, just to be certain, that

admission was repeated later that year at a ceremony in Adelaide.

From March 2000 that Statute XI was replaced by "Rules for Graduation Ceremonies" which, together with the constraints of Chapter 89 of the Statutes, allow for greater flexibility in every respect. It is quite incorrect however to assert of the year 2001 off-shore ceremonies that that in Singapore was the first official one and that in Kuala Lumpur the eighth. If, on the other hand, that in Singapore is asserted to be the first held there then that in Kuala Lumpur was the second held there. If, on the other hand, that in Kuala Lumpur is asserted to be the eighth held there then that in Singapore was the second held there. I believe that of the three constructions immediately above the last is the more correct, is more acceptable to our Asian graduates, and is therefore much to be preferred.

Harry Medlin

Emeritus Senior Deputy Chancellor  
University Alumni Envoy to East and South East Asia

## Adelaidean



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# Anzac flame takes on Olympic flavour

THE OLYMPIC spirit lives on—but this time in the form of the Anzac spirit.

Adelaide University engineers, who developed the flame for the Sydney 2000 Olympic torch and cauldron, have now adapted one of their designs to produce an Eternal Flame of Remembrance for an RSL club at Gympie, Queensland.

The engineers have made a burner based on their community cauldron, which travelled throughout Australia during last year's Olympic torch relay.

The burner was made at Adelaide University, while the cauldron for the Flame of Remembrance was made by Air and Gas Industries, on behalf of the local Cooloolo Shire Council.

University researchers in the departments

of Chemical and Mechanical engineering, and their commercial partner Fuel & Combustion Technology, were chosen for the Olympic work because of their expertise in environmentally friendly combustion.

According to Dr Peter Lanspeary, postdoctoral researcher with the Department of Mechanical Engineering, the system devised for the Gympie RSL "produces a highly visible, bright yellow flame which resists 'blow-out' at high wind speeds".

Gympie RSL's Eternal Flame was lit on the Tuesday before Anzac Day and burnt throughout the Anzac Day celebrations on Wednesday, 25 April.

It will remain as a permanent symbol of remembrance to those who lost their lives during wartime.



(From left) Dr Peter Lanspeary and Dr Richard Kelso (Mechanical Engineering) with a prototype of the Olympic community cauldron. Photo: Ben Searcy.

## New adjunct professors are world leaders



The Right Hon. Mike Moore.

TWO world leaders in the field of economics have become Adjunct Professors at Adelaide University's Centre for International Economic Studies.

One is the Right Hon. Mike Moore, Director-General of the World Trade Organization and former Prime Minister of New Zealand, who brings a wealth of experience in the trade policy area and in economic reform generally.

During the 1980s he was New Zealand's Trade Minister. He converted New Zealand from the most to perhaps the least protected of OECD countries.

"While we won't see too much of him on campus during the remainder of his tenure at WTO (which finishes September 2002), we look forward very much to his involvement in our teaching and conference programs thereafter," said Professor Kym Anderson, Director of the Centre for International Economic Studies (CIES).

The other new Adjunct Professor is Keith Maskus, Professor of Economics at the University of Colorado, a Research Fellow at the Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC, and a senior adviser to the World Bank.

"Keith has a wide range of interests in economics but is best known for his work on trade theory and policy, and intellectual property rights including the WTO's Agreement on TRIPs," Professor Anderson said.

"We look forward to welcoming Keith back to Adelaide on a regular basis."

## Go8 to provide new scholarships

THE COALITION of Australia's leading universities, the Group of Eight (Go8), has announced 128 equity and merit scholarships to support undergraduate study at Go8 universities.

The Go8 comprises Adelaide University, the Australian National University, University of Melbourne, Monash University, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland, University of Sydney and the University of Western Australia.

Commencing in 2002, the scheme will provide a greater opportunity for bright students from low socio-economic backgrounds to study at a Go8 university, complementing a range of scholarships already provided by the eight universities.

Announcing the scheme during an address to the National Press Club in Canberra,

Professor Gavin Brown, Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University, said the Go8 strongly believed that the ability to succeed, not ability to pay, should remain the central criterion for access to and academic progress at all universities.

Although Go8 universities were uncompromising in their academic standards, they were "strongly committed to equity of access", Professor Brown said.

"We also believe in putting our money where our mouths are," he said.

The scholarships, which are targeted primarily at school leavers, are transferable between Go8 universities. Each scholarship, tenable in a HECS liable place, is worth \$2500 per annum for a maximum of five years, subject to satisfactory academic performance.

"The winners will be paid the full value of the scholarship, enabling them to decide

what their priorities are. For some, the highest priority will be to help support themselves while they study. For others it may be to retire some of their HECS debt, or to pay for course-related books or equipment such as a computer," Professor Brown said.

The first round of scholarships will be advertised nationally later in 2001, when further information will be provided on the procedure for applying for the four scholarships at each Go8 university.

Meanwhile, Professor Brown said the Group of Eight would continue its efforts to secure a better deal for universities, staff and students.

"The fact is that society benefits from the educational investment in many ways, and the ideal should be to increase and improve opportunity at all times," he said.

## Helder returns to help rebuild East Timor

IT'S BEEN 18 months since the worst of the crisis in East Timor, and the process to rebuild the newly independent country is continuing—with the help of an Adelaide University economics student.

Helder DaCosta has returned to his home country of East Timor to take up a senior position at the newly named National University of East Timor.

Mr DaCosta is a PhD student with Adelaide University's School of Economics, and is due to graduate this year. His PhD thesis deals with foreign economic policy for the independent East Timor.

Now back in Dili, Mr DaCosta is head of the research portfolio at the National University of East Timor.

He is also working with the United Nations, the Asian Development Bank and other international agencies aiding the reconstruction and development process in his home country.

Back in September 1999, Mr DaCosta joined with Adelaide University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, to present a public face of humanitarian support for people affected by the East Timor crisis.

At the time, Professor O'Kane announced that a long-term goal would be to establish on-going links with the university in East Timor, "to support the university as it



Helder DaCosta speaks with Professor Mary O'Kane on campus in 1999. Mr DaCosta is now head of research at the National University of East Timor. Photo: David Ellis.

adjusts to its new situation in an independent country".

Adelaide University's commercial arm, Luminis, also compiled a detailed capability statement that outlined the many services which the University could provide to

help rebuild East Timor.

That capability statement, for which Mr DaCosta was a key adviser, was registered with the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and AusAID.

—David Ellis

# Book celebrates historical meeting of minds

**ILL-STARRED CAPTAINS: FLINDERS AND BAUDIN** written by Anthony J. Brown, Crawford House Publishing, Adelaide; Published in association with the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia; rrp \$49.95

**IN 1802, British navigator Matthew Flinders and French captain Nicolas Baudin met in Encounter Bay, South Australia. Both were involved in major scientific voyages of discovery which would tax them and their crews to the limit.**

Much will soon be heard of this encounter and of the two voyages. Next year, South Australia will celebrate the meeting's bicentenary as Encounter 2002—a series of events that will run from early in the year until the weekend of 8-9 April, the dates on which the two captains met.

Ill-starred Captains has been published with this in mind. Anthony Brown is the historical consultant to Encounter 2002; a highly appropriate appointment, if this book is a measure. In a reversal of the normal sequence, it appeared first in paperback last year and appears now as the hardback edition. Elegantly bound, it runs to more than 500 pages, including text, references, appendices, 58 illustrations and 13 charts, with two rather inadequate maps; large enough to trace the voyages, but too small to

record many locations cited.

The story is well enough known in its condensed version—how Flinders and Baudin, technically at war, put hostilities aside for the sake of science and exchanged courtesies and information.

What Brown provides, as far as anyone might, is the depth and setting of the story. The construction of his book is well thought out and very effective. Brown has drawn extensively on original eye-witness accounts, logs, journals and other manuscripts to construct a historical account of each of the expeditions.

Alternating chapters keep the reader aware of how the two expeditions proceeded simultaneously, occasionally crossing each other's tracks or meeting; each captain wary of what the other might have discovered.

The research is meticulous. Purely as a historical account in the past tense, the book would stand as a scholarly offering, but Brown inserts at intervals short italicised passages in the present tense which vividly describe incidents, events, settings or encounters that were part of both expeditions.

This curious technique is wholly successful. Without compromising the historical integrity of the work, a succession of "ripping yarns" emerges. Brown is a strongly visual writer and these sections, chosen for their imagery, read like a film script.

Brown is also a writer with a love of words,

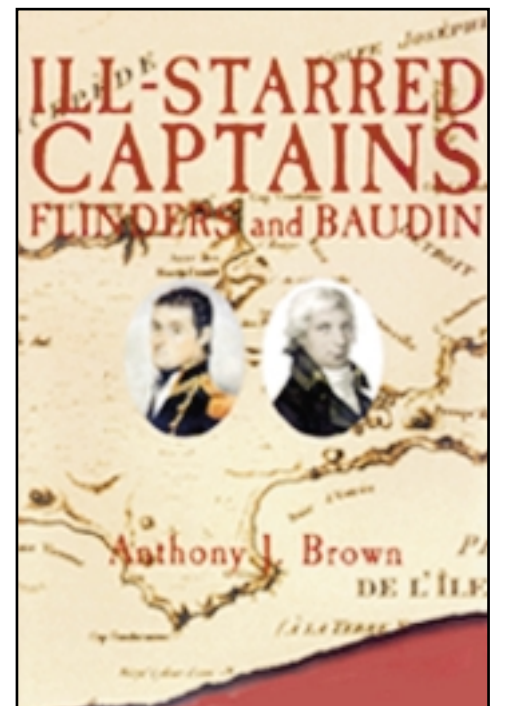
revealed by his inclusion of additional material when it suits his purpose, such as accounts from those who have tried to trace the real fate of helmsman Timothée Vasse, the first of Baudin's men to die.

Dr Cullity's letter on the subject (p123), is an empathic essay that would be hard to beat for the way it captures the desolation these sailors must have felt. It also reveals the fascination their voyages still hold for modern enthusiasts of maritime history.

History often reduces its notable figures to cardboard cutouts, possessing a single dimension of heroism or villainy. Brown's account gives depth to personalities, both of the two leaders and many of their companions. Baudin's leadership was flawed, and he can not have been a charismatic man, but his courage and discipline emerge from these pages as, coughing blood, he struggles to continue the task entrusted to him, increasingly aware that his reputation, achievements, control and life are steadily slipping away.

Brown's book tells us just how close we came to being a French colony instead of a British one, but it is also a celebration of attitude. In South Australia, towns with German names bestowed by peaceful immigrants were renamed in the First World War in a wave of anti-German sentiment. In both world wars, citizens with links to the countries that we fought were interned.

At the time of the Flinders and Baudin



expeditions, France and England were at war, and yet courtesies abounded, science triumphed and discoveries were (at least in part) honoured by the enemies of those who made them. Today, French names proliferate along our southern coastline. Next year we will celebrate them. This book will tell you why.

—Rob Morrison

## VC named tall poppy of science

From Page 1

She has served on numerous government committees advising on research, innovation and science, and is a former Chair of the Australian Research Council's Research Grants Committee.

Professor O'Kane, who was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Adelaide University in 1996, said she was honoured to receive the award.

"Awards of this type help to lift the profile of science in the community," she said.

"This is important if we are to ensure continued investment in science research at Australian universities."

"Adelaide is one of Australia's great science universities, and the creation of the new Faculty of Sciences [merging the Faculty of Science with the Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences] is a key step in securing our future as an international leader in scientific research and education."

—John Drislane

## Travis to study outback's unique life

**A VULNERABLE and unique part of Australia's outback will be studied by the winner of the Collex Flinders-Baudin Adelaide Scholarship.**

The scholarship, provided by waste management company Collex Pty Ltd, commemorates the 200th anniversary of the meeting between England's Captain Matthew Flinders and France's Captain Nicolas Baudin, who in the course of their independent naval expeditions met at Encounter Bay in April 1802. Both expeditions made significant progress in scientific exploration (see book review above).

Worth more than \$17,000 per annum for three years, the scholarship is awarded for postgraduate research in environmental-based natural sciences.

The winner is Mr Travis Gotch, who last year completed a Bachelor of Environmental Management with First Class Honours at Adelaide University's Department of Applied & Molecular Ecology.



Travis Gotch. Photo: Ben Osborne.

Thanks to the scholarship, Mr Gotch is now studying for his PhD with the department, under the supervision of Dr Andrew Austin and Dr Mike Keller.

His research will look at the ecology of wolf

spider species associated with Mound Springs, south of Lake Eyre.

The springs are miniature oases in the desert, formed by the upwelling of artesian water.

These "pockets of life" in the desert have distinct and specialised animal and plant life. The environments are unique, delicate and highly vulnerable, and can serve as models of ecological and evolutionary processes.

They are also potentially threatened by mining operations, which use large quantities of artesian water. For this reason, scientists such as Mr Gotch and mining companies such as Western Mining Corporation want to know more about the Mound Springs environments and how they are affected.

Mr Gotch's work is also part of Adelaide University's new Centre for Evolutionary Biology & Biodiversity, of which Dr Austin is the director.

—David Ellis

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## Youth leader commended for info role

**REBECCA Ebert from Truro is the inaugural winner of the Adelaide University Youth Leadership Award.**

Ms Ebert, founder of the Student Information Network (SINS) in the Barossa Valley, was presented with her prize by Mr Ian Creagh, Adelaide University's Executive Director of Student and Staff Services, at the South Australian Youth Awards Showcase last month in Adelaide.

In their citation, the judges commended Ms Ebert's "outstanding contribution" in providing rural youth with information and forums on relevant issues and raising awareness of the services available to them.

The citation added: "She saw and filled, practically, the significant gap that existed between obtaining information and gaining the assistance to proceed that was needed.

"She has produced the SINS pamphlets and has shown leadership, dedication and initiative of an extremely high order."

The Leadership prize was one of eight presented at the inaugural SA Youth Awards Showcase. The other categories were: achievement, community service, sports, environment, science and technology, initiative and inspiration. The Awards were organised by Paradise Community Services.

—John Drislane



Mr Ian Creagh presents Rebecca Ebert with the Adelaide University Youth Leadership Award.

# Cinema spin on classics a cut below real thing

FORGET Russell Crowe stomping about the Colosseum in his sandals, or Angelina Jolie twirling about ancient tombs in her too-tight shorts and tank-top—there's plenty of excitement to be found in Classics without the make believe of modern-day cinema.

That's the view of Adelaide University's head of Classics, Dr Anne Geddes.

Movies such as the highly successful *Gladiator*, and the upcoming action adventures *Tomb Raider* and *The Mummy Returns*, deal with various aspects of classic societies, cultures and archaeology. But do these movies contribute anything other than sheer entertainment? And does their popularity translate into interest in classics study?

Dr Geddes believes historical epics in particular, such as *Gladiator*, are of great interest to the public and scholars alike. But while most audiences are flinching during the gutsy, authentic battle scenes, the scholars tend to flinch at historical inaccuracies.

"There is a great Hollywood tradition of films about a Roman history—*Quo Vadis*, *Cleopatra*, *Ben Hur*, *The Fall of the Roman Empire*, *Spartacus* and now *Gladiator*," Dr Geddes said.

"There have been some Egypt ones too and some dire attempts at Greek history and mythology (Richard Burton as Alexander the Great, for instance) but somehow it is Roman history that the public seems to prefer."

*Gladiator's* special effects and stunts were "amazing", Dr Geddes said.

"If you have only ever read about battles, only imagined the emotional experience, and since there is no possibility that ever again men will fight to the death with arrows and swords, the recreation of those battle scenes was vivid and exciting.

"The representation of Rome—of the Colosseum, the gladiatorial ring—was better than anything we have seen before," she said.

"But where the film lets us down is in its lack of 'book knowledge'.

"It is perfectly easy to get the facts right. No invention can be more awesomely fascinating



Maximus (Russell Crowe) faces off against a fierce opponent in *Gladiator*. Cinema fantasy might be amazing to look at, but it's no substitute for the real thing, according to classicist Dr Anne Geddes. Photo by Jaap Buitendijk, courtesy of United International Pictures.

than what actually happened in the period of the Roman empire under the Antonines [the Roman emperors from AD 138–180]."

Dr Geddes said Hollywood's ignorance of history is unreasonable. "There is plenty of expertise available; a professor at Harvard was even in the list of credits. It is rumoured that she tried to have her name taken off the list, and it's obvious why."

While factual errors are disconcerting to classics scholars, more annoying are some of the main themes used by Hollywood to reinterpret history and historical societies.

"Freedom, Hollywood style, is such a tired old cinematic convention," Dr Geddes said.

"No-one in the modern western world really knows anything at all about what slavery is like—not to choose your own food or your own sex partner, your own way of spending the time, where to live, how to educate your children, or even whether your children will stay in your home.

"It is against such losses of liberty that the ancient world formulated its notion of freedom, and that is why freedom was so precious to it. When the film has Marcus

Aurelius, half choking with emotion, dreaming about restoring the Republic or handing back power to the Senate, it is working from a script that was written especially for Hollywood in the '30s and '40s of last century, and has no reference to the real world of the past.

"There is plenty to be said about the government of an empire, but this film didn't say any of it. There is plenty to be said about freedom too, but it wasn't said by *Gladiator*."

*Continued Page 8*

## Free public lectures by our new professors

A SERIES of free public lectures by recently appointed Professors of Adelaide University begins this month.

Members of the public are warmly welcome to attend the lectures, which start on 11 May.

**Friday 11 May:** Professor Barry Egan (Biochemistry): *Genetic intelligence of bacteriophage*.

"Bacteriophage, literally bacterial eaters, are viruses that infect bacteria. Their intelligence might be more that they help us appear more intelligent. In my case, the help is in understanding the principles and operative mechanisms underlying genetic switches that enable a genome to exist stably in alternative states of gene expression."

**Friday 18 May:** Professor Peter Cole (Electrical & Electronic Engineering): *Radio frequency identification*.

"A brief history of radio frequency identification systems highlighting the challenges presented in system design and the range of physical principles which have been brought to bear in meeting those challenges. The economic importance of the technology to Australia is described, and some views on appropriate training of engineers to advance the technology are presented."

**Friday 25 May:** Professor Guy Ludbrook (Anaesthesia): *Perioperative medicine — the anaesthetist reinvented?*

"Hospitalisation for surgery has evolved considerably in recent years. The anaesthetist has needed to develop improved methods for patient preparation for surgery, to develop and optimally apply new anaesthetic and pain management techniques, and to provide rapid recovery from both anaesthesia and surgery to allow early discharge from hospital."

**Friday 1 June – No lecture**

Full details of the June lectures will be available in the next issue of the *Adelaidean*.

**Friday 8 June:** Professor David Wilkinson: *Major rural health challenges for Australia into the 21st Century*.

**Friday 15 June:** Professor Richard Hillis: *The future of fossil fuels: neo-Malthusians, cornucopians, greenies and roughnecks*.

**Friday 22 June:** Professor James Paton: *Treatment and prevention of infectious diseases: challenges for the 21st Century*.

**Friday 29 June:** Professor Graeme Dandy: *Optimising water supply systems: a pipe dream?*

**Lecture Theatre 102, Napier Building, Adelaide University, Fridays, 1.15pm.**

The Inaugural lecture series is sponsored by Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane. All enquiries should be directed to Ray Choate, University Librarian, phone 8303 4064 or email: <ray.choate@adelaide.edu.au>.

## Are you mad? Do you want to be a scientist?!

THE SCIENTIST comes under the spotlight during Adelaide University's main event for National Science Week.

On 8 May, three of South Australia's leading scientists and scientific communicators will present a free public lecture about the complex makeup of a scientist.

Science journalist **Dr Rob Morrison** will open with an entertaining examination of what scientists do—how hypothesis testing works, how scientists collect information, and how they think about issues. Do scientists really make breakthroughs? Why are most discoveries small, and why does science take so long?

Environmental biologist **Dr Chris Daniels** will discuss scientists as people, using movie images to demonstrate the vast array of depictions of the personality types of scientists. He will highlight the essential elements in the make up of a scientific personality and the scientific way of life. Why do we so often distrust scientists (are they really out to destroy the world?). Do you have to be mad, eccentric or have bad hair to be a scientist? How can you spot a "pretend" scientist?

Genetics expert **Professor Peter Rathjen** will discuss the role of the scientist at the cutting edge of technology and why scientists are so important for the



economic, social and environmental development of western nations. He will grapple with the issues and role of scientists in society, especially with regard to business and technological development. Why do scientists make such poor business people? Should they be about making money? Are they responsible for the unethical use of their discoveries?

**Are you MAD? Do you WANT to become a scientist?**

Where: Union Hall, Adelaide University.  
When: 7pm, Tuesday 8 May. Cost: Free

RSVP to reserve your seat, phone 8303 4003.



# GENERAL NOTICES

## Call for applications for promotion to Level E

Staff and titleholders wishing to apply for promotion to Professor Level E (and equivalent) are now invited to submit their applications.

Applicants should refer to the revised Policy and Guidelines, and the appropriate Position Classification Standards. A promotions toolkit applicable to the submission of applications has been developed and available for viewing at the following Web address: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtntlbox.htm>>.

Applications should be made on the approved application form.

Applications from staff members (eighteen copies) must be submitted to the General Manager, Human Resources, by 15 June 2001.

Absolutely no supplementary information will be accepted from applicants after the closing date for applications, unless requested by the University.

Please note that applicants are responsible for contacting their own referees and forwarding them their application, the appropriate position classification standard and the form letter requesting that the report be sent to the General Manager, Human Resources by 15 July 2001.

The Policy, Guidelines and the toolkit are available on the Web at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtn.htm>>

Adjunct, Affiliate and Clinical Titleholders should refer to the separate guidelines applicable to titleholders also on the Web at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtithol.htm>>.

It is envisaged that applications for Lecturer Level B and C will be called on 31 May 2001.

STEVE DAYSH  
General Manager  
Human Resources

## Call for applications for promotion to Level D

Staff and titleholders wishing to apply for promotion to Associate Professor Level D (and equivalent) are now invited to submit their applications.

Applicants should refer to the revised Policy and Guidelines, and the appropriate Position Classification Standards. A promotions toolkit applicable to the submission of applications has been developed and available for viewing at the following Web address: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtntlbox.htm>>.

Applications should be made on the approved application form.

Applications from staff members (eighteen copies) must be submitted to the General Manager, Human Resources, by 15 May 2001.

Absolutely no supplementary information will be accepted from applicants after the closing date for applications, unless requested by the University.

Please note that applicants are responsible for contacting their own referees and forwarding them their application, the appropriate position classification standard and the form letter requesting that the report be sent to the General Manager, Human Resources by 30 June 2001.

The Policy, Guidelines and the toolkit are available on the Web at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtn.htm>>

Adjunct, Affiliate and Clinical Titleholders should refer to the separate guidelines applicable to titleholders also on the Web at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/HR/policies/promtn/acapromtithol.htm>>.

It is envisaged that applications for Professor Level E will be called on 30 April 2001 and for promotions to Lecturer B and C on 31 May 2001.

STEVE DAYSH  
General Manager  
Human Resources

## SSAU Consultative Committee - General staff election

### Call for nominations

The Trust Deed of the Superannuation Scheme for Australian Universities (SSAU) provides for there to be a Consultative Committee.

Its functions are

- to advise and to make recommendations to the Trustee:
  - on matters of difficulty in the implementation or application of the Deed;
  - on matters concerning the provisions of the Deed;
  - on any other matters on which the Trustee requires advice;
- to consider and if thought fit to give its consent in any matter requiring its consent in terms of the Deed.

The membership includes 2 employer and 2 staff (1 general and 1 academic) representatives of each institution that participates in SSAU. The term of office for the staff representatives is four years.

The term of office of the University of Adelaide's general staff representative on the Consultative Committee (Mr Bob Wilson) has ended. The Trust Deed requires the general staff representative to be "elected by such of the non-academic staff of the employer who are members of the Scheme".

Accordingly, nominations are now called from any non-academic staff member who is a member of the SSAU to be a member of the SSAU Consultative Committee.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretariat, Room G10 Mitchell Building, North Terrace, or by phoning 33408.

Nominations close at 12 noon on Friday 18 May.

Further information about the SSAU and the Consultative Committee can be obtained from Shirley Sutherland, Superannuation Consultant, on 35222, or from the UniSuper website <[www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au)>.

SUSAN GRAEBNER  
Returning Officer

### ACADEMIC WOMEN ARE INVITED TO A SEMINAR ON

## 'PROMOTION TO LEVELS B & C AT ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY'

Friday 18 May, 12.00 - 2.00 pm, Edgeloe Room, Mitchell Building (top of the central staircase).

Seminar hosted by Academic Women's Forum

### Speakers include:

Anama Morriss (Human Resources)

Professor Judith Brine (Pro Vice-Chancellor, Special Projects)

Dr Jocelyn Davies (Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences)

Chair: Assoc Professor Martha Augustinos

Lunch provided between 12 and 12.30pm. RSVP Martha <[martha@psychology.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:martha@psychology.adelaide.edu.au)> if attending lunch by Monday 14 May.

## RESEARCH BRANCH: SPECIAL NOTICES

### ARC Linkage - Infrastructure grants for 2002

The main objective of this program is to fund relatively large scale initiatives (in excess of \$100,000) to develop research infrastructure on a collaborative basis among groups of institutions, across the higher education system as a whole, and with organisations outside the system. Approximately \$24 million will be available through the program in 2002. Funding is for one year only.

Final applications for this scheme are due in the Research Branch by Thursday 24 May. Prospective applicants, including those involved in applications to be submitted through other institutions, will be provided with feedback on their draft applications during the week commencing 7 May. Final applications must be accompanied by an internal signature page certifying the support of the Head of Department, Dean of Faculty and of any other institutions involved.

The application form and guidelines, an internal information sheet and the internal signature page are available from the Research Branch web site. Contact Sondra Gould in the Research Branch for further information.

### ARC Discovery - Indigenous Researchers Development Scheme

The key objective of this scheme is to develop the research expertise of Indigenous Australian researchers to a level at which they can compete in open competition for mainstream research funding. The minimum grant size is \$3,000 per annum. Applications are accepted only from Indigenous Australian researchers and all Chief Investigators must meet this criterion. However, as the scheme aims to develop the research expertise of successful applicants, it is strongly recommended that a mentor (who does not need to be an Indigenous Australian) is associated with the proposal to provide specific expert advice on the subject of the research. Students who are seeking a grant for a research project which forms part of their current research higher degree may apply.

Application forms and guidelines are available on the Research Branch website and further information can be obtained from Sondra Gould on ext 33387. Applications close with the Research Branch on Monday 4 June.

### Doing Business and Research: Australia and Germany - Inter-Cultural Communication: 3 Day Workshop

Adelaide University, as part of the Australian-German Joint Research Co-operation Scheme, is offering an intensive training program designed to optimise the development of successful business and research links with German industries and universities. The Workshop would be of interest to any one considering conducting research or studying in Germany.

The 3 day Workshop will be held at Urrbrae House, Waite Campus on June 27, 28 & 29. Please contact Lynette Kelly of the Research Branch at <[lynette.kelly@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lynette.kelly@adelaide.edu.au)> for further information.

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Remember to check the Research Branch website <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/RB/fund.html>> regularly for up-to-date information about current research funding opportunities.

## Women's Professional Development Network

The WPDN is a development initiative for all women general staff of the Adelaide University. It focuses on issues affecting the professional and personal development needs of women general staff.

The WPDN runs a variety of activities. More information and instructions on how to join our listserver, visit our web site at: <<http://www.adelaide.edu.au/wpdn>> or contact Danielle Hopkins ([danielle.hopkins@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:danielle.hopkins@adelaide.edu.au), 33937) or Catherine Edis ([catherine.edis@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:catherine.edis@adelaide.edu.au), 36151).

### Coming events:

"Financial Planning for Women" with guest speaker Karen Axford, Regional Commissioner, Australian Security Investment Commission. 12.30pm, Wednesday 9 May, Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library. Tea and coffee are provided, bring your lunch.

The next Social breakfast will be on Tuesday 19 June. Check the website.

## The Stephen Cole the Elder Prizes for Excellence in Teaching 2001

*The Stephen Cole the Elder Prizes for Excellence in Teaching recognise and reward outstanding teaching. The prizes are awarded annually to academic staff whose teaching is regarded by students and academic colleagues as being of excellent quality.*

Applications are invited for the 2001 Stephen Cole the Elder Prizes for Excellence in Teaching at Adelaide University. Three prizes will be awarded for undergraduate teaching, one of which will be awarded to an applicant in the first five years of their teaching career, and one award will be made for postgraduate teaching. Each prize will consist of a monetary award of \$5,000 and a certificate presented at the appropriate commemoration ceremony. The prize money is to be used by the winners to help them with the further development of their teaching activities.

Each winner will be required to agree with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) on appropriate form of dissemination of their achievements in teaching (which might include a seminar, an article for the Adelaidean and/or a web-page article). Candidates with at least two years' service to the University in a teaching position are eligible for nomination by their students and academic colleagues. Teaching groups may also be nominated.

Nominations will be considered by a selection committee convened by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) and consisting of student and academic staff representatives.

Nominations are now sought for The Stephen Cole the Elder Prizes for Excellence in Teaching for 2001. Guidelines and nomination forms can be obtained from Marie Reitano, Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Room G04, Mitchell Building, telephone: 35511, fax: 34873, email: [marie.reitano@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:marie.reitano@adelaide.edu.au) or downloaded from the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's web-site: <[http://www.adelaide.edu.au/DVC/quality/stephen\\_cole\\_prize.html](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/DVC/quality/stephen_cole_prize.html)>

Nominations must reach the Office of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) by Monday 4 June 2001.



## LINCOLN COLLEGE

### Like to experience College living?

Applications are invited from students wishing to take up residence in Lincoln College for second term 2001.

Members of the College live in well equipped and comfortable single study bedrooms. The College offers full board to its residents. College facilities include a library, music practice rooms, laundries, weights room and a modern computer laboratory. Network connections in all rooms allow direct connection with the University's network and the Internet.

The ethos of the College emphasises active support for learning, the development of a vibrant international community and personal growth. It provides 15 residential tutors in a wide range of disciplines and organises mentoring and short-course programs. Participation in college life is encouraged and consideration for others is expected. The student club organises a wide range of social, cultural, sporting and recreational events throughout the year.

Application forms are available by contacting the College on (08) 8290 6000 during office hours or by writing to: The Principal, Lincoln College, 45 Brougham Place, North Adelaide, SA, 5006.

# Late homecoming for our greatest adventurer

HOW DOES a man receive wide international recognition, awards and a knighthood for his scientific work, yet remain almost unknown in his homeland, let alone his home State?

It happened to Sir Hubert Wilkins.

(George) Hubert Wilkins was born in 1888 in a simple stone house at Mount Bryan East, north of Burra. One of 13 children, Hubert was destined for great things. In 1904 he studied both mechanical engineering and electrical engineering at the School of Mines and Adelaide University, where he also attended the Elder Conservatorium for instrumental and singing lessons.

Accounts of his life vary, but he seems even then to have been on the move, not completing his studies before he began the next stage of his extraordinary career, mastering the new technique of cinematography.

It took him overseas and, in the first Balkans War (1912), he is variously credited with being the person who shot the first film of battle, the first aerial film and the first aerial film of combat.

He would later become the official photographer for the Australian Flying Corps in World War I, in which he was awarded the Military Cross and bar for bravery. Before that, however, he made his first expedition to the Arctic, a region he would revisit many times.

Wilkins entered the England-Australia air race, but crashed (1919), was a photographer on an Antarctic expedition (1921), the naturalist on Shackleton's last expedition there (1921-22), and led the British Museum's expedition to northern Australia (1923-25).

As a pioneer aviator he used many planes in his adventures and sold Charles Kingsford Smith

the plane that, renamed as *Southern Cross*, would carry the much better remembered aviator into record books and history.

Wilkins himself made experimental flights in the Arctic (1926), the first trans-Arctic flight (1928) for which he was knighted, the first flights of Antarctica and, in 1929, a journey around the world by Zeppelin.

He bought a US submarine for \$1 and in 1931 used it to make the first under-ice voyage in the Arctic Ocean. From 1933-39 he managed four Antarctic expeditions, reaffirming some of Australia's claims in the face of threats to them, and he tested cold-weather equipment and rations for the army on Arctic and Antarctic expeditions (1953-58).

Despite many offers of citizenship of other countries, Sir Hubert Wilkins remained staunchly Australian to the end. That end came suddenly from a heart attack in 1958 when he was 70. Sir Hubert's wife refused a British offer to have his remains interred in Westminster Abbey; instead, his ashes were scattered to the Arctic winds.

His birthplace, the ruins of his home at Mount Bryan East, has now been resurrected. The local community, determined to make Sir Hubert better known, sought sponsorship from Dick Smith and Australian Geographic.

Mr Smith has always regarded Sir Hubert Wilkins as his hero (he registered his plane with the initials SHW). The money raised was enough to rebuild the old house from its original stones and, with the replica *Southern Cross* flying overhead, the house was officially opened by Mr Smith on Sunday, 29 April.

"He (Sir Hubert Wilkins) was Australia's greatest adventurer," said Mr Smith, "and he was a superb risk manager—he never lost a man on any of his expeditions."

Wilkins is also credited with having covered



As the replica *Southern Cross* flies over the celebration, Dick Smith declares the rebuilt homestead open. Photo: Rob Morrison. Below: Sir Hubert Wilkins.

a greater distance in his explorations and travels than any other explorer in history. So why has he faded into obscurity, when other great South Australians like Mawson, Florey and Bragg are so well remembered?

"He wasn't a scientist," said Mr Smith. "Mawson was a scientist and explorer, but Wilkins was an adventurer. The scientists tend to recognise and remember their own."

"Antarctica has a Mawson base, and even Casey, named for a Governor-General, but there is no Wilkins base."

"Despite that, his vision for Antarctic weather stations was realised, and his very significant role in meteorology was recognised in his own time."

On the evening before the opening, visitors were given a preliminary screening of a film



on the life of Sir Hubert titled *Ice Maverick*. Remaining scenes were shot on the day of the launch, and the film is due for release later this year.

—Rob Morrison

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## POSTDOC PROFILE

DR NICOLE MORCOM



Dr Nicole Morcom. Photo: Ben Osborne.

Postdoctoral fellows are often the "forgotten people" of university research, which is why the *Adelaidean* is running a series of mini-profiles on postdoctoral fellows and their work.

This month's profile is of Dr Nicole Morcom, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Geographical & Environmental Studies. Dr Morcom's work is aimed at establishing suitable methods for integrating coastal and marine management in South Australia.

In a bid to provide examples of best practice which could be applied to SA, Dr Morcom has been reviewing the international literature and analysing South Australia's coastal and marine legislation and current

procedures. A review of the legislation and procedures of several other States will also be conducted, as a comparison with South Australia.

Dr Morcom's research, with Associate Professor Nick Harvey, is in association with the Coast and Marine Section of the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and the South Australian Coast Protection Board. These industry partners have already contributed significantly to her research.

She is a member of the newly formed Research Staff Association (RSA) at Adelaide University. For more information about the RSA e-mail: <[rsawplist@waite.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:rsawplist@waite.adelaide.edu.au)>.

## Cinema spin on classics a cut below real thing

From Page 5

There is no denying that movies such as *Gladiator*, and even the less factually based adventures such as *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, are immensely popular world wide. But Dr Geddes believes that, rather than being helpful to the Classics cause, Hollywood's modern-day interpretation of history has its dangers.

"The movies don't give any information or encouragement to students who are more and more decisively cut off from the past. The cultural shift which determines that 'only the present is relevant' leaves a real hunger for knowledge, for which fantasy is a virtually worthless substitute."

The popularity of Classics courses at Adelaide University suggests that plenty of students would like to know about the past. This year, more than 200 students enrolled in the first-year Classics course. There are

10 full-time Honours students and one half-time.

"The range of courses they're studying gives a good idea of what can be done these days in Classics," Dr Geddes said.

"Archaeology is a popular choice, and our students are working on Roman portraiture, burial practices and sun imagery. One student is studying the representation of women in myth, another the manifestations of the goddess Artemis. We have history students and classical art and architecture students."

Several Honours students are also attending Dr Geddes's annual winter field trip to southern Turkey. The trip is designed for undergraduates, although interested members of the public can and do attend. In Turkey, students get to see first-hand the wonderfully well-preserved Greco-Roman cities of Pamphylia.

"These cities were at their most prosperous during the 2nd century AD, the period of Marcus Aurelius and Commodus," Dr Geddes said.

"The buildings were designed in the Roman Baroque style, faced with marble, covered with rich ornament and peopled with statuary. Mosaics and variegated marble covered the floors. Each of these cities had its theatre and its stadium, and although the eastern Greek half of the Roman empire did not have the taste for bloodshed as entertainment, which was more a western phenomenon, most of the theatres had been adapted for wild animals and gladiatorial fighting.

"There in Turkey, our students get the chance to make a transition from the fantasy world into the real world of the past," she said, "in a context where the truth is important."



# New internet research centre @ Adelaide

ADELAIDE University is creating a new Centre for Internet Technology Research, bringing together the many areas of internet research at the University.

The new centre is part of Adelaide's involvement in the recently established Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Smart Internet Technology.

Of the more than 70 CRCs established in Australia, the CRC for Smart Internet Technology is the first directed purely to research and development of the internet. It involves nine universities and 23 companies, including Telstra, Motorola, Nortel and Hewlett Packard, linked across seven cities.

Adelaide University's success in becoming a partner in the new CRC has further enhanced the University's role in the nation's information technology and telecommunications research and development.

The CRC for Smart Internet Technology has five research programs, of which Adelaide University is in two—those dealing with the networks that underpin the internet, and the "user environment" that shapes the setting into which products and processes enter the market.

Through the CRC, the University will receive funding for staff and postgraduate students.

"To facilitate the work of the CRC within the University, and to meet the opportunities arising from other developments in South

Australia, the University is establishing a Centre for Internet Technology Research that draws together all of our contributors to the CRC," said the head of the new centre, Professor Lang White (Electrical & Electronic Engineering).

These contributors are: the Centre for Telecommunications Information Networking (CTIN), the Teletraffic Research Centre (TRC), the National Key Centre for Geographical Information Systems (GISCA) and individuals from other departments and centres from across the Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences, Faculty of PALACE and Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences.

Professor White said the new Centre for Internet Technology Research would become "the home for talented researchers from across the University—from engineers to social scientists, from economics to law—dedicated to simplifying a complex, often converging technology where devices, application and needs are multiplying and developing".

The three leaders of the principal contributing research centres will also provide critical research leadership for the new centre; namely Professor Reg Coutts of CTIN, Professor Peter Taylor of TRC and Professor Graeme Hugo of GISCA.

"Other senior researchers will be appointed to the centre, as will a team of postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers," Professor White said.



Adelaide's new internet centre to become "the home for talented researchers from across the University". Photo: David Ellis.

The centre will also collaborate with other South Australian-based institutions, such as the Institute for Telecommunications Research at the University of South Australia. Meanwhile, a special national internet training

program is being established as part of the CRC for Smart Internet Technology, of which one node will be located in Adelaide to provide training in the commercialisation of intellectual property generated by the research.

## 125 years of geology in new book

A NEW book detailing the history of the University's Geology & Geophysics Department reveals just how important and varied its work has been over the past 125 years: conducting important research in Antarctica, pioneering the use of aircraft for scientific reconnaissance and aerial photography in Australia, and naming the Simpson Desert. And that's just the work of one staff member!

*Records and Reminiscences: Geosciences at the University of Adelaide 1875-2000* was compiled by current staff member Dr John Cooper, with assistance from Rowl Twidale, Jennie Bourne and the late Robin Oliver.

In the book's introduction, current department head Professor Stewart Greenhalgh explains that it was not intended to be a formal history of the department as such.

"Rather, and as its title indicates, it provides a record of departmental activities and the people responsible for them, over the past 125 years," he writes.

"Geology has been offered as a field of study at Adelaide over its entire history, commencing in 1875 with Ralph Tate, a geologist, and one of the four foundation professors of the University.

"The department is the third oldest in the country, and is often thought of as Sir Douglas Mawson's department. He was professor here from 1920 to 1952.

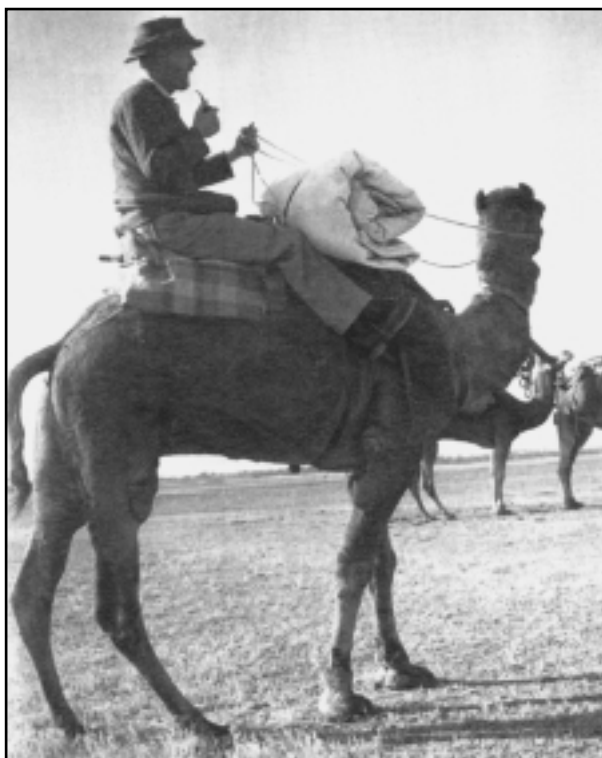
"The University has an excellent reputation and proud tradition of geoscience education and research, with many of its graduates going on to occupy prominent positions in academia, government and industry, both in Australia and around the world."

One of the people responsible for geoscience's proud tradition at Adelaide—and the one staff member referred to at the beginning—is Dr Cecil Thomas Madigan (1889-1947), who was with the department as lecturer from 1922 to 1947.

Dr Madigan had a fantastically varied career and life, as detailed in *Records and Reminiscences* by Rowl Twidale, Leslie Parkin and Eric Rudd. He graduated from Adelaide University in 1910 with a Bachelor of Engineering, and was selected as a Rhodes Scholar, graduating from Oxford with a BA, First Class Honours in Natural Science (Geology).

Among other things, he:

- accompanied Mawson to Antarctica in 1911, where he carried out meteorological duties and several exploratory sledging surveys. He was also chosen as leader of the group which stayed behind for an extra year to wait for



Dr Cecil Madigan astride a camel with his desert-crossing support team.

the return of Mawson after his ill-fated sledging journey:

- fought on the Western Front in World War One, where he rose to the rank of captain, was wounded twice and twice mentioned in dispatches;

- worked in the Sudan civil service for two years prior to his arrival at Adelaide University;

- carried out groundbreaking research on Australia's vast interior, which included pioneering the use of planes for aerial research in Australia, and conducting the first detailed research on the MacDonnell Ranges;

- named the Simpson Desert after carrying out extensive research on its sand ridges, as well as conducting research on Lake Eyre (Madigan Gulf, a major embayment in the southeastern part of Lake Eyre North, is named after him).

—Ben Osborne

*Records and Reminiscences* is available from the Geology Department at the non-profit cost of \$22. Phone (08) 8303 5376 or email: <office.geology@adelaide.edu.au>.

## Free physics public lecture makes waves

AS PART of National Science Week, international physicist Dr Gabriela Gonzalez will present the Claire Corani Memorial Lecture at Adelaide University on 14 May.

Dr Gonzalez is Assistant Professor of Physics at Penn State University in Pennsylvania, USA.

Her free public lecture is entitled *Gravitational waves: a new Window to the Universe*.

"Gravitational waves provide a new and unique way to look at the Universe, making possible the study of black holes and strong gravity fields," Dr Gonzalez said.

"Even though their existence was predicted by Einstein at the beginning of the century, they are weak enough to have escaped detection so far.

"Large-scale interferometric observatories are being built over the world (including Australia!) to find the elusive waves and create a new and different map of the sky.

"I will describe the allure of gravitational waves, the experimental challenge involved in their detection, and the exciting prospects for the near future."

Her lecture includes the presentation of the Claire Corani awards for achievement by female physics students, named in memory of Adelaide physicist Claire Corani, who died tragically in 1994.

The lecture is presented by the Australian Institute of Physics, in conjunction with the Women in Physics group and National Science Week.

Where: Union Hall, Adelaide University. When: Monday, 14 May, 7.30pm. Cost: Free

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**MembersEquity**

# Recruiting firm keys in to local IT opportunities

ADELAIDE graduates are taking advantage of a new service which aims to give university students the edge when seeking a career in the information technology market.

While South Australia's IT&T industry is one of the fastest growing in Australia, it also needs a steady supply of highly trained graduates.

Human resources firm ITD Recruiting has initiated and funded a program through which university students are trained and made "employment ready" for the South Australian IT&T industry.

In the first program of its kind in Australia, ITD Recruiting puts students through a series of training sessions while they complete the last year of their university degree.

"The program consists of six key elements that include professional skills training, career advice and counselling, work experience and mentoring," said ITD managing director Mr Con Liascos.

"The integrated nature of the IT Graduates program allows us to liaise closely with the IT industry in South Australia to clearly define their graduate requirements, both in terms of technical skills and required personal traits.

"This can remove much of the anxiety that

many IT companies have about graduate recruitment and enhances the graduate's chances of success."

This year, ITD Recruiting aims to successfully place around 25 graduates with local IT companies, double the number of last year.

So far, two Adelaide University students have successfully undertaken the IT Graduates program: Computer Science graduate Garth Terrell, who is now working for Quest Electronic Developments, and Computer Systems Engineering graduate Roland Peddie, who is working at Ebor Computing in the Defence Science Technology Organisation (DSTO) facility at Salisbury.

Although the Adelaide IT market is relatively small in national terms, more than 35 major high-technology companies and 14 world-class centres of IT excellence are based in South Australia.

Adelaide is also home to the largest internet data centre in the Southern Hemisphere and has been recognised as a centre of excellence in IT research and development.

"Despite this, many of our best graduates are snapped up by the large multinationals and move to other States, where salaries are higher and job opportunities seem to be



(From right) Adelaide University graduate Garth Terrell, now a software engineer for Quest Electronic Developments, with ITD's Mr Con Liascos and fellow Quest engineer Tim Schneider.

greater," Mr Liascos said.

"But the fact is that much of the most interesting and exciting work in IT is being carried out by small and medium-sized companies in places such as Adelaide, and a

special effort must be made both to help these local companies capture talented local graduates, and also to show those graduates the real job opportunities and benefits that exist locally."

## Faculty change to create "powerhouse of science"

From Page 1

"The new structure will allow us to offer students an increased range of programs, including the generalist degree of Bachelor of Science, with a significantly broad range of options for pathways to advanced study in areas such as entomology, marine science, nano-technology, plant genomics, biotechnology, photonics, genetics, viticulture and oenology," he said.

Professor Malcolm Oades, Executive Dean of Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences and Director of the Waite campus, added: "As well as our strengths in basic and applied sciences, the Faculty will be associated with Cooperative Research Centres in viticulture, molecular plant breeding, weed management, dryland salinity, wool quality, petroleum, mineral exploration, tissue growth and repair, freshwater ecology and pest control.

"It [the Faculty of Sciences] will also host two federally funded Special Research Centres in theoretical physics and molecular genetics."

Adding strength to these resources will be the significant contribution to education and research already provided by the close relationships with Waite and Roseworthy campus partners: the South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI), Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA), the Australian Wine Research Institute, CSIRO and TAFE.

"Ventures such as the soon-to-be launched Livestock Systems Alliance at Roseworthy illustrate the educational excellence and research potential that can be realised by working together," Professor Oades said.

"These partnerships mean students are exposed to and able to utilise the technology and latest research. Students in the Faculty of Sciences will have unique exposure to 'living science', from theory to laboratory to real application."

The new Faculty of Sciences is expected to come into operation on 1 January, 2002.

—David Ellis

Advertisement

## Our help makes hosting your conference easier.

National and international recognition in any area of expertise can attract many opportunities for those who are able to present and promote their work with style and professionalism. And what better backdrop is there than the attractions of Adelaide's internationally renowned entertainment, food and wine regions?

Which is why the Adelaide Convention & Tourism Authority (ACTA) provides free assistance through its University Project to attract and stage outstanding conferences. Our services include:

- Preparation of proposals to attract regional, national and international conferences to South Australia;
- Conference facilities, venue and catering advice;
- Videos, posters and brochures for publicity, delegate satchels and conference promotion;
- Conference budgeting, organisation and planning advice;

• Intensive conference training through the "Essential conference organiser's workshop", held each quarter.

The opportunity to successfully promote your expertise and research to industry, government and the community will always be important. With our local knowledge and an ideal setting to help, you will be able to focus on what you do best.

Find out more by contacting ACTA's University Project on (08) 8303 2333 or uni@acta.com.au  
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Level 2, 18 King William St, Adelaide SA 5000  
Phone +61 8 8303 2333  
Facsimile +61 8 8303 2355  
http://www.visit.adelaide.on.net

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AUSTRALIA

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## \$1 million laser lab opens

THE research team which developed the flame for the Sydney 2000 Olympic torch and cauldron has opened a new, state-of-the-art Laser Laboratory at Adelaide University.

The \$1 million laboratory will assist the engineering team in its ongoing efforts to develop technology which reduces greenhouse gas emissions from combustion.

Adelaide University's Turbulence Energy and Combustion (TEC) group received national and international recognition for its work on the fuel and combustion system for the Olympic torch, community cauldron and main stadium cauldron.

Based in two University departments—Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering—the group's work focuses on the development and application of new technology for the control of turbulence, and to reduce the environmental impact of combustion.

The TEC group has a strong track record in attracting commercial research contracts, and has patented some of its biggest developments.

Lasers play a pivotal role in this research, because they can be used to "look into" flames and accurately measure their properties and processes.



The new TEC Laser Diagnostics Laboratory is comprised of state-of-the-art laser equipment, purchased with the aid of funds obtained through the Australian Research Council ARC.

This makes the research group one of the most highly equipped in the nation, and competitive internationally.

Pictured at the launch of the new laser lab are (from left) Professor Keith King, head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, and the Hon. Wayne Matthew MP, Minister for Minerals and Energy.

## ChemEngTest

A NEW industry-linked scholarship scheme has given two Chemical Engineering students real-world experience.

Second-year students Danny Jenkins and Julie Penna completed separate projects for two Adelaide firms under the scheme, which operates as a consultancy through ChemEngTest, the commercial arm of the Department of Chemical Engineering.

The scheme enables government organisations or companies to sponsor a Chemical Engineering student to perform R&D for them under the supervision of academic staff. The industry sponsor pays ChemEngTest for materials and consumables, and funds the cost of a tax-free stipend, paid to the student.

Danny's project, for Remove-All Rubbish, identified treatment options for organic waste for a new municipal waste treatment facility proposed by the company.



Julie investigated the feasibility of water recycling at International Hydroponics' greenhouses at Angle Vale. She showed how \$100,000 could be saved in five years with a payback period of less than one year by recycling water resources available at the site.

Pictured (from left) are Danny Jenkins, Mr Daniel Bolderoff (International Hydroponics), Mr David Bolderoff (Remove-All Rubbish), Mrs Jennifer Critchley (ChemEngTest) and Julie Penna.

—Ben Osborne

# Three maestros serve first in feast of concerts

A SMORGASBOARD of opera highlights, orchestral music, wind band premieres, a huge jazz line-up and an exciting first-time percussion dance collaboration are all featured in this year's evening concerts at Elder Hall.

The 2001 Elder Conservatorium Concert Series features five evening concerts in Elder Hall starting in June.

The grand opening concert, *Viva Verdi!* on 2 June, features the combined forces of the Elder Conservatorium Vocal School, Symphony Orchestra and the Pro Canto Choir in a night of best-loved opera highlights and a centenary tribute to Giuseppe Verdi.

The three musical maestros in charge are Conductors Keith Crellin and Grahame Dudley, and Master of Ceremonies Keith Hempton.

*From Russia with Love* is the second concert on 21 July, for which Keith Crellin conducts the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra in a stirring program of Kabelevsky, Rachmaninov and Dvorak. Best known as a violist and foundation member of the Australian String Quartet, Keith is now resident Conductor and Coordinator of Chamber Music at the Elder Conservatorium, as well as Senior Lecturer in Viola.

Two Australian premieres, plus the most famous of Percy Grainger's works for wind band, *Lincolnshire Posy*, feature in *A Galaxy of Winds* on 18 August. Robert Hower conducts the internationally acclaimed Elder Conservatorium Wind Ensemble in an entertaining program of works inspired by astrology, blues and big band, and English folk songs.

*Dance 'n' Percussion* on 15 September is an exciting inaugural collaboration between the



Three maestros (from left) Keith Crellin, Grahame Dudley and Keith Hempton. Photo: David Ellis.

Elder Conservatorium's award-winning percussionists, directed by James Bailey, and the elite dancers of the emerging DropArt dance company. Elder Hall is transformed for this high-energy performance of two world premieres of dance works, choreographed by Sally Hederics and Veronica Shum, to the music of Mudra by Bob Becker of Nexus, and *A Doll's House Story* by contemporary Hungarian composer Istvan Marta.

For the series finale on 11 October, jazz aficionado and broadcaster Jim McLeod from ABC Classic FM, takes us on a guided tour through *Jazz—Then and Now*. The

night looks at vocal styles past and present with international jazz vocalist Anita Wardell, the Adelaide Connection, the Adelaide University Big Band and the cream of Adelaide's honours jazz crop!

The 2001 evening concert series is sponsored by Orlando Trilogy and supported by 5UV Radio Adelaide.

Tickets are \$22 per concert (\$14 concession, \$8 student) or at the discount price of only \$16 per concert for all five in the series. Tickets are available from BASS outlets; phone 131 246.

—Di Kidd  
Concert Manager

## Special discounts — alumni and staff

All Adelaide University staff can buy tickets for any or all concerts at the concession price.

Subscribe to three or five concerts and save up to \$60, or try one at a time and save \$8.

To subscribe, pick up a brochure at the Elder Conservatorium office or any BASS outlet, and post or fax your completed subscription form to BASS Subscriptions, along with a photocopy of your Adelaide University staff card.

Discount tickets to single concerts are also available at BASS or at the door on presentation of your staff card.

The same discount is available to Adelaide University alumni who have received a special Alumni Voucher in their regular *Adelaidean* mail-out.

To receive the discount, simply present the voucher at any BASS outlet, at the door, or by returning the voucher along with your subscription form to BASS.

For those alumni who have purchased a Service Package, a complimentary ticket will still be made available, along with an extra ticket at concession price for all concerts in the 2001 Elder Conservatorium concert series.

Service package holders will soon receive details about this offer in the mail.

## Ian Creagh off to UK



THE Executive Director of Student and Staff Services, Mr Ian Creagh, will leave Adelaide University in July to take up an appointment as Registrar and Secretary of the City University in London.

Mr Creagh joined Adelaide University in 1997 after holding a series of senior executive positions in the Australian public service, predominantly in the higher education area. These included Chief Policy Adviser and Secretary to the Review of Higher Education Policy and Financing (the West Committee).

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mary O'Kane, said Mr Creagh had made a tremendous contribution to Adelaide University.

"While I am pleased that our staff continue to be recognised and head-hunted for important appointments, I am very sorry that we will be losing someone of Ian's calibre," she said.

"He has implemented major reforms of key administrative systems and has been a dynamic member of the senior management team. Administrative reforms can be difficult and challenging but I have no doubt that this University will enjoy the benefits of Ian's vision and leadership even more fully over time."

"I've really enjoyed my time at Adelaide," he said. "It's provided opportunities that I would never have been exposed to in any other job. The dedication and commitment of the staff in my areas of responsibility has been an inspiration and I'm sad to be leaving so many good friends."

## ALUMNI EVENTS

### AGM ADVANCE NOTICE

On Tuesday 19 June, Union Hall, North Terrace Campus. Official proceedings will commence at 5.30pm and will be immediately followed by a guest speaker. Refreshments will be provided. Visit our website at <[www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni)> for details.

### SCIENCE CHAPTER AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Science and Mathematical Sciences Chapter will be held on 30 May at 5.30pm in the Union Gallery, Level 6, Union House. Following official business there will be a presentation by Adelaide University science journalist Dr Rob Morrison on "Science and the Media". The meeting is open to all students, graduates, former and current staff, and the general public. Light refreshments will be provided. For information contact Kim McBride, Alumni, Community Relations and Development office at (08) 8303 3196.

### INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI EVENTS



Singapore Chapter members and MBA graduates joined Singapore Chapter Chair Mr Michael Khor and Alumni Association Chair the Hon. Greg Crafter for a luncheon and family day to welcome new graduates at the Serangoon Gardens Country Club following the inaugural graduation ceremony in Singapore.



A table of distinguished Malaysian alumni enjoyed an Adelaide University gathering at the Hyatt Regency, Kota Kinabalu. Guests attending the dinner included Tan Sri Datuk Abdul Hamid Egeh (seated, front right) and the former Chief Minister of Sabah, Yb Datuk Seri Joseph P Kitingan (back far left) who addressed the dinner guests and spoke of the strong relations between alumni of his region and (their) Adelaide University.

### ALUMNI RECEPTION



Pictured at the recent Alumni Reception are Professor Mary O'Kane, Vice-Chancellor, the Hon. Greg Crafter, Chair of the Alumni Association, and Mr Bob Richards, SA Coordinator for the International Year of the Volunteer. The reception, held on 23 May at Urrbrae House, paid tribute to the Association's volunteers and sponsors.

### OFFICE RELOCATION

The Alumni, Community Relations &

Development office has moved from Alumni House to Level 1, 230 North Terrace. Our contact details remain the same: Alumni, Community Relations and Development, Adelaide University SA 5005. Tel: 618 8303 5800, Fax: 618 8303 5808, Email: <[alumni@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:alumni@adelaide.edu.au)>.

### ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY TOURS



Would you like to see the historic buildings and beautiful grounds of South Australia's oldest University? Learn about the history and heritage of Adelaide University on a free of charge tour conducted by trained guides from the University's Alumni Association. Tours depart each Tuesday morning at 10.30am from University Gate 20, next to the Art Gallery of South Australia on North Terrace. Groups may make arrangements for tours at other times by calling the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office on (08) 8303 3234.

Tours of the Thebarton Campus on Wednesday 16 May, Roseworthy Campus on Thursday 10 October, and tours of the Waite Campus and the University's Art Collection are planned during 2001 - bookings will be essential. Groups may make arrangements for tours at other times by calling Judith Edwards, Donor Relations Officer, Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office on (08) 8303 3234.

www.adelaide.edu.au/5UV

May 2001

**5UV Radio Adelaide 531am**

**On Your Radio**

**Live from Studio 5!** the third of our jazz specials live from the PATU Studio, 5th floor of the Schultz, featuring The Honours Jazz Ensemble of the Elder Con in a dynamic live performance Monday May, 7.30pm  
Join the studio audience! Call Helen Stevens on 8303 3799

**Aspects of Ageing**  
What is ageing? When does it begin? When are we middle-aged and when are we old? This new series explores transition in our lives, starting Monday May 14  
Radio Expresso at 7.30am, Roundabout at 3.30pm

**Sunday mornings**  
when you've got time to let your mind wander

**9am Arts Alive**  
arts ideas and issues

**10am On Campus**  
research, ideas & music from Adelaide University

**11am Public Domain**  
May 20 JM Coetzee - What is Realism?  
The celebrated writer recorded at Elder Hall on March 6 this year, presented by ARCHSS

May 27 Refugees - Victims or Villains?  
A Politics in the Pub event recorded April 26 with Don McMasters, Jeremy Moore & Dennis Voight  
see our Program Guide for our ongoing program of public talks every Sunday

Subscribe to 5UV Radio Adelaide in May & you'll go into the draw for a 6 play season pass to the State Theatre Company of SA June to December this year / valued at \$204 ring us on 8303 5000 for details.

## Jazz awards concert showcases very best of our young talent

THE FIFTH annual Elder Conservatorium Jazz Awards Concert celebrating the talents of Adelaide's top young jazz musicians will be held in the University's Scott Theatre on Wednesday 9 May.

This one-night-only concert highlights the best musical talents of a vibrant group of seven jazz performers from the University's jazz music program. These high achievers have all been recognised as the top students in their fields.

The winners will be rewarded by the Adelaide business and music communities, who have sponsored cash prizes to be presented during the concert.

The 2001 winners are:

**Most Outstanding Undergraduate**

Jazz Vocalist, Jo Lawry

Jo will receive the 2001 City of Adelaide Jazz Award of \$500 cash, plus assistance towards a paid, high-profile, public performance. Jo was also the winner of the Jazz Voice award last year.

**Most Outstanding Postgraduate Winner**

Saxophonist, Adam Page

Adam will receive \$500 from Baron Partners. This award completes the hat-trick for Adam who won top undergraduate awards for saxophone in 1999 and 2000.

**Undergraduate Award Winner - Jazz Guitar**

Roley Coulter

\$300 from Influence Presentations



The 2001 Jazz Award Winners (from left): Lyndon Gray, Roley Coulter, Jo Lawry, Naomi Crellin, Aaron Lipp, Adam Page and Christopher Martin.

**Undergraduate Award Winner - Saxophone**

Aaron Lipp

\$300 from the Jazz Action Society

**Undergraduate Award Winner - Jazz Voice**

Naomi Crellin

\$300 from dB Magazine

**Undergraduate Award Winner - Piano**

Christopher Martin

\$300 from Envestra Limited

**Undergraduate Award Winner - Bass**

Lyndon Gray

\$300 from the Helpmann Academy for the Visual and Performing Arts

—Sheila Bryce

The 5th Annual Elder Conservatorium Jazz Awards Concert starts at 8.00pm on Wednesday, 9 May in the Scott Theatre. Tickets are \$11 or \$5.50 concession and are available at the door.

## Sleazy world comes to life in Guild's new comedy

**THE THREPPENNY OPERA**

LITTLE THEATRE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

Performance dates: Saturday 5 May, Tuesday 8-Saturday 12 May and Tuesday 15-Saturday 19 May, all performances starting 7.30pm. Tickets \$15 full, \$10 concession can be booked at BASS on 131 246, or the Theatre Guild on 8303 5999.

WHORES, thieves and the odd beggar or two are just some of the characters featured prominently in the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's forthcoming production of *The Threppenny Opera*.

The irreverent comedy, directed by June Barnes (last seen as Mistress Overdone in the Guild's 2000 production of *Measure for Measure*), has been described as neither musical nor opera, but rather a play with music.

It is set in the sleazy lowlife world of Soho, and follows its inhabitants of rogues, rascals, whores and thieves—alternatively known as entrepreneurs—as they cunningly go about their daily business of trying to out-do each other.

Adelaide University Elder Conservatorium students feature prominently among the cast and crew.

Rowen Fox, who is the Musical Director, is

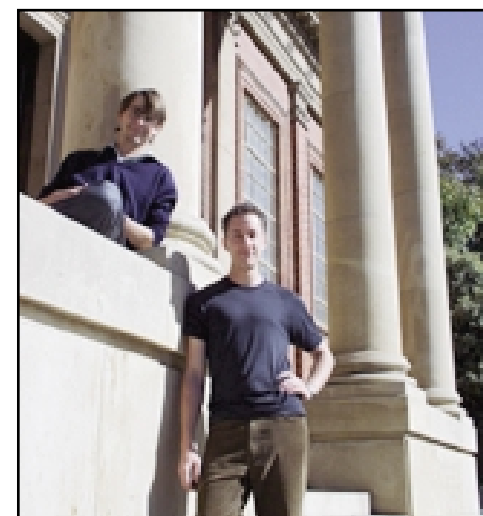
presently completing his Honours in Music Composition, as is Sound Designer Gareth Barnes.

Cast member Rachel McCall, who received great critical acclaim for her portrayal of Cosette in Mayfair Theatre's award-winning production of *Les Miserables* last year, is also studying at the Conservatorium.

*The Threppenny Opera*, based on John Gay's eighteenth century *Beggar's Opera*, premiered on 31 August 1928 and was a phenomenal success.

With its brilliantly original music by Kurt Weill contrasting with the outrageous, unconventional and almost cruel style of Bertolt Brecht's dialogue and lyrics, *The Threppenny Opera* continues to enjoy a popularity matched only by the best known musicals or the most established operas.

—Ben Osborne



*The Threppenny Opera* Musical Director Rowen Fox (left) and Sound Designer Gareth Barnes, who are also both students at the Adelaide University Elder Conservatorium.



## NEWSMAKERS

The appointment of **Dr Charles Bodman Rae** as Elder Professor of Music evoked a chorus of media approval.

Tim Lloyd in *The Advertiser* (7 April) described the filling of the long-vacant post as a "cause for celebration". He said the new professor "appears to fit the mould of some of our most successful Elder professors". *The Australian's* Graham Strahle (16 April) was equally enthusiastic. He saw the appointment as ending years of uncertainty about the future of music at the University and predicted "a period of resurgence for a city where university-level music has languished for too long".

Malaysia's *New Straits Times* (27 March) gave prominent coverage to the University's graduation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur. A

report of the occasion was accompanied by a photograph of Agriculture Minister Datuk Effendi Norwawi (the speaker) with Vice-Chancellor Professor Mary O'Kane and mace bearer Idzham Fauzi. The ceremony was also featured in the main evening news bulletin on Malaysian television.

In the *Sunday Mail* (22 April) **Dr Jane Vernon-Roberts** discussed the success of the surrogate patients program for medical students. The long-established program uses actors to test students' communication and investigative skills.

Ecologist **Margaret Wright** was featured on 5AN, 5CK and in *The Advertiser* (10 April) speaking about her work as part of the team investigating Ovine Johne's Disease among kangaroos and tamar wallabies on Kangaroo

Island. She and her colleagues are worried about how the disease may have spread from the island's sheep.

Another animal in the news was the brush-tailed phascogale. **Dr Peter Hornsby** told the *Hills Messenger* (10 April) that, despite some claims to the contrary, the animal is no longer to be found in the wild in the Adelaide Hills. In the same issue of the *Hills Messenger*, **Dr Graham Collins** explained how cheap olive oil imports, high labour costs and a lack of demand had caused the collapse of the local olive oil industry early in the last century.

The crisis at Harris Scarfe prompted 5AA's Keith Conlon and Tony Pilkington to question **Professor Scott Henderson** about

what might happen if the company went into receivership (5 April). On 5AN, **Dr Christina Twomey** joined Carole Whitelock's Long Lunch for a discussion on the portrayal of history in films. Dr Twomey said war films had given generations of people an understanding of war which would have been difficult to achieve through text only.

*Today Tonight* on Channel 7 (30 March) interviewed **Professor John Spencer** about why bottled water may not be as good for your teeth as tap water. *The Australian* (4 April) had another water-related story: the tale of how Science student **Michael Hammer** found a previously unidentified species of fish—measuring only two centimetres—in Lake Alexandrina.