

Adelaidian

Volume 10 Number 11

News from Adelaide University

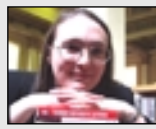
December 2001

I N S I D E



A sound solution for carp

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The Lord of the Rings

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Spineless invaders

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Securing the future: major initiatives announced for 2002

Vice-Chancellor tackles budget issues

THE Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cliff Blake, has announced a series of initiatives aimed at strengthening Adelaide University's position as one of Australia's foremost research and education institutions.

The initiatives include: a comprehensive budget strategy to restore the University's capital base and secure its financial future; a stronger marketing effort to build on an increase of nearly 30% in total student applications for 2002 [see story page 3]; a staff renewal strategy, incorporating a recruitment drive and voluntary early retirement scheme to reinvigorate the academic staff profile; a new Graduate School for postgraduate research students [see story page 3]; new budget control measures; a \$20 million capital works program [see story page 4]; a new University Planning Office with responsibility for strategic planning, resource allocation and capital management; more partnership arrangements with overseas institutions to build on the University's position as the largest onshore provider of international education in South Australia.

Professor Blake said the measures were designed to strengthen the University's performance in key strategic areas and to ensure that it was positioned to meet new and emerging challenges.

"The budget strategy provides a comprehensive resolution of the financial issues faced by the University," he said.

"The major issue was the emergence of a deficit of an estimated \$3.2 million which will need to be carried over from the 2001 calendar year.

"Adelaide University's financial position is fundamentally sound. It has a strong balance sheet, but the issue of the declining surplus has been recognised for some time and reconfirmed and re-emphasised by Council and senior management. The 2002 Budget is the next step in addressing this challenge.

"The new financial management systems which we have put in place will ensure that the

University achieves a balanced budget in 2002 and significant surpluses in subsequent years. This will enable us to rebuild our cash reserves and look to the future with confidence."

The budget strategy aims to boost revenue by attracting more fee-paying international students and reduce costs through tighter internal controls, an early voluntary retirement scheme, and amalgamation of some small schools/departments.

"Adelaide University is recognised nationally and internationally as one of Australia's great universities," Professor Blake said.

"The initiatives announced ensure that the University will be better able to meet the challenges of the 21st century and continue to make a significant contribution to South Australia and the nation."

A total of 47 Adelaide University staff had been accepted for early retirement under the University's voluntary early retirement scheme, Professor Blake said.

The group included academic as well as general staff; some are among the University's longest serving staff members, and many have made enormous contributions to the institution, Professor Blake said.

Applications from other staff were still under consideration, and it was expected that total acceptances would exceed 50. Most of the early retirees would leave the University early in the New Year.

"The staff renewal strategy will enable some staff to retire early and will also involve the appointment of new staff in areas of strong student demand or in areas of identified research strength," Professor Blake said.

Among the initiatives announced by the Vice-Chancellor was an expansion of international activities in 2002, building on the University's position as the largest onshore provider of international education in South Australia.

Currently around 1600 students from more than 70 countries study at Adelaide University.

Continued Page 3

Lights, campus, action!



Two scenes in the latest film to star Robert Carlyle (*Hamish Macbeth*, *The Full Monty*) have been shot at key locations at Adelaide University. Pictured above is Director Craig Lahiff (centre) discussing a scene in the Mitchell Building with actor Colin Friels. Turn to page 8 to learn more about the film, and Adelaide University's involvement.

Youth leadership supported

FOR the second year in a row, Adelaide University is sponsoring the Youth Leadership Award as part of the SA Youth Awards Showcase.

There are eight awards in total being offered in the Showcase, which is an initiative of Paradise Community Services and sponsored by the South Australian Government.

The Adelaide University Youth Leadership Award is aimed at recognising the achievements of young people who have made a significant contribution as a leader within any sphere of their community. Those who nominate for the award will have already reached the finals in another youth award in the last two years, not necessarily in this field.

Other award categories featured as part of the Showcase include youth achievement, youth and community service, natural resources and environment, youth initiative, youth inspiration, sports, and the overall winner, the South Australian Young Person of the Year.

Prizes include \$2500 cash in each of the Showcase categories, and the overall winner will receive an additional \$2500 cash plus an overseas travel package for two, flying Qantas and staying with Novotel.

Entry forms are available now, with entries closing on February 28, 2002.

For more information about entry details contact Paradise Community Services on (08) 8336 0066, or email: pcs@pcs.org.au.

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GRADUATIONS

PRIZES FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

In August, the *Adelaidean* ran a feature on two of the four staff members to receive this year's Stephen Cole the Elder Prizes for Teaching.

The \$5000 prizes recognise excellence in teaching, and nominations come from students and fellow staff members.

As the prizes are normally presented during graduations, and with December graduations now approaching, we now welcome readers to the remaining two winners of this year's teaching prizes:

LIFE has come full circle for Stephen Cole the Elder 2001 teaching prize recipient, **Mr Anthony Pohl**.

As a teenager growing up in South Africa, he was fortunate enough to be able to satisfy his curiosity in medicine thanks to a friendly surgeon, who once a week allowed Mr Pohl to watch him perform surgical procedures.

Now, as Director of Orthopaedic Trauma at the Royal Adelaide Hospital and senior clinical lecturer in orthopaedics at Adelaide University, Mr Pohl has in turn been recognised for his contribution as an educator.

Mr Pohl came to Australia in 1978 to pursue an orthopaedic career after being educated and working in South Africa, and said the way he was educated has had a significant bearing on the way he now teaches.

"I was fortunate enough that by the time I was able to go to medical school, I already had years of "hands-on", if you like, education in surgery by being able to watch a very good surgeon, and talk to him about



Mr Anthony Pohl.

what he was doing," he said.

"With my Adelaide University medical students, I like to be as open as I can, and use the knowledge of what I and others have experienced throughout our careers to help students better understand clinical conditions and their management."

"I like to incorporate lots of examples and "for instances" in my teaching so students are aware of the real-life situations that occur."

"And wherever possible, I also like to incorporate the experiences of relevant medical practitioners. I believe it is of great value to be exposed to other people's experiences, particularly if they have been

working in the field for some time.

"Succinct summaries of principles of management in clinical medicine can save students a lot of time and unnecessary effort early in their careers."

IT'S a hat-trick of success for Adelaide University's Department of Chemistry, with one of its staff members receiving a Stephen Cole the Elder Prize for excellence in teaching for the third consecutive year.

This year's winner, **Dr Simon Pyke**, joins Dr Geoff Crisp and Dr Mark Buntine as a recipient of the prestigious award.

Dr Pyke joined Adelaide in 1992, after completing undergraduate and postgraduate courses at the University of Sydney, and working as a post-doctoral fellow in England.

Dr Pyke said Adelaide was his first serious taste of teaching after being concerned mainly with research, and that he developed his passion for teaching virtually straight away.

"I hadn't done much teaching before so I learnt an awful lot in a hurry," he said. "David Ward and Geoff Crisp have been excellent mentors in that regard, encouraging me to try new things."

"To me, students are really important to what I do—they're people, not just numbers. I try to be as open with them as I can, to always have time to talk to them if they would like to discuss anything."

"The teaching style that I have developed encourages students to become active



Dr Simon Pyke.

learners—they just can't sit there and be sponges, they have to get involved and engage with the material.

"I really enjoy getting involved with what the students are thinking and doing. I think the greatest reward in teaching is seeing the point where a student understands a new concept or method—that's just a fantastic feeling."

Dr Pyke said it was a thrill just to be nominated, as "I'm just doing my job".

"There's been some terrific people that have received this award in the past, and to be in the same company as them is a great honour," he said.

—Ben Osborne

Adelaidean



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Graduation month is here!

MORE than 2300 Adelaide University students will this month attend one of the highlights of the university year, the December graduation ceremonies.

Nine ceremonies are being held this year, all at Bonython Hall. This year's ceremonies are noteworthy for the introduction of some new features, including:

- the singing of the national anthem as part of each ceremony;
- a graduand or thanking speaker, chosen from the graduands from each of the ceremonies, who will speak briefly after the main speaker to thank them for their attendance and speech.

The dates, times and speakers for the December ceremonies are as follows:

Friday, December 14, 10am: School of Medicine, School of Dentistry. Speaker: Professor Basil Hetzel AC; graduand speaker: Jane Chalmers.

Friday, December 14, 3pm: School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. Speaker: Professor Malcolm Oades;

graduand speaker: Brendan James King.

Monday, December 17, 10am: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Family name A-K, plus all Department of Education courses). Speaker: The Most Reverend Phillip Wilson DD JCL; graduand speaker: Henry Jones.

Monday, December 17, 3pm: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (Family name L-Z, and all other courses excluding Department of Education courses). Speaker: Professor Fay Gale; graduand speaker: Susan Lemar.

Tuesday, December 18, 10am: Graduate School of Management, School of Economics, Elder Conservatorium – School of Performing Arts, and Australian Music Examination Board. Speaker: Professor Charles Bodman Rae; graduand speaker: John Robert Crawford.

Tuesday, December 18, 3pm: School of Commerce. Speaker: Mr Ross Adler AO; graduand speaker: Damien Arthur.

Wednesday, December 19, 10am: School of Engineering. Speaker: Professor John



Simmons; graduand speaker: Vai Tak Victor Wong.

Wednesday, December 19, 3pm: Faculty of Science. Speaker: Professor Peter Rathjen; graduand speaker: Leonie Kay Heilbronn.

Thursday, December 20, 10am: School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, and School of Law. Speaker: Professor Judith Brine; graduand speaker: Elysia Ryan.

This year, extra measures will be put in place to counteract problems caused by possible hot weather, including selling bottled water prior to the ceremonies, and increasing the number of ceremonies to ensure less people in the hall at any one ceremony.

—Ben Osborne

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Uni Budget



The large cuts in the salaries budget will have an adverse effect on academic programs.

Two justifications have been proposed: enterprise bargaining and a low student-staff ratio. I would find it easier to believe that enterprise bargaining was a factor if our salaries were much higher than in other universities in this country, but it is not so.

This brings us then to SSRs [student-staff ratios]. Our SSR is 14.7, which is

close to our GO8 comparators, all between about 15 and 17, except for UWA which is 14.4. Obviously, there are two ways to increase the SSR. One is to reduce staff, which seems to be the favoured strategy at present. But there is another strategy, which is to increase fully funded enrolments. This is not so implausible: the Government has promised an extra 28,000 fully funded places, and demand is well up across the sector.

A rise of just 1 point in our fully funded SSR would generate well over \$10m. Suppose however that DETYA were to refuse, as they might. Then the source of our oppression

would be revealed to be DETYA. They would be saying *your SSR is too low but we won't let you increase it by funding greater student numbers: unless you get rid of staff we may put in an administrator and sack staff for you.*

In that event there is the fall-back to the tried-and-true alternative of increasing over-quota enrolments. This is a sensible option as long as the marginal cost of the extra student is less than what we get for such enrolments. While eventually the marginal cost goes up due to overcrowding, back-of-the-envelope analysis suggests that we could get away with it to a reasonable extent. It

wouldn't solve all our problems, perhaps, but it would help.

On another matter, there is the question of amalgamating academic units. Time and again this surfaces, and I am confident that I speak for the big majority of us when I say that we are sick of constant reviews and proposals for change. We're not naive about the issue, we've discussed it at length with colleagues here and elsewhere, and the arguments for and against have been rehearsed *ad nauseam*. It has been amply demonstrated that there are no financial benefits.

Continued Page 4

Rise in applications: students vote 'yes' to study at Adelaide

ADELAIDE University's reputation as the premier university in South Australia has been reinforced by the latest student application figures, which show an almost 30% increase in total preferences for 2002 compared with this time last year.

The figures, from SATAC (South Australian Tertiary Admissions Centre), show that the number of students who have put Adelaide University as their first preference has increased by 14.4%, while the total number of preferences for Adelaide has jumped by 29.5%.

"We believe there are many reasons for the marked improvement in applications," said the Executive Director of Student & Staff Services at Adelaide University, Ms Susan MacIntosh.

"The University has been responding to market demand by providing more flexibility of study and new academic programs designed to meet students' needs, and there are more places available in some programs. Double degree options are attracting many new students.

"The Bachelor of Media, one of the new programs, has received an excellent number of applications, and the 239 first preferences for the Bachelor of Psychology (Honours) reflects the level of interest in the study of Psychology at the University.

"Law at Adelaide continues to be a popular choice among school leavers, with applications almost double those of last year.

"We are also seeing a marked increase in the number of applications from non-school leavers, such as mature age students and those transferring from other tertiary institutions," Ms MacIntosh said.

In many cases, students applying for university study have been putting Adelaide as their first, second and third preference, showing a great interest in earning a degree from Adelaide University regardless as to whether or not they receive their first preference.



"This shows a recognition by students that Adelaide University is the place to study in South Australia, and that students are interested in the wide range of high-quality degrees and other programs that we offer. They know that by earning a degree from Adelaide University, their qualifications will be recognised world wide," Ms MacIntosh said.

Students who wish to find out more information about academic programs at Adelaide University can attend the Information Evening on Wednesday, January 2, 2002. There will be talks in Elder Hall about academic programs and opportunities for one-to-one counselling and advice in

Bonython Hall. This information evening will be vital for students in helping them with choosing final preferences for application to university study.

Some programs offered at Adelaide University were not advertised in the SATAC guide when students made their initial choices for study. For instance, the Bachelor of Business Information Technology is now open to local applicants.

For more information about study at Adelaide University, students can phone the Student Centre on 8303 5208 or freecall 1800 061 459 (country and interstate students only).

—David Ellis

New graduate school to boost research

A NEW Graduate School for postgraduate research students will open at Adelaide University next year.

The School, which will cater for postgraduate research students from across all Faculties, will build on the University's strengths as one of Australia's foremost research and research training institutions.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cliff Blake, said the School would offer resources and services designed to meet the special needs of postgraduate research students as a group.

"It will constitute a resource centre for postgraduate students, a focal point for students and staff and will operate in partnership with Faculties across the University," Professor Blake said.

"Co-location of the core postgraduate administrative and support functions within a single School will provide a clear focus for research education within the institution. It will also ensure that our quality assurance activities are directed towards those priorities that are consistent with the expectations of the Federal Government and the new Quality Assurance Agency."

Professor Blake said Adelaide University's research strengths had been recognised yet again this month in the latest round of funding from the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC). [see separate story this page].

Professor Blake said that the new Graduate School would sit within the portfolio of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) and would encompass all matters pertaining to research education, including management of continuing students and postgraduate scholarships.

—John Drislane

Major initiatives announced for University

From Page 1

The University's Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor Ian Young said all graduates today needed to work within an international environment, and international students had become an essential element of the life of modern University campuses.

"The University intends to continue to expand its international activities in order to further enrich student life and internationalise the campus," Professor Young said.

"To this end, the University is continuing to develop collaborative relationships with a number of partners throughout Asia.

Agreements have already been signed in Singapore and Malaysia and these agreements will be expanded to Vietnam and Indonesia in 2002.

"The recently announced University Senior College will also provide an exciting new pathway for international students wishing to study at Adelaide University. The College will provide a clearly focused path from school to university for international students, thus overcoming the cultural and language difficulties faced by some students.

"Adelaide University prides itself on the support services provided to all its students, including career advice, course information and general counselling. In the international

area, a comprehensive International Student Centre has been established to support students in areas as diverse as finding accommodation, managing their studies and understanding cultural norms within Australia.

"In addition, the Centre for Professional and Continuing Education runs a series of preparatory English language programs, aimed at ensuring international students are adequately prepared for their studies. These various services are being coordinated across the University to ensure maximum support is provided to international students as they undertake their studies," he said.

—John Drislane

Adelaide wins \$25m in medical research funding

ADELAIDE University has emerged as the nation's biggest winner from the latest round of medical research funding from the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The University has secured more than \$25.7 million in funding for 37 research projects—the best figure for any Australian university on a per capita basis.

The projects funded span the breadth and depth of medical and health research at the University, and range across the departments of dentistry, medicine, molecular biosciences, obstetrics and gynaecology, paediatrics, pathology, pharmacology, physiology, psychiatry, psychology, surgery, and across the teaching hospitals.

The success rate for Adelaide's funding applications for project grants was 33.0%, up from 24.8% last year and well above the national average (just under 25%).

In actual dollar terms, Adelaide was ranked only behind Sydney and Melbourne universities, with Sydney receiving just 0.3% more funding than Adelaide. However, on a per capita basis Adelaide received more funding than any other university—its per capita funding was 80% above the average for other Group of Eight universities and 25% more than the next closest university (UWA).

"This is an incredibly strong result for Adelaide University, and one that continues to reflect the University's position as one of Australia's leading national research universities," said the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cliff Blake.

"For its size, Adelaide is doing tremendously well, and is showing the rest of the nation that quality research of an international standing is being conducted here."

Adelaide's successful research grants included two major program grants totalling more than \$12 million. These two were among 16 announced nationally by the NHMRC, and are:

- Understanding the Human Genome—researching a number of areas of the human genome linked to genetically inherited illnesses, such as epilepsy, some forms of intellectual impairment, and tumours (particularly breast cancer). The funding is \$7.7m over five years, awarded to Professor Grant Sutherland (Paediatrics).
- The Early Origins of Adult Disease—looking at how certain factors in children, such as hormones that restrict growth before and soon after birth, can impact on the development of diseases later in life (such as high blood pressure, insulin resistance and diabetes). The funding is more than \$4.5m over five years, awarded to Professor Jeffrey Robinson (Obstetrics & Gynaecology), Professor Caroline McMillen (Physiology) and Associate Professor Julie Owens (Physiology).

Many other projects have also been funded (37 in total), including research into methadone, fluoride, heart disease, sleep rhythms, premature delivery of babies, hormone replacement therapy, the nervous system, human jaw movements, child behaviour problems, brain injury, bones, psychological trauma, cancers and hepatitis C.

"The diversity and depth of the research projects shows that there are many areas of strength within the University's faculties of Health Sciences and Science," Professor Blake said.

—David Ellis

Major capital works and facelift planned

ADELAIDE University's capital works program for 2002 includes provision of teaching facilities for the new Elder School of Music and completion of the new School of Petroleum Engineering and Management building at the North Terrace campus.

The Elder School of Music, which will be headed by the Elder Professor of Music, Professor Charles Bodman Rae, is being created through the merger of the Flinders Street School of Music and the Elder Conservatorium. During 2002 and 2003, the Schulz, Hartley and Madley Buildings will be adapted to accommodate the increased student and staff numbers. Adelaide University will contribute \$2 million to the cost of this work.

Construction of the new School of Petroleum Engineering and Management (supported by \$25 million from Santos) is due to be completed by June 2002. The School will enrol its first students next year. It will also house the National Centre for Petroleum Geology and Geophysics and joint research facilities with the oil company Schlumberger.

The completion of the School will open up a new boulevard and vista from Frome Street to

the Barr Smith Library doors, adding the final element to the Lower Level Site development.

A new Plant Biotechnology building at the Waite campus is one of the other major capital works planned for 2002. The \$4.2 million building will be shared by the University, the South Australian Research and Development Institute, and the Australian Genomic Research Facility.

Other significant capital works planned for next year include maintenance work at historic Urrbrae House at the Waite Campus; and the start of the relocation to the Physics Building of the Centre for Subatomic Structure of Matter.

In addition, the University has injected an extra \$500,000 into the buildings maintenance program, bringing to \$1.5 million the total amount available for building maintenance over the next three years.

Meanwhile, Adelaide University is backing the North Terrace facelift plan, announcing a series of improvements to link in with State Government and Adelaide City Council initiatives.

Improvements planned for the North Terrace

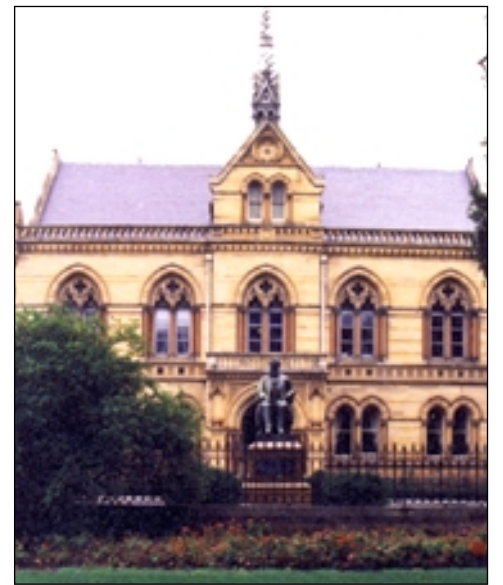
campus include:

- new paving at the front of the University
- opening up more views of historic University buildings
- replanting and additional seats along the campus's North Terrace frontage
- moving the bust of Sir Douglas Mawson to a location more appropriate to its scale
- moving the University carpark entrance away from the Pulteney Street intersection (in cooperation with Adelaide City Council and the State Government).

The chairwoman of the Vice-Chancellor's campus design panel, Professor Judith Brine, said the University had commissioned Adelaide architects Woods Bagot Pty Ltd to draw up a master plan for the campus. She said this would ensure that improvements were carried out in an orderly and consistent manner and would fit with the vision of North Terrace as a cultural boulevard.

"The University is working closely with the State Government and Adelaide City Council," Professor Brine said.

"As well as the aesthetic considerations we are considering issues such as safety, both for



pedestrians and road users in the vicinity of the campus. Moving the University carpark entrance will make the North Terrace/Pulteney Street intersection much safer for pedestrians, including students from the new University Senior College who will be crossing back and forth to classes."

—John Drislane

Building ties with a Thai university

ADELAIDE University has established official links with Khon Kaen University (KKU), Thailand.

Since its foundation in 1964 as part of a decentralised development plan for higher education in Thailand, KKU has been the leading educational and research institution in Northeastern Thailand.

Located at the heart of the poorest and least-developed region in the country, the university strives to prepare its students so that they can make a positive and active contribution to society. One of the major responsibilities of KKU is to serve approximately 20 million people living in the northeast, people whose per capita income is only 40% of the national average.

From small beginnings, KKU has grown enormously (the campus covers approximately 900 hectares) and is today home to 17 faculties, three academic support centres and a research institute, and together with Adelaide University is ranked within the top 2.6% of 2000 Asian universities.

KKU places a great deal of emphasis on academic collaboration with overseas universities and institutions.

"We firmly believe in such exchange as a means to improve mutual understanding

between Thailand and other countries," said the President of KKU, Professor Prinya Chindaprasit.

"KKU's commitment is not only to educate its students, but also to promote research and to carry out community work for the benefit of the local society."

Adelaide's links with the Thai university stretch back more than 20 years, when three postgraduate students from Flinders University, Drs Ross Andrews and Trevor Petney (now at Adelaide and Germany) and Associate Professor Rojchai Satrawaha (from KKU), set in process foundations to achieve official South Australian/Thailand links in education and research. Dr Andrews, from Adelaide's Department of Environmental Biology, has established at KKU reciprocal programs and an international base for the "Pathogen Identification and Diagnostics Program" that he directs.

During the past two years the sustained effort and focus by Dr Andrews and Rojchai Starawaha to realise their vision has culminated in the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by Adelaide University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Cliff Blake, and Professor Prinya. This was made possible thanks to the endorsement and support from Adelaide's Pro-Vice Chancellor

(International), Professor Ian Young, and the president, deans and staff of five major faculties at KKU.

"What sets this MOU apart from the norm is that it provides official links between the two universities and the mechanisms to actively pursue mutually beneficial programs across five educational and research areas," Dr Andrews said.

"These include postgraduate research programs, undergraduate programs, staff exchanges/training, specialist workshops and collaborative research programs.

"This provides both universities with exciting opportunities to establish long-term links in mutually beneficial programs," he said.

The most immediate interaction is likely to take the form of students from KKU studying towards PhD degrees at Adelaide University. These students may either be fully enrolled at Adelaide or may be in joint PhD programs.

Adelaide's links with quality universities in developing countries also provide the potential for access to support from agencies, such as the Asia Development Bank, World Bank and AusAid. This form of funding can support the research activities of both institutions and assist the development of Thailand.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Page 2

The issue of the university's finances should not be linked with the issue of amalgamation. Academic programs have to continue to run themselves, and amalgamation is a proven recipe for conflict between heterogeneous groups who struggle to maintain the academic integrity of their programs. It is also bad for the morale of staff and students, particularly postgraduates who want and need identification with their professions.

The very recent Review of Structures which looked at this question did not attempt to amalgamate Departments into Schools against their wishes, and indeed warned against erecting another tier of administration. In short, there is no way but to respect academic disciplines with the autonomy to run their own programs.

Chris Mortensen
Philosophy



Leggy

I refer to the picture on the front page of the November *Adelaidean*.

No wonder there is interest in the anatomy of that horse. It appears to have five legs.

Brian Fotheringham

More national awards for 5UV Radio Adelaide

5UV Radio Adelaide 101.5FM has again topped the awards at the national community broadcasting conference, winning three awards at the recent event in Hobart.

The station won awards for:

Excellence in music broadcasting—for two live broadcasts from this year's Womadelaide festival, networked to more than 50 radio stations nationally.

General excellence in music broadcasting—for the station's wide-ranging feature program strategy, recognising a range of special features made for local and national broadcast and an innovative approach to production including multi-media, CD and internet delivery.

Excellence in spoken word broadcasting—for comprehensive coverage of the 2001 Adelaide Festival of Ideas, in partnership with the Festival and the State Library of SA.

These awards followed hot on the heels of a special commendation at the recent SA Institute of Justice Awards for the 20-part series "The Law Spot", and make a total of eight national and State awards for Radio Adelaide in 2001.

"These awards cap off an exciting year for us, with our long-awaited conversion to FM in October and a raft of special events throughout the year," said Station Manager Ms Deborah Welch.

"What many of these awards recognise is the capacity of our station to bring new sounds and ideas to our growing local audience, and also to the huge national audience out there listening to community radio stations around the country."

In December, Radio Adelaide will premiere a new series, "Live at the Gov: 10 brilliant concerts of Australian music", recorded at the Governor Hindmarsh Hotel throughout 2001. The series kicks off with prolific independent singer-songwriter Ed Kuepper on Saturday, December 8 at 6pm. Other artists to be featured in the series include Renee Geyer, the Dave Graney Show and Jeff Lang, all at 6pm Saturday nights throughout summer on 101.5FM.

www.radio.adelaide.edu.au

Catch of the day: a sound solution for carp

Engineering students at Adelaide University are investigating methods of reducing carp numbers in River Murray wetlands.

Science journalist Dr Rob Morrison reports on the hi-tech and simple solutions to the "curse of carp".

European carp must be Australia's most hated fish. Introduced to the River Murray about 20 years ago, they have become such an environmental threat that they now bear the nickname of "river rabbits".

Carp are bottom feeders, stirring up mud, engulfing invertebrates in their large mouths and dislodging weeds, which float to the surface and die. This makes the fish particularly troublesome in the shallow waters of wetlands that border the river.

The Murray's flow was always episodic, and these wetlands periodically flooded and drained—a natural cycle that prompted native trees to germinate and native birds and fish to breed. The erection of locks and weirs ended that cycle, and the river is now a series of ponds. Only a fraction of its normal flow remains; its mouth has all but closed, and many of its wetlands are now dustbowl.

Some, however, are being reclaimed. River water is diverted to flood them artificially, then drained months later to simulate droughts. But carp come with the water.

Some wetland access points are fitted with carp screens, which admit only the smallest of carp (no larger than a human finger). These die when the wetlands are drained and before they can grow large enough to cause problems, but excluding carp means excluding most native fish as well. Other gates, built with larger mesh, admit larger carp.

Civil & Environmental Engineering students at Adelaide University have been researching a series of deterrents which they hope may selectively prevent carp from entering wetlands under rehabilitation.

"We feel that we might be able to use one of our deterrents to exclude or at least reduce carp movement into wetlands, and that one of these behavioural methods might not affect native fish so much," said Amy Ide, one of the team of Honours students.

The researchers are examining a range of options, including light, sound, bubble curtains and physical barriers. A giant flume in the department is flooded with water, and carp introduced to it, their behaviour



Left to right: James Cox, Tim Champion, Amy Ide and Nadine Kelly introduce carp to the testing tank to study how they are affected by different sound frequencies.

monitored as each test is run.

"We found that light can be a barrier to carp movement, and it has the potential to be a barrier to them moving into wetlands," Amy said.

So does sound. Through an underwater speaker the researchers subject the fish to a range of sounds.

"After testing frequencies from zero to a thousand Hertz (cycles per second), we found that carp were deterred most by 20 Hertz," said Nadine Kelly. "We think that maybe native fish won't be deterred as much by this frequency, so it might prove to be a species-specific barrier," she said.

Tim Champion has been exploring the effectiveness of bubble curtains. "These have been tried overseas with some success to prevent fish from entering the openings of hydroelectric stations," said Tim.

"We thought we'd try to see how carp responded to them, and they do seem to act as a deterrent to their movement."

Startle reactions among the carp showed that these deterrents are more effective when they are turned on suddenly, rather than being constantly applied. They can also be used together, and appear to enhance each other in repelling carp. But bubble curtains, lights and hydrophones rely on electricity, and their

effectiveness is limited in regions without a power supply.

The researchers were encouraged to find that, of all the deterrents, a simple low physical barrier proved the most effective, the prototype being nothing more sophisticated than chicken wire. A physical barrier's effectiveness may well relate to the bottom-dwelling habit of carp, and be less of a deterrent to native fish which swim more freely in open water. It is this demand for selectivity that makes the application of these deterrents so challenging.

The researchers have also been developing an electronic detector that can register the movement of fish through a point of entry to a wetland. It consists of three electrodes running across the waterway. As a fish passes over them, the electric field between them is affected, revealing the direction and speed of a fish's movement as a trace on a monitoring computer screen. A wave generator at one end of the flume can even create choppy conditions for the trials.

"The detector lets us work out what time of day or night fish are moving in and out of these wetland structures so that we can get better ideas of when, and at what time of year, to implement these control devices," said James Cox.

"We won't want the devices to be turned on all the time, and there are going to be particular periods when carp are moving. If we can work out when those times are, we can activate the deterrent devices then."

Using the detectors in conjunction with other devices, even to activate them, may prove especially valuable where electricity supply is limited to the small output available from batteries or solar devices.

"If we had these detectors just a small distance before the deterrent devices they could be triggered to turn on and it might startle the fish more, as we saw with the bubble curtain," said James. "It worked a lot more effectively if we turned it on just as the fish were approaching and, with a detector, it would be quite simple to do that automatically. But we need to find that it doesn't have the same effect on native fish."

The work by these student researchers features in a series on the Murray currently airing on Radio Adelaide, FM 101.5, and will be in the first series of "Cutting Edge", a new television series to be broadcast throughout Asia next year.

CRC to fight salinity

THE Adelaide branch of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity has been officially launched by the Minister for Water Resources, Mr Mark Brindal.

Based at the University's Waite Campus, the CRC is a partnership between several research institutes across southern Australia, including Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) and Adelaide University.

The State Government has invested \$700,000 in cash funding into the CRC, with a further \$7 million in-kind support through PIRSA. Adelaide University has invested \$525,000 in cash support with a further \$3.7 million in in-kind support.

Mr Brindal said salinity threatened up to 17 million hectares of land across Australia, "but significantly for South Australians it imperils our very existence by compromising our water resources".

"Our State is making a significant investment in salinity management through the National Action Plan for Salinity and Water Quality—\$100 million over seven years. That is on top of what we're contributing to other ongoing projects such

as Murray Darling 2001 and salt interception schemes."

He said the CRC would play a vital role in improving the understanding of how native plant systems controlled salinity before European settlement. Information gained would be used to develop improved agricultural systems, enabling farmers and land managers to better manage salinity.

"This is a substantial and exciting South Australian investment," he said.

"The great thing about the CRC is that it brings together such a vast array of scientific talent from several academic disciplines across the nation to address many issues. We bring to the CRC the excellent SARDI facilities and its staff, besides the prestigious Waite and Roseworthy resources of Adelaide University."

In addition to its scientific work, the CRC will be responsible for training many of the next generation of technical experts and advisers through graduate and post-graduate courses. The CRC will also develop and encourage strong networks between scientists, farmers, land managers and government to ensure that technology transfer is efficient and effective.

Engineering students put to the test

INNOVATIVE solutions to research and design problems were the order of the day for Mechanical Engineering students recently.

Fourth-year Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering students displayed projects solving problems as defined by industry or engineering staff, with previous students' solutions having led to patentable systems.

The overall winners for 2001 were Jeremy Glaros and Mark Hergott for their design of an active vibration isolation unit for optical applications.

In second place were David Harvey and Benjamin Longstaff for their development of a prosthetic arm, and third were James Telford and Daniel Tucker for their work on a RAAF P3 Orion multi-site repair assessment.

There were joint winners in the MechTest category of the exhibition: Kathrin Peter, Ben Tattersall and Tom Poole for their design, test and manufacture of a synthetic heel pad; and Owen Lucas and Karel Meeuwissen for their design and construction of a thermoacoustic device.

The Postgraduate Poster prize was awarded to Alasdair McLean.



Summer School takes the witness stand



Don't be caught out - becoming an expert witness takes some skill. Photo from *Legally Blonde*, courtesy of 20th Century Fox.

LEARNING how to provide expert evidence in court headlines the exciting line-up of 2002 Summer School programs at Adelaide University this summer.

Another feature of this year's offerings is the brand-new range of **Community Courses**, as well as 65 other courses aimed at improving personal and professional development.

Internationally regarded barrister Ian Freckelton will present the **Expert Evidence** course over five days, detailing the groundwork needed to be an expert witness to the courts, as well as providing information about alternative dispute resolution.

Professor Freckelton is a barrister in full-time practice, and is Vice-President of the International Institute of Forensic Studies at

Monash University's Law Faculty.

The new range of Community Courses has something for everyone.

Aspiring writers will love the **Creative Writing** course, no matter if they are a beginning or developed writer. Experienced author Steve Evans will present a fun week of hands-on activities, which includes a Writers' Week function at the 2002 Adelaide Festival.

The five-day drawing workshop **The Garden: Landscape Drawing** will bring out the artist in you—in your own garden! Using the garden as inspiration, participants will work in the open air in a number of gardens around Adelaide and Hahndorf, under the tutelage of painter David Reid. Different philosophies used by both Western and Eastern artists in ordering the landscape will

be examined.

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, the notion of Western democracy and values has been increasingly under the spotlight. Where have these ideas and values come from? **The Great Books: Summer with Socrates** course will examine the work of such vaunted writers as Plato, Socrates, Kant, Dante and Voltaire, and the impact their thinking has had on what we now know as the Western World.

Elizabeth I was one of the most interesting people to ever rule Britain—even becoming the subject of a recent Hollywood film starring Australian Cate Blanchett. Find out the truth about this complex person and the times she lived in with **Sex, Politics and the Single Queen: The Reign of Elizabeth I of England, 1558-1603**.

For more information about any of Adelaide University's 2002 Summer School offerings please contact Professional and Continuing Education on 8303 4777, email: pce@adelaide.edu.au, or visit Adelaide University's website: www.adelaide.edu.au

Understanding others – and ourselves

A NEW workshop being held this summer can help you gain a better understanding of human behaviour.

Aimed at anyone who wishes to improve their understanding of others and themselves—especially practitioners, managers, or service providers who may need to solve problems that involve misunderstandings or bias between individuals or groups—the workshop is being run by Adelaide University anthropologist Dr Jon Telfer from February 11-13, 2002.

"By understanding how 'culture' works, we can appreciate and respond differently to various predicaments," Dr Telfer says.

"Comprehending 'culture' can increase our insight into the ways people and social groups work, as well as the ways fears and desires can

become embedded in our lives through contexts such as museums.

"This interactive workshop provides an introduction to the discipline of anthropology and the idea of 'difference' (and similarity) between groups and persons. By systematically studying variations in social and cultural characteristics, anthropology builds skills in discernment, forming perspectives and the analysis of social situations and phenomena. As well as helping us understand others, we also come to better understand ourselves.

"The workshop explains concepts that can be practically applied in various work contexts, as well as enhancing appreciation in our lives as family members and citizens," he says.

This interactive workshop will introduce

participants to media analysis, the appreciation of socio-cultural phenomena, the study of difference and conflict and some patterns of everyday life that may surprise you.

OTHERS - AND OURSELVES: FROM CULTURE TO ANTHROPOLOGY

11-13 FEBRUARY 2002

9.30am to 4.00pm

For more information contact Ms Colleen Solly on (08) 8303 5730, or email: colleen.solly@adelaide.edu.au

Have you got an enterprising idea?

THE Enterprise Education Group at Adelaide University is once again running its successful three-day New Venture Feasibility Assessment course as part of the University's Summer School for 2002.

This practical course is aimed at anyone who wishes to pursue their entrepreneurial spirit and assess the feasibility of their own business venture or self-employment opportunity.

The course is designed to assist entrepreneurs in increasing profits, market share and sales of new products and services, while reducing the cost and time needed to achieve success.

The course also provides a strong introduction to the many issues surrounding the establishment, management and growth of a new venture.

For those who have a strong interest in developing their entrepreneurial skills, the course also represents two units towards the University's Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise.

The new Postgraduate Education Loans Scheme (PELS) can make studying more affordable than you think.

The feasibility assessment course now has a number of success stories to boast about.

Previous students who have gone through this course, and have completed or are studying towards the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise, include:

- Ramy Azer (Papyrus Australia): an innovative paper-making technology company that has secured government research and development funding and \$125,000 from AusIndustry to commercialise its technology.
- Pearl Field (Gorgeous Kid): developing contemporary popular music to help teach children with speech and communication difficulties has earned this SA entrepreneur and business partners \$30,000 from the Hewlett Packard/Adelaide University Entrepreneurs Challenge.
- Leonie McKeon (Chinese Language and Cultural Advice): providing language and cultural consultancy services to Australian businesses dealing with Chinese partners, and is now forging a strong path into the Australian-Chinese education sector.
- More than 20 businesses have been established as a result of this course and the Graduate Diploma in Business Enterprise.

If you have a burning ambition to create your own business, change career direction, or just want to explore your options, contact the Enterprise Education Group on (08) 8303 3094, or email: shane.cheek@adelaide.edu.au, website: www.eeg.adelaide.edu.au

See the Adelaide University Summer School Brochure for more details.

One tale to rule them all and in the darkness bind them

AFTER the events of September 11, it's not hard to imagine a world in which those who represent freedom and democracy are threatened by a source of great power and evil.

It's a feeling that was shared, no doubt, by those who lived through or were born during World War Two, the people who were the first in history to read a book that many now regard as one of the greatest stories ever written.

Since its publication in 1954, *The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien has endured as a tale of heroism in a world of increasing darkness. Although a "fantasy", its themes of good versus evil, the changing nature of the world and heroism are still just as applicable to Western society today as they were half a century ago.

This month *The Lord of the Rings*, considered the grandfather of modern fantasy literature, comes to life on the silver screen. One fan lining up at the box office to buy a ticket will be Adelaide University PhD student Kerrie Le Lievre from the Department of English.

Tolkien's novel plays a major role in Ms Le Lievre's PhD thesis, which examines a number of "high fantasy" novels and the themes common to them all. Her thesis is titled *Worlds and Mirrors of Worlds*, and explores how fantasy writers use the secondary worlds they create to critique and challenge the dominant paradigms of modern Western society, and to provide alternative models. The other novels dealt with are the *Earthsea* trilogy by Ursula K Le Guin and *The Riddle-masters' Game* by Patricia A McKillip.

"I'm working on a close reading of the three high fantasy texts," Ms Le Lievre said. "Because they're all high fantasies, they're all closely related in terms of their structure and the issues that they deal with, and there's also a sense in which both Le Guin and McKillip can be seen as writing back to Tolkien; they both took inspiration from *The Lord of the Rings* and started thinking about it in different ways."

For the uninitiated, *The Lord of the Rings* is divided into three books: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers* and *The Return Of The King*. The first of these will be seen on cinema screens around Australia from December 26, with the others to follow in 2002 and 2003.

Fellowship tells the tale of Frodo Baggins, a Hobbit (about half the size of a normal man) who discovers he possesses a ring of great power. This ring is being sought after by the evil Sauron, a dark lord who hopes to rule over all of Middle-Earth (the fictional "secondary world" created by Tolkien). With his friends and with the help of the wizard Gandalf, Frodo leaves his home and seeks to rid himself of the ring. He is then entrusted with the mission of destroying the ring, and to do so he must enter the very heart of darkness itself: the land of Mordor where Sauron lives.

In its most basic form, *The Lord of the Rings* is a grand adventure, a tale of against-the-odds heroism. But Tolkien has created a world with such depth that scholars like Kerrie Le Lievre continue to search its text for theme and meaning. So strong was the influence of Tolkien's novel that it can be seen again and again in other works of fantasy, even in the *Harry Potter* novels by JK Rowling. Like those novels, in its time *The Lord of the Rings* was also a huge commercial success.

"I guess you could say it's been a mixed blessing," said Ms Le Lievre.

"The first effect *The Lord of the Rings* had on the general field of fantasy literature is that it separated it from the body of mainstream fiction. The precursors of Tolkien's work, authors such as Lewis Carroll, William Morris, Robert Louis Stevenson, wrote something that was generally called "romance", but it was also part of the mainstream. There was no sense in which Stevenson's romance writings were considered different from his more mainstream or gothic writings.

"*The Lord of the Rings* was a massive commercial success, and that meant that it started having imitators very quickly. The imitators were published because people wanted to read more things like *The Lord of the Rings*, and they started being bracketed away to this strand of publishing, or marketing, which got labelled "fantasy". People started thinking of fantasy as only things that were roughly like the *The Lord of the Rings*, and that went on until it started becoming only things that were like *The Lord of the Rings*.

"The problem is that a lot of the imitations weren't the best; they tended to understand the rough shape of Tolkien's creation but missed the subtleties and complexities that Tolkien built into it. *The Lord of the Rings* does have a very replicable form, but it combines that with a unique and extraordinary content that nobody has been able to surpass," she said.

While Tolkien claimed that his work was not specifically a retelling of World War One or, even more likely, World War Two, he is on record as saying the issues and themes dealt with in his works were applicable to the modern world.

"Many of the issues that were current in Tolkien's day remain current today," Ms Le Lievre said.

"Things like industrialisation—that was definitely a big one. Mordor as a culture or as an image is very much to do with industrialisation. There are also issues to do with the environment, damage to the environment and how the world is changing because of the industrialisation process; with the changing nature of evil and how that's perceived in the world; with the need for a different model of heroism, one that doesn't focus on a central hero but becomes a shared sense of heroism; and related to that are the issues about our sense of community and a shared responsibility for the world.

"Tolkien's rethinking of the nature of heroism in the modern world is one of the most important strands of *The Lord of the Rings*," she said.

"A lot of his heroes look like old-fashioned epic heroes striding off into battle with swords and so forth, but really they're not. Tolkien's heroes are always collective, so the journey into Mordor isn't just about Frodo, it's about Frodo, Sam and Gollum working together as a unit. At the same time, the other strand of the story isn't just about Aragorn; although Aragorn is the hero he wouldn't be able to function without Legolas and Gimli backing him up. And there are many other characters added into the mix, each from different races of elves and men, dwarves and hobbits. So it's not just an individual who sets things right, it's a group of people who stand against an



Gandalf (Sir Ian McKellen) examines the One Ring. From *The Fellowship of the Ring*, directed by Peter Jackson and released by New Line Cinema these holidays.



Kerrie Le Lievre with some of the fantasy novels she's examining for her thesis. Photo: David Ellis.

incoming enemy or a moral wrong. They all play an important role in the scheme of things, and without their collective effort the heroes, plural, would not win through to the end."

While the upcoming film of *The Fellowship of the Ring* will not have any bearing on Ms Le Lievre's thesis, like many Tolkien fans and scholars she is both enthusiastic and reserved about her feelings on the film.

"I'm approaching it as though I'm going to see a particular production of a play. When

you go to see a performance of Hamlet it's always going to be somebody else's Hamlet, not the one I have in my head. So if you see the movie of *The Lord of the Rings* you're seeing one interpretation of it.

"A lot of the changes that I've heard of [from book to screen] seem to make sense according to the logic of film. I'm comfortable with what I know about the film so far, but I'm suspending judgement until I see the results," she said.

—David Ellis

Carlyle on campus for racial injustice film

A FILM about the controversial trial of an Aboriginal man charged with the rape and murder of a country schoolgirl in the 1950s will feature Adelaide University in two key scenes.

Rupert Maxwell Stuart was found guilty of the rape and murder of a Ceduna schoolgirl and sentenced to hang. It was revealed that a confession had been beaten out of him, and his case was appealed all the way to the Privy Council in London.

The film, with the working title *Black And White*, is about efforts to establish Stuart's innocence. Currently shooting in and around Adelaide, it stars Robert Carlyle, most famous for his roles in *Hamish Macbeth*, *Trainspotting* and *The Full Monty*, as David O'Sullivan, an Irish-Catholic lawyer who comes to Stuart's defence. Also among the cast are Kerry Fox as O'Sullivan's partner, Colin Friels as a sympathetic Catholic priest, and Ben Mendelsohn as a young Rupert Murdoch.

The \$7 million film is based on a screenplay by Louis Nowra and directed by Craig Lahiff.

Two scenes have been shot at the University's North Terrace Campus: one in the Physics Building, and another in the foyer of the Mitchell Building.

The Physics shoot involved re-creating the office of linguist Dr Strehlow, who was a scholar of Aboriginal language and society. To carefully represent the era, the production company's Art Department enlisted the help of the University's Archives.

Helen Bruce, Archives Officer, was able to furnish the film-makers with photographs and documents dating back to the 1950s and '40s. These included photographs from expeditions to Aboriginal settlements, copies of the minutes from academic meetings, reports from field trips, and even old copies of Theatre Guild programmes.

Many of these items were carefully placed throughout the ground-floor office that doubled as a movie set, adding a strong sense of 1950s realism. Aboriginal artefacts were also used, representing some of the many artefacts collected by Dr Strehlow in his travels. Some were in fact from Strehlow's own collection.

In the Mitchell foyer, portraits of former Vice-Chancellors were taken down and replaced with portraits of eminent figures from the Catholic Church, transforming the building into the house of a Catholic bishop.

Prints from the Law School and furniture from the Waite Campus have also been used to help recreate the era and establish authenticity in other scenes filmed both on and off campus.

The Production Designer for *Black And White* is Murray Picknett, a two-time winner of the AFI award (for *Bootmen* and *Passion*) whose other projects include the controversial *Blue Murder*.

"Craig, the director, is from Adelaide, and so is the location manager, and he liked the look of the University," Murray said. "Because the film is set in 1958 it narrows down what you can use, and this particular building [the Physics building] has really good corridors, real period corridors. And the rooms have great windows."

"Period movies are always interesting. Power points, light fittings, everything has to be right. Light switches are the absolute bane of our lives, and exit signs—and see the lock on that door? We have to take that off and put finger plates over it. You have to go to that detail otherwise it gives the game away," he said.

"With the Mitchell Building we had to find something that says Catholic Bishop, and it's got a sensational stained-glass window. It says religion instantly."

Art Director Sarah Gilligan said she enjoyed researching *Black And White*, and found that Adelaide University was closely involved in the Max Stuart saga.

"Father Dixon, who was a priest [played by Colin Friels], and Adelaide University got very involved in a campaign to actually question the judgement against Max Stuart. There were many meetings held at this University about the issue," she said.

Father Dixon and David O'Sullivan also visited the University to seek advice from Dr Strehlow, who had been out of town during the initial court case. It's this scene that was filmed in the Physics building.

Set Decorator Robert Webb praised the University staff for their help during the production.

"Everyone has been fantastic. The Law department has helped us with a number of prints, and the Archives, they were just so willing to help us. We're very grateful for that. We've had some incredible restrictions on scheduling and we've had to make last-minute changes, and the University has been very accommodating," he said.

Anyone at the University inconvenienced by the filming should spare a thought for the people of Port Wakefield, one of the towns used by the film-makers as a substitute for Ceduna.

"We took over the town, but the locals were really helpful, very friendly," Murray said. "Except when we asked them to move their TV aerials on Melbourne Cup Day. They weren't very thrilled about that."

—David Ellis



The *Black And White* crew sets up a shot in the Mitchell Building, for a scene involving actors Colin Friels and Paul Sonkilla. Photo: David Ellis.



An office in the Physics Building is transformed into Dr Strehlow's office in the 1950s.

Adelaide Uni gives Year 12 students a head start

GIFTED and exceptionally motivated secondary school students will benefit from an Adelaide University scheme designed to give them a challenge beyond the Year 12 curriculum.

The Headstart Scholarship Program (or HSP) exempts successful applicants from tuition fees for a half-year's workload of first-year university study.

The main benefit of the scheme will be the extra challenge and stimulation provided by university study, although HSP students will attend classes and sit examinations on the same basis as other students.

Courses available to HSP students are based in a wide range of faculties, including Commerce, Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Music and Science.

Grades will be recorded, and can be used for

status if the student is later admitted to an academic program. This will enable students to fast-track their academic program or take a wider range of courses than usual.

If a HSP student withdraws from a course at any time, or fails that course, this will not affect their chances of university selection. No record of failure or withdrawal will be registered on the University's database.

Each HSP student will have a staff member from their home school as a mentor. The mentor's role will be to monitor the student's progress and act as a contact person linking the University to the student within the school.

To be eligible for a HSP place in 2002, students should be completing SACE Stage 2 or the International Baccalaureate (IB) at Year 12, with less than a full year's workload. In addition, they must have attained certain scores for SACE Stage 2 or IB subjects

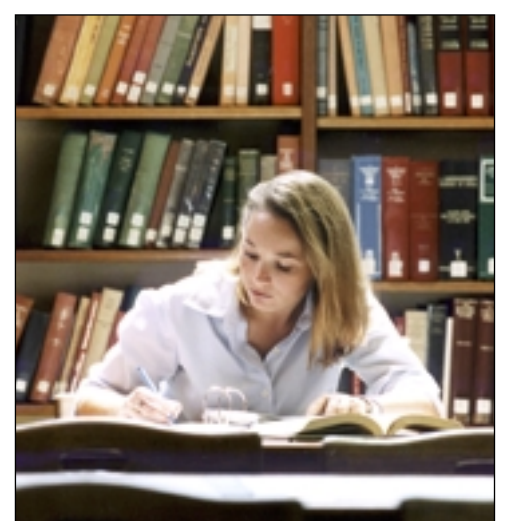
already undertaken. Applicants must also be recommended by their school principals.

Applications are due by February 8, 2002. Only a limited number of places will be offered, and each application will be assessed on its merits.

HSP recipients do not have to pay any fees. For the purpose of their enrolment, they will be recorded as non-award students and all costs associated with their tuition will be absorbed by the Faculty or School providing the course they are studying.

Upon enrolment, students will receive an Adelaide University Union Card which provides full borrowing rights at the Barr Smith Library and a range of services offered by the AUU.

For more information, or to obtain an application form, contact the Prospective Students Office: Paula Ritchie on phone (08) 8303 4379 or email <paula.ritchie@



adelaide.edu.au>, or Julie Hayford on phone (08) 8303 4204 or email <julie.hayford@adelaide.edu.au>.

Spineless invaders under the microscope

INVERTEBRATES are not everyone's favourite animals. Cockroaches and mosquitoes get a bad press, snails and slugs destroy gardens. A spider can trigger a phobia while locusts were one of the biblical plagues.

But invertebrates include oysters, prawns and crayfish. Earthworms enrich our gardens and, just as the great food chains of the sea are based on tiny invertebrate plankton, insects and other small invertebrates provide the foundation for terrestrial ecosystems that would collapse without them.

Invertebrates will be the subject of the Fifth Invertebrate Biodiversity and Conservation Conference, to be held at Adelaide University's Waite Campus from December 1-4. It will bring together leading national invertebrate researchers as well as many from overseas.

The invertebrates are also extremely numerous, both as individuals and species. They comprise more than 90% of species diversity on the planet. Despite this, fewer than 20% of their species have been formally identified and described, and more are being discovered every day.

"Invertebrates, particularly the insects, are part of our everyday lives, but most people do not know this," said Dr Andy Austin, from the University's Department of Applied & Molecular Ecology. Dr Austin is also head of the organising committee and Director of the Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity at Adelaide University.

"On the one hand, they cause problems by spreading disease, eating crops and disrupting our social life at barbecues, yet they are responsible for pollinating many plants, keeping the numbers of other animals and plants in check, and helping to create fertile soil," he said.

While the conference will discuss important academic aspects of invertebrate classification and biology, a significant part of it will deal with the impact of invasive species. The keynote speaker, Dr Dennis O'Dowd, will present a paper on *Invasional Meltdown—Lessons From Islands*, which will reveal the



A stick insect.

devastating impact of the 'crazy ant' on the ecology of Christmas Island.

This is an extremely topical concern for Australia, where the invasion of fire ants, first reported in Queensland, now appears to have spread into New South Wales.

Other important invaders to be discussed at the conference are marine organisms that come to Australia attached to ship hulls or in their ballast water. These have the potential to cause millions of dollars worth of damage.

Special symposia will deal with invertebrate biodiversity in the arid zone and ephemeral waters, the importance of habitat fragmentation, molecular tools used in invertebrate conservation and invertebrate legislation and education.

"Rather than dealing with esoteric aspects of insects, spider and marine invertebrates, the conference will bring together many of the best national and international researchers," said Dr Austin.

"They are at the front line in trying to manage numerous invasive invertebrate pests, as well as conserve both the phenomenal biodiversity of invertebrate and the critical functions they



Cave crickets.



Wasps on a nest.

perform in all ecosystems."

The conference is being supported, and partly sponsored, by a number of important South Australian organisations, including SARDI, SA National Parks, the SA Museum and WMC.

—Rob Morrison

Details of the full scientific program are available on the University's website at www.waite.adelaide.edu.au/bio2001/

Biology centre now a national benchmark

TWELVE months on, the Centre for Evolutionary Biology and Biodiversity is, according to Director Andy Austin, "poised to usher in a new era of research collaboration".

The centre has proven to be a great attraction to the innovative joint SA Museum—Adelaide University appointments, including ARC Fellows Drs Mike Lee and Greg Rouse, from Queensland and Sydney universities respectively. Their expertise will significantly build on the research strengths of Dr Austin and ARC Professorial Fellow Bob Hill at Adelaide University, and evolutionary biologists Drs Steve Donnellan, Steve Cooper, and Museum Director Tim Flannery, who also holds a professorship at the University. Apart from his ARC Fellowship, Professor Hill has also recently been appointed as the Head of Science in the SA Museum.

Dr Austin said Adelaide's physical geography, with the SA Museum and the University as neighbours on North Tce, had been a key factor in the development of the centre's collaborative nature.

"We are now the benchmark nationally for developing close working relationships between research institutions of this type," he said.

"The over-arching mechanism of the centre has enabled and encouraged the development of a critical mass of staff now working so closely together that soon it will be difficult to tell who works for which institution, rather they come together as a team to work on specific projects."

Dr Austin said this gathering of expertise had put Adelaide at the forefront of research in evolutionary biology.

"Almost overnight, Adelaide has become the pre-eminent centre for this area in Australia," he said.

—Lee Welch

Hypertension project wins silver Serif award

A NEW program to help GPs and patients better manage hypertension has resulted in a national communications award for Adelaide University's Department of General Practice.

The General Practice Department and its partner Foundation Studios have received a silver 2001 Serif Award, Australia's leading national awards from the communications industry.

The annual awards are presented by the Australian Institute of Communicators and the Society of Business Communicators Australia, and recognise excellence in innovation for professional communication activities.

General Practice and Foundation Studios worked jointly on a project called ADAGE, which provides a new approach to GPs and patients dealing with hypertension.

Chronic hypertension (high blood pressure) is a major public health problem that affects up to 30% of people in Western nations. Around 44% of men and 52% of women aged between 65-69 years have high blood pressure.

The ADAGE program encourages patients to take charge of their own health, and provides support for both doctors and patients. It also reinforces the need for a

more systematic and managed approach to the use of medication and lifestyle changes in order to better help patients and to save costs.

ADAGE, developed with funding and support from four pharmaceutical companies (Astrazeneca, Aventis, Bayer and Pfizer) provides information to GPs and patients via the internet and on CD-ROM. It also provides information for other practitioners, such as nurses and dietitians.

"The project has developed a Disease Management Program for hypertension with a sound theoretical foundation and based on best practice," said Dr Justin Beilby, Head of the Department of General Practice.

"Such a program can only improve the quality of health care provided to patients, and helps to raise their awareness of their own health."

Dr Deborah Turnbull, senior lecturer in General Practice and co chief investigator of the project, said: "We are very pleased to be honoured with the Serif award. It is strong recognition from the commercial arena for work that we have done with industry. It also highlights how research and clinical expertise in our department can be applied to the medical profession and the wider community to produce benefits for all."

—David Ellis

Hosts needed for students



HOSTS are being sought for overseas students participating in 2-4 week English language and cultural exchange programs run by Professional and Continuing Education.

Home stay is a crucial part of the success of the programs because students are actively involved in a family environment and gain an understanding of the Australian lifestyle.

Hosts may be single-parent families, couples with and without children, or

single people.

Hosts are currently paid an honorarium to cover the costs of having a student in their home. The personal benefits of hosting an overseas student are also significant, as many host families have discovered.

If you are interested in hosting an overseas student, know of someone who might be, or would like more information, please contact Susan Boehm from Professional and Continuing Education on 8303 5236 or Rebecca Glen on 8303 3344.

WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER

1.00pm Friends of the State Library Talk: Speaker: Angela Heuzenroeder (Author/Teacher/Librarian). \$6.60/ \$5.50 Conc/\$4.00 members. The Auditorium, rear of SA Art Gallery.

THURSDAY 6 DECEMBER

12noon Hanson Institute Seminar: Title to be advised by Professor Perry Bartlett (Head, Neurobiology Group, The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute, Melbourne). Robson Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Eleanor Harrald Building, RAH.

1.00pm Chemical Pathology Seminar: The effects of recombinant osteogenic protein-1 on growth plate repair in a sheep model by Ms Belinda Thomas (PhD student, Orthopaedic Surgery). The turnover of chondroitin sulphate by Mr Julian Adams (PhD student, Matrix Biology Unit). Seminar Room 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, WCH.

COMING EVENTS

December 2001

4.00pm Applied and Molecular Ecology Seminar: A novel approach for the identification of coagulation proteins in *Galleria mellonella* by Ms Dongmei Li (PhD final seminar). McLeod Lecture Theatre, Waite Campus.

FRIDAY 7 DECEMBER

11.30am Social Inquiry Seminar: The Metropole as Antipodes: Australian Women in London and Constructing National Identity in the early 20th century by Professor Angela Woollacott (History, Case Western Reserve University, USA). Seminar Room, Level 3, 10 Pulteney Street.

MONDAY 10 DECEMBER

1.00pm Microbiology & Immunology Seminar: Title to be advised by Professor Amanda Goodman (School of Biological Sciences, Flinders University). Room 102, Molecular Life Sciences Building.

THURSDAY 13 DECEMBER

12noon Hanson Institute Seminar: Scavenger receptor CD36 - control of expression and possible functions in lipid metabolism by Associate Professor Graham Mayrhofer (Molecular Biosciences). Robson

Lecture Theatre, Level 1, Eleanor Harrald Building, Royal Adelaide Hospital.

1.00pm Chemical Pathology Seminar: A Brief History of Coopers Brewery in South Australia by Coopers Brewery. Seminar Room 1, 4th Floor, Reiger Building, Women's & Children's Hospital.

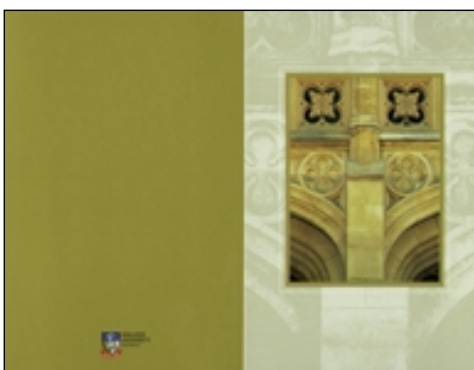
4.00pm Applied & Molecular Ecology Seminar: St John's what? The implications of genetic variation for biological control of *Hypericum perforatum* by Ms Gwen Mayo (PhD final seminar). McLeod Lecture Theatre, Waite Campus.

FRIDAY 14 DECEMBER

1.00pm Centre for the Molecular Genetics of Development Seminar: Out on a limb: putting muscle and nerves in place by Catherine Krull (Division of Biological Sciences, University of Missouri). Room 102, Molecular Life Sciences Building.

GENERAL NOTICES

Christmas Cards



Copies of the University Christmas card are now available (\$2.25 each) from the Media, Marketing & Publications Unit. Method of payment is by internal transfer only. To order, please email Pue-San Ng <puesan.ng@adelaide.edu.au> with the internal transfer code of phone her on ext 36479.

Farewells

The Department of Environmental Biology invites colleagues and friends of:

**David Christophel
Russ Sinclair
Mike Tyler**

to attend a farewell function to be held on Tuesday 18 December from 4.00 - 6.00pm at the Staff Club.

Nibbles will be provided and a cash bar is available.

RSVP: Bec Dunstan, ext 5576 or email <rebecca.dunstan@adelaide.edu.au> by Friday 7 December.

Gene technology resources —just a click away



ADELAIDE University has launched a new gene technology resources website, providing vital information for staff and students involved in gene technology education and research.

The site explains the responsibilities of researchers and biosafety officers under new government legislation and sets out some of the penalties for breaches. The aim of the site is to make staff and students aware of their obligations and the regulations governing them.

Regulation of gene technology in Australia has changed from a system conducted by an

advisory body to one operated by a Government agency with wide powers backed by legislation. This legislation provides for increased public access to research in gene technology and genetically modified organisms.

Pictured here clicking on the site are the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Edwina Cornish, and the Secretary of the University's Institutional Biosafety Committee, Mr John Perkins.

The website can be found at: www.adelaide.edu.au/VCO/staff/biosafety/index.html

Adelaidean 2002 schedule

publication date (Monday)	printing/distribution (Thursday)	editorial deadline (Thursday)
FEBRUARY February 4	January 31	January 24
MARCH March 4	February 28	February 21
APRIL April 2*	March 28	March 21
MAY April 29	April 26*	April 18
JUNE June 3	May 30	May 23
JULY July 1	June 27	June 20
AUGUST August 5	August 1	July 25
SEPTEMBER September 2	August 29	August 22
OCTOBER September 30	September 26	September 19
NOVEMBER November 4	October 31	October 24
DECEMBER December 2	November 28	November 21

* April 1 and April 25 are public holidays. Official publication date of the April issue is April 2 (Tuesday) and the printing date for the May issue is April 26 (Friday).

Investigator Centre celebrates 10-year educational milestone

MORE than 10 years ago, the Investigator Science and Technology Centre opened its doors at Wayville, Adelaide for the first time.

Brain-child of Adelaide's Dr Barbara Hardy, AO, the Investigator has a mission "to establish and maintain a centre of excellence which will facilitate a spirit of scientific enquiry and strengthen the technological and engineering capability and understanding of the community".

Over the past 10 years more than one million people have visited the centre, there

have been more than 9250 school visits and more than 50 exhibitions staged.

Prestigious visitors have included Sir David Attenborough, Sir Jack Brabham, Sir Mark Oliphant, Dr David Suzuki, Dr Andy Thomas, Dr Alan Hale, David Malin, Dr Kathy Sykes, Dr Brian Gaensler and Dr Mamoru Mohri.

Information about the centre and exhibitions can be found at: www.investigator.org.au

Adelaide University is a key sponsor of the Investigator Centre.

Religion course puts understanding on the agenda

HOW have religious beliefs and practices shaped the concept of "Chineseness", and how has being Chinese shaped people's religious beliefs and practices?

Was it Buddhism that changed China or China that changed Buddhism? Is Confucianism a religion? What is the religious significance of yin and yang? Is Falun Gong an evil cult? Why do Chinese people worship their ancestors? Can ghosts turn corners? What is fengshui?

A new course called Religions of China, offered for the first time this semester, has allowed students at Adelaide University to take a closer look at these and a range of other questions and themes.

The course, run by the Centre for Asian Studies, introduces students to the basic premises of the major traditions of Confucianism, Daoism, Buddhism and Chinese folk religions, by examining aspects of Chinese religious theory and practice from ancient times until the present. The focus is on the unique assumptions that inform Chinese religious practice and how they have influenced the development of Chinese society and culture.

Themes explored include, "shamans, monks and immortals", "ancestors", "ghosts", "scripture and holy books", "drugs, immortality and meditation", "ritual", "secret societies", "sacred space and place", and "communism as a religion?"

The course has been taken by a wide cross-section of students, including those studying Asian Studies, Anthropology, Architecture, Classics, History, Law, Mathematics, Philosophy, Politics, and Science, as well as members of the wider

community. Religions of China is taught by a variety of methods, including temple visits and having representatives of local Chinese religious communities give presentations.

The first of these visits was from a Chinese Buddhist priest, the Venerable Shi Jie Wen. A priest from the Zhu-Lin Temple in Ottoway, the Venerable's talk was given in Chinese and translated by course coordinator Dr John Makeham. His visit was followed by a class excursion to the Zhu-Lin Temple.

"After surveying the students' reaction to the course in the last workshop we found that the visit by the monk, our class visit to his temple and a visit by Falun Gong practitioners were regarded as highlights by a large number of students," Dr Makeham said.

"Some students found that the course greatly increased their understanding of Chinese society and culture and that this also helped provide a basis for comparing Australian religious traditions in which they had grown up.

"One student claimed this process was quite revealing and served to strengthen her existing faith. This comparison of Christian and Chinese beliefs also provided the basis for animated class discussion," he said.

Dr Makeham said the course served a further purpose than simply satisfying students' curiosity of Chinese religions.

"Well-founded knowledge of the religions of other peoples is invaluable for helping to minimise potential cultural misunderstanding. An understanding of



The Venerable Shi Jie Wen (centre) was a visitor to Adelaide University to give a talk to students as part of the new course in Chinese religions. Photo: Alyssa Sawyer.

other religious traditions (particularly those as exotic as Daoism, Confucianism, and forms of Chinese Buddhism) provides different perspectives—often radically so and a degree of detachment from which to view

our cultural biases and how far we fall short of our professed ideals.

"To borrow a popular Buddhist image, it provides a mirror to reflect on our own culture."

Olympic team awarded for industry-linked research



ADELAIDE University has crowned an outstanding year of research achievements by winning a major collaborative award in the 2001 Business Higher Education Round Table (BEHRT) Awards.

The awards promote research collaboration between industry and higher education.

The Departments of Chemical Engineering and Mechanical Engineering have been honoured, along with Adelaide company Fuel and Combustion Technology (FCT), for their work on the development of advanced combustion systems. The partnership has been named winner of the BEHRT Award for Outstanding Research and Development involving a small-medium sized company and a program that has been in train for more than five years.

Researchers involved in the project were responsible for developing the fuel combustion technology for the flame of the

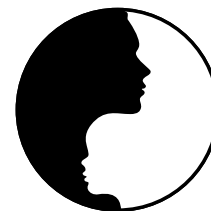
Olympic torch as well as for the cauldron used at the 2000 Sydney Games.

Congratulating all of those involved, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Professor Edwina Cornish, said it was pleasing to see such recognition for Adelaide's research expertise.

"This year has also seen the establishment of Adelaide Research and Innovation, combining the University research branch with its commercial arm (formerly Luminis). The stronger links between our research activities and commercialisation activities will open up new opportunities for researchers," she said.

"During the year we have also put in place a range of support strategies for early career researchers. The opening of a new Graduate School for postgraduate research students next year promises to ensure that our strong focus on research and research training is maintained into the future."

Advertisement



Women's
& Children's
Hospital
ADELAIDE

M S McLEOD RESEARCH FUND POSTGRADUATE STUDY AWARD (PhD SCHOLARSHIP)

As a result of a bequest from the estate of the late Murdoch Stanley McLeod, the Women's and Children's Hospital has established the M.S. McLeod Research Fund. The purpose of this fund, in accordance with the wishes of the benefactor, is to support in perpetuity the furtherance of research in the field of paediatrics, and child and youth health.

The Trustees of the M S McLeod Research Fund will fund a PhD scholarship at the Women's and Children's Hospital, to be known as the M.S. McLeod Research Fund Postgraduate Study Award, for a period of three years, commencing in 2002. Applications for this scholarship are invited from University graduates with an appropriate honours degree in science. Intending applicants should approach a Department of the Women's and Children's Hospital to discuss the proposed PhD topic and programme of research.

The AWARD will be for three years from the date of commencement, with the possibility of an extension for up to a further six months. The SALARY will be equivalent to the Australian Postgraduate Awards and Adelaide University Postgraduate Scholarships for PhD students, commencing at \$17,609 per annum in 2002.

FURTHER INFORMATION about this Award, including documents describing the conditions of the Award and the application format, can be obtained from Ms Nikki Johnson, Research Secretariat, Women's and Children's Hospital [Telephone (08) 8161 6390, Facsimile (08) 8161 6112, E-mail: johnsonn@wch.sa.gov.au].

APPLICATIONS must be made in the prescribed format. Completed applications (four copies) should be forwarded to the Research Secretariat, Women's and Children's Hospital, 72 King William Road, North Adelaide, S.A. by no later than Friday 4 January, 2001.

The Trustees of the M.S. McLeod Research Fund reserve the right to make any enquiries of any person regarding any applicant's suitability for this Award, not to grant the Award, or to grant the Award by invitation.



Government
of South Australia

ADELAIDE ACHIEVERS

Recognition for suicide prevention



Dr Sheila Clark from the Department of General Practice has received the prestigious Farberow Award from the International Association for Suicide Prevention.

The award is given "in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of bereavement and survivors after suicide", and is given for both research and clinical work.

Dr Clark is an expert in grief and suicide and has worked in the field since 1986, when she was asked to help establish a support group in Adelaide for people bereaved through suicide.

Her experiences led her to write a book, *After Suicide: Help for the Bereaved*, which has been adopted by many suicide prevention programs in Australia and overseas.

Dr Clark has been actively involved in suicide prevention programs and has established support networks for those experiencing grief, in particular the Grieflink website project in 1998 and as a member of the Keep Yourself Alive national educational program.

She has published papers on suicide and grief in medical journals and co-authored a chapter with Professor Bob Goldney in the new *International Handbook of Suicide and Attempted Suicide*. A member of Suicide Prevention Australia and chairperson of the association's bereavement stream, she has recently finished a term as president of the National Association of Loss and Grief for South Australia. For the last three years Dr Clark has been a member of the South Australian Suicide Prevention Advisory Group, which advises the Minister for Human Services.

Dr Clark said the award was a great honour. "I value the award because of the recognition that it gives to a previously neglected area of health care," she said.

Awards recognise staff efforts

Dr Eileen Scott from the Department of Applied & Molecular Ecology has been named Adelaide University's Supervisor of the Year.

The annual awards are made by the Postgraduate Students' Association in recognition of excellence among those staff who support the research and education of postgraduate students. Nominations for the awards are made by students and colleagues. While not all nominees can be winners, to receive a nomination is an honour in itself.

Lecturer of the Year went to Dr Margaret Secombe from Education. Dr Ray Peterson from the Medical Education Unit received a Special Commendation; particularly cited was his care and attention to new international students.

Mr Rikki Wilde, the President of the PGSA, awarded Dr Michael Thalbourne, a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Psychology, the special President's Award for excellence in supervision.

The General Staff Award was presented to Mr Gordon Crabb, from Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology, who was nominated by many postgraduate students for "keeping the department functioning".

There were many nominees for awards this year, and each were presented with certificates by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), Professor Edwina Cornish.

Computer vision takes the prize



Computer Science PhD student **Darren Gawley** has been rewarded by Compaq for the quality of his work in the field of computer vision.

Darren was one of a number of postgraduate students to

present papers at the Cooperative Research Centre for Sensor Signal and Information Processing, Mawson Lakes. Adelaide University is a partner in the CRC along with other universities, DSTO and industry.

The winner of the PhD competition was judged based on the novelty and quality of scientific content, the quality of their presentation, the appropriateness of delivery to an audience of technical and non-technical backgrounds, and the evidence of potential for commercialisation of their research project.

Darren was chosen the winner from a strong field. His topic, "Parameter Estimation for Computer Vision Models", has major implications for the accurate reconstruction of scenes from multiple images, and is finding increasing application around the world in visual security and surveillance. The use of multiple cameras to enable a computer, or robot, to better estimate distance and shape could also have many applications in other industries—even in space.

Darren's prize was a hand-held computer notebook from Compaq.

Librarian elected to Academy

Adelaide University's Librarian, **Mr Ray Choate**, has been elected an Honorary Fellow of the Australian Academy of the Humanities.

He was one of four outstanding scholars nation-wide to become an Honorary Fellow to the Academy last month.

Mr Choate has been the University's Librarian since 1990 and has taken a leading role in promoting books in Australian humanistic life. He has also played a prominent role in the Australian Library Publishers' society, of which he is the founder, and in fostering scholarly publishing in Australia.

Public health teacher appointed to gene technology board



Dr Neville Hicks, Reader in Public Health, has been appointed by the Commonwealth government to serve on the national Gene Technology Ethics Committee.

Dr Hicks, who teaches graduate courses in Public Health Policy and Public Health Ethics, said the publication of the 'script of life' by the Human Genome Project raised a number of questions for public health.

"There has been understandable excitement about the science," he said, "but, perhaps, some over-excitement about its consequences."

For example, the Chief Commonwealth Medical Officer has warned that the specific therapies arising from the Human Genome Project may be few and expensive—and the application of screening tests widespread and very expensive.

"That is not a new problem," Dr Hicks said. "The influence of genes relative to environment in human health may be as controversial in the 21st century as the claims for drug therapy, relative to clean water and pure food, were in the 20th century."

Similarly, he said, "a language of eugenics, which ebbed and flowed during the 20th century, retains significant grip on the way in which some aspects of genetics are discussed, even now".

Dr Hicks believes that "much of the argument, so far, has used religious or individualist moral language: Should we play God? Why can't we have the kind of baby we want? Similarly, some of the debate about genetic modification of food plants and animals has concentrated on property rights, to patents, to private profit from 'common use' genetic material, and so on".

"Those are valid questions," he said, "but there are also questions about how the costs

and benefits of new technologies are to be distributed, what public costs or benefits will arise and how wide a political debate is possible."

Earlier this year Dr Hicks was Academic Adviser to the Federation History of the Commonwealth Department of Health. "That experience made me think again about what is important in health policy," he said, "and I'm excited about the new issues for public health ethics which work with the gene technology committee offers."

Physics and Maths medals to researchers



Associate Professor Tony Williams, from the Department of Physics & Mathematical Physics, has been awarded the Walter Boas Medal for 2001 by the Australian Institute of Physics.

The award is for research deemed by the awards committee to be "the most important contribution to physics" carried out in Australia over the past four years.

Dr Williams, who is the Deputy Director of the Special Research Centre for the Subatomic Structure of Matter (CSSM), received the medal for his work in subatomic physics, in particular for advances in understanding of the quark and gluon substructure of matter.

"It is very pleasing to have this kind of professional recognition for my work at the Centre over the past four years," Dr Williams said.

"It's also a great reflection on the quality of work being done here in Physics at Adelaide University," he said.

Dr Williams's research in theoretical subatomic physics requires a major effort in high-performance computing. This is currently being carried out using the Orion supercomputer. He has recently become Director of the Centre for High-Performance Computing and Applications (CHPCA). The CHPCA is a newly formed University Research Centre aimed at facilitating inter-disciplinary research using advanced supercomputers.

"The University is well-poised to develop a major research strength in the application of high-performance computing to cutting-edge scientific research," Dr Williams said.

"The advanced techniques are applied across many fields of study and the resulting interdisciplinary nature of the research effort is a major plus for all of us," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Peter Bouwknecht, an ARC Senior Research Fellow also in the Department of Physics and Mathematical Physics, has won the Australian Mathematical Society Medal for 2001. This means that two researchers from the one department have won both the Physics and Mathematics medals in the same year—quite an achievement!

Life fellowship for architect



Professor Judith Brine, the University's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Special Projects, has been awarded a Life Fellowship to the Royal Australian Institute of Architects.

The citation for the life fellowship said Professor Brine's life "has been one of continued achievement and selfless contribution to the profession and related disciplines, architectural education, and the community through the agency of local government".

Professor Brine has held key positions in a number of tertiary institutions in Australia

and overseas, and is regarded by many architects as an early mentor.

"Her prolific output and industry are remarkable not just for volume but for quality, which is evidenced by the senior positions she has held in prestigious universities and the demand for her services from government," the citation said.

Professor Brine said she was very honoured to receive her life fellowship.

Music Council election

Graham Strahle has been elected to the Music Council of Australia. He is representing Music criticism/journalism on the Council.

Dr Strahle, a Visiting Research Fellow with the Elder Conservatorium, is the Adelaide music critic for *The Australian* and also writes regularly for the *Adelaide Review*.

The Music Council of Australia is a peak music organisation for Australian music, representing various styles of music and the many categories of activity surrounding these styles: performance, composition, presentation, recording, publishing, broadcasting, education, musicology, criticism, copyright, and others. It seeks to accelerate and enhance the development of Australian musical life by building communications and cooperation within the music community and by advocating its interests to decision-makers and the wider national and international community.

Kym off to Cambridge



Law graduate **Kym Taylor** has been awarded a Chevening Scholarship to study the Master of Laws at Cambridge University.

The Chevening Scholarships Program is financed by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Administered by the British Council, the program offers outstanding graduates and young professionals ("the future leadership generation") the opportunity to study at British universities.

Ms Taylor, who until recently was working as a solicitor at Wallmans Lawyers, decided to undertake the Masters degree to further her knowledge of human rights and international law.

"I greatly enjoyed studying Arts and Law at Adelaide University," Ms Taylor said.

"My studies and involvement in student representation sparked my interest in law and justice, in particular the rights of the disadvantaged. Studying at Cambridge provides me with an invaluable opportunity to learn more about human rights. In Australia, human rights issues such as illegal immigrants and refugees are becoming increasingly important and I hope that what I learn overseas I will be able to use to help address problems at home."

Upon completing her studies at Cambridge, Ms Taylor hopes to utilise a grant she has been awarded by the Foundation of Young Australians to undertake an unpaid internship with a non-governmental organisation working in the area of human rights.

Ms Taylor studied at Adelaide University from 1993 to 1999 obtaining a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (Hons). She was President of the Students' Association in 1996 and a member of University Council from 1997-1998. She was Associate to the Honourable Justice Duggan in the Supreme Court of South Australia before joining Wallmans Lawyers.

Further information on the Foundation of Young Australians or the Chevening Scholarships can be found at the following websites: <http://chevening.fco.gov.uk>, and <http://www.youngaustralians.org>.

New approach to prevent brain drain

ADELAIDE University is the first university in Australia to establish its own Research Staff Association—an organisation that not only gives staff a voice, but could also help stem the "brain drain" from South Australia.

The Research Staff Association (RSA) was established to fulfil the needs of research staff.

Research staff are often "forgotten" within any university; they take on much of the research work but many are not tenured and therefore have less security than other academic staff. The tasks handled by research staff are many and varied: they conduct research, supervise postgraduate students, teach, write papers, and write funding applications for research.

"Research staff are the people who make this place work, with new, fresh ideas," said Dr Nicole Morcom, a member of the RSA working party.

Dr Morcom is a postdoctoral staff member in the Department of Geographical & Environmental Studies. Her research was featured in a profile in the May issue of the Adelaidean this year.

"The aim of the RSA is to improve the career prospects of all Adelaide research staff. Even though we are considered academic staff, we are not tenured staff, and that makes our situation precarious," Dr Morcom said.

"A number of us thought that research staff

at the University needed a voice and needed to come together to discuss common issues".

Not only is the association unique among Australian universities, "it's also unique because the University is supporting it", Dr Morcom said. "We are in regular communication with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Edwina Cornish [who officially launched the RSA in August], and with the Director of the Research Branch, Janet Dibb-Smith, both of whom have offered great support to our efforts."

Membership of the RSA includes more than 100 of the 250 or so research staff at the University, who range across all faculties and across all campuses.

"The networking has been very beneficial," Dr Morcom said. "It gives us a chance to share information and hold seminars on, for instance, early career advice, job security, grant applications, and other things of interest to our members."

Dr Morcom believes the association could have another spin-off for the University: by helping to prevent the "brain drain" of research staff to overseas or other universities.

"One of the issues that always comes up in discussions about researchers taking up other opportunities is that, provided they're satisfied in their work here, most of them are not going to chase jobs overseas," Dr Morcom said.

"The Research Staff Association helps to



Dr Nicole Morcom. Photo: Ben Osborne.

provide a level of satisfaction for research staff and helps them to feel more involved, not just within their own departments but at a University-wide level. Hopefully we will see that having some impact on staff who decide to remain here in South Australia."

For more information about the RSA, contact Dr Nicole Morcom on (08) 8303 3795 or email: nicole.morcom@adelaide.edu.au, or check out the RSA web site: www.adelaide.edu.au/RSA.

New book: is there a Third Way?

DISTINGUISHED economist and author Hugh Stretton, in association with the Don Dunstan Foundation, will this month launch a new book on left politics, *Left Directions: Is There a Third Way?*

Edited by Adelaide University Associate Professors Paul Nursey-Bray and Carol Bacchi, the book explores the debate about the Third Way within the Australian context.

The Third Way idea came to prominence with the victory of Tony Blair in the United Kingdom, and emerged out of the new type of thinking by the left of British politics post-Thatcher. It advocates a middle passage, between a commitment to a socialist concern for equality and community and an acceptance of capitalist market society and private property as the basis for liberal



democratic freedoms.

Tony Blair was inspired in part by the Australian Labor governments of Bob Hawke and Paul Keating and he made a number of visits to Australia and held discussions with members of the Australian Labor Party.

Australian proponents of the Third Way argue that it is now time for Australia to debate the issues engendered by a consideration of Third Way politics.

Left Directions: Is There a Third Way? canvasses the arguments of prominent Third Way proponents, including politicians Mark Latham and Geoff Gallop, and presents a

series of critical responses to it.

The impetus for the book came from a conference on the theme of 'Left Directions' held at Adelaide University in 1999, sponsored by the Politics Department and the Don Dunstan Foundation.

The Foundation sponsors projects like 'Left Directions' to foster more widespread discussion of issues influencing public policy, by facilitating exchanges between the academic community, policy-makers and the wider community.

Left Directions: Is There a Third Way? is published by the University of Western Australia Press. It will be launched at 5.30pm on Thursday, December 6, Adelaide University Staff Club, North Terrace Campus, Adelaide.

—Jane Russell
Don Dunstan Foundation

\$22 million for Whyalla and the region

ADELAIDE University and the University of South Australia have secured funding totalling \$22 million over the next five years for the South Australian Centre for Rural and Remote Health (SACRRH) and the Adelaide University Rural Clinical School, based in Whyalla.

Centre Director Professor David Wilkinson said a new contract valued at \$7.5 million over the next five years had been secured from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care for SACRRH, allowing it to continue the work started in 1998.

"The contract secures around 20 jobs and ensures several major project initiatives will continue," Professor Wilkinson said.

"These include recruitment of rural doctors in partnership with the state workforce agency; development of new models of rural medical practices run by the University (such as those in Whyalla,

Coober Pedy and Ceduna); and a multi-site program developing novel models of chronic disease self-management."

In addition, a contract valued at \$ 2.5 million per year for five years (totalling almost \$13.5 million) has been secured for the new Rural Clinical School. The School will be based in Whyalla but will also have learning centres in Port Augusta, Port Pirie, the Yorke Peninsula, Booleroo Centre, Coober Pedy and Ceduna.

Already substantial capital works have been completed on the Whyalla Campus of the University of South Australia and the Whyalla Hospital, with new offices and student learning space developed.

Major new information technology infrastructure has been established, and several new jobs created. A \$1 million contract to refurbish offices, student learning space, and accommodation has been signed, and work will begin in all learning centres in the next few months.

The Rural Clinical School will provide substantial clinical training for Adelaide University medical students in general practice, obstetrics, surgery, medicine, paediatrics and Aboriginal Health. Students will go to the country for several weeks on clinical placement.

Through SACRRH, students in nursing, pharmacy and allied health disciplines such as physiotherapy and podiatry will also go to the country on placement.

The Centre will continue its wide range of projects in partnership with many community groups and professional organisations. To date, these projects have generated \$6 million in grant income for the region.

For organisational reasons, the two universities have now created the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School, comprising SACRRH and the Rural Clinical School.

—John Drislane

POSTDOC PROFILE

Dr Kemal Türker (Physiology)

DR TURKER obtained his Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) from the Faculty of Dentistry, Aegean University (Izmir, Turkey) in 1973 and PhD from the Institute of Physiology, Glasgow University in 1978.

He was a Lecturer at Hecettepe University (Ankara, Turkey) for four years and was conferred a Doçent degree (similar to DSc) from the Turkish Universities Commission.

In March 1983 he took up the position of Research Associate with Dr Timothy Miles in the Department of Physiology, Adelaide University.

Dr Türker subsequently became a Research Officer, and eventually Senior Research Officer in that department.

In January 1991 he was appointed a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Research Fellow in Physiology, which enabled him to set up his own laboratory in the Physiology Department.

Dr Türker has established himself as one of the leading researchers in the field of control of human muscles in general and control of human mastication in particular.

He has made significant breakthroughs for normalising reflex measurement in human subjects, and has recently worked out a way to estimate the profile of the synaptic potentials in motoneurons in human volunteers, which was not possible previously.

Acknowledging the advancements he has achieved in the area of human motor control, Dr Türker has been regularly invited as key speaker at international conferences and symposia.

Music ensemble prepares for world stage

THERE'S high praise from some of the world's leading music figures for Adelaide's Elder New Music Ensemble.

The ensemble, which comprises student performers conducted by Elder Conservatorium senior lecturer Mr Grahame Dudley, featured recently at this year's Barossa Music Festival.

The ensemble was the resident group of performers at the Barossa Festival, and was led in a major concert by guest conductor Lorraine Vaillancourt.

Ms Vaillancourt is the director of Montreal's Nouvel Ensemble Moderne (NEM) and is one of the world's most respected figures in the field of new music. Her role with the music festival came about as part of an ongoing collaboration with Mr Dudley.

She had nothing but praise for the Adelaide students, and compared them with her own ensemble.

"The students were so very giving; we worked very hard, but when you are generous you give it your best. I was so happy to work with the students. NEM is really working with this kind of spirit. It is hard to find in the professional world this same willingness; too often professional musicians have a lazy attitude, especially with new music," Ms Vaillancourt said.

"When you work with young people like this they are willing to try—they trust the music and the composer. The challenge is to find professionals still able to do that, so it was nice to have that with these students, to work hard, to push things as far as possible, but always having fun. They respond to that."

Because of the number of performances they were involved in, and with rehearsals, sometimes the Elder New Music Ensemble was playing and performing for many hours with few breaks.

"It was quite demanding on them," Ms Vaillancourt said. "The repertoire was also quite demanding, but they accepted it and pushed the limits, and when you do that and

everybody's doing that, you can feel it in the music.

"So much that is being played today is so mediocre, but here everybody was challenging the others at the same time, and the students realised that they can go over their limits."

Mr Dudley said the experience for the students was tremendous.

"In the time they spent with Lorraine, they spent as many hours with her as they have with me for the whole year. And eight weeks before she came we were doing preparatory work, so they have had a wealth of experience from it," he said.

Ms Vaillancourt went so far as to say that the Elder New Music Ensemble is a better ensemble than some professional ones she's seen and worked with.

"It's a very special experience working with young people like this. It went very well because of their attitude and because they wanted to be the best," she said.

More praise has come for the Adelaide ensemble, in the form of an invitation from world-renowned composer Sir Peter Maxwell Davies. A former teacher at Adelaide University and now a colleague of Grahame Dudley, Max Davies was so impressed with the ensemble's work at the Barossa Music Festival last year that he composed a piece for them. He has extended an invitation to the ensemble to his annual St Magnus Festival in Orkney, Scotland, in June next year.

"That invitation means quite a lot to the students, because they are in esteemed company in being invited to play at the St Magnus Festival," Mr Dudley said.

The Helpmann Academy will next year organise a fundraising concert for the Elder New Music Ensemble to help pay for the students' trip to Scotland. Mr Dudley said he would also welcome donations from interested members of the public and organisations.

For more information phone Libby Raupach at the Helpmann Academy on (08) 8463 5013.

—David Ellis



The director of Montreal's Nouvel Ensemble Moderne, Lorraine Vaillancourt (centre) with Grahame Dudley (far right) and the Elder New Music Ensemble at this year's Barossa Music Festival.



...and at last year's Barossa festival, with leading composer Max Davies (centre). Photo courtesy of Chateau Yaldara.

Online learning a step closer at MyUni

AT THE start of the year, the *Adelaidean* ran a story about plans to deliver online educational material in 2002.

That vision is now taking a step closer to reality.

MyUni is the name given to the entry point to online learning at Adelaide University. MyUni provides students and staff with access to course materials, discussion forums, announcements, online assessment and many other features to help manage study or teaching.

The trial period for MyUni is nearing completion, and the Online Learning and

Teaching Unit and Project Plato are looking to a full implementation in 2002.

There will be an entry in MyUni for all courses with enrolments by the start of Semester 1, 2002. This will enable all staff to have a managed email list for their courses in order to facilitate communication and an announcement page for important reminders. Staff can also use additional features available in MyUni. Training sessions for staff are scheduled for December, with others planned for January and February.

More information about MyUni will be available in the *Adelaidean* and online in *Inside Adelaide* next year.

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Call to preserve strengths of federal financial system

AT A TIME of renewed controversy over Australia's federal finances, a new study of the history and future of Australia's federal finance system has been published.

The study argues that some recent criticisms of Australia's federal financial system are misplaced.

Called *Financing the Federation*, the study was published by the South Australian Centre for Economic Studies and written by Jim Hancock (an economist at the centre) and Julie Smith (a tax historian at the Australia Institute and the Research School of Social Sciences at ANU). It was commissioned by the South Australian Department of Treasury and Finance as its contribution to the Centenary of Federation.

"Two features of Australia's federal financial system stand out in contrast to other nations," said Mr Hancock

"The first is that unavoidable differences in the financial capacities of State Governments are offset by the distribution of Commonwealth grants (otherwise known as "fiscal equalisation") and the second is a high degree of State Government reliance on Commonwealth grants.

"These features have attracted criticism in the public debate, but our report shows that much of the criticism is unfounded," he said.

"There has long been a view in official circles that fiscal equalisation has merit on grounds of equity and in the interests of viability of all

the States. And indeed this has been reflected in the fiscal equalisation processes the Commonwealth has operated since the 1930s. However, an important conclusion of this study is that there is also a strong efficiency case for fiscal equalisation."

Mr Hancock goes on to argue that the large volume of Commonwealth grants to the States is not likely to seriously undermine the accountability of State Governments.

"The reality is that the existing structure requires that, at the margin, States fund their own discretionary spending decisions dollar-for-dollar from their own revenue or savings efforts."

However, they say some reforms to the allocation of taxation powers are still worth consideration, "such as giving the States modest access to the income tax base, including some capacity to vary the tax take according to State priorities".

Julie Smith explains the origins and evolution of the federal finance system to 1970. She shows that the framers of Australia's Constitution deliberately provided flexibility to deal with the different economic and budgetary circumstances of the federating States.

"Fiscal equalisation was not, as some would have it, a compensation for uneven impact of Australia's now defunct protective tariff. Rather the system was to protect our fledgling nation against political and financial instability due to excessive geographic economic disparities."

Chance meeting, renewed contact for alumnus

IAN WING is one of those Adelaide University graduates whose job has important spin-offs for Adelaide and the nation.

Mr Wing, who graduated in 1973 with a Bachelor of Economics with Honours, is the Senior Trade Commissioner - USA with the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. His duties involve helping Australian companies to win export business and generate investment for Australia.

He remembers his studies at Adelaide fondly, and was reminded of them again earlier this year when he happened to meet the University's delegation at the Bio2001 biotech convention in the United States.

"I was very surprised and at the same time very pleased to see Adelaide University represented at Bio2001," Mr Wing said. "It was good to see the University reaching out and pushing its expertise commercially at the conference."

One of the Adelaide delegates, Ms Janet Dibb-Smith, Director of Research Policy and Support with the newly formed Adelaide Research & Innovation (ARI), has maintained links with Mr Wing and met

with him again on his recent trip to Adelaide.

Mr Wing said he enjoys walking through the University's North Terrace Campus whenever he comes back to Adelaide.

"I made a lot of friends here and it's always a good feeling to be back on campus. The grounds haven't really changed that much, but obviously there are major changes at this university, as in many other universities, in commercialising research," he said.

Although Mr Wing's own children have attended universities in the United States, "it's just a matter of geography".

"If I'd still been living in Adelaide I would have sent my kids here, because the good quality of the education, the rigour and discipline of study compares very favourably with universities in the US," he said.

Mr Wing, like many, has been affected by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington on September 11. He said the mood in Washington was "subdued, but there's also determination there".

"Many people have become security-aware, but the reaction of most is very consistent with the US spirit—in some ways it's brought out the best in the community," he said.



Mr Ian Wing. Photo: David Ellis.

1951 Golden Jubilee

THE 1951 Golden Jubilee Commemoration Ceremony was held in Bonython Hall on Friday, October 19 to honour those graduates celebrating the 50th anniversary since graduation from Adelaide University.

The ceremony was set to reflect a similar format to that of the original graduation ceremony in held in 1951.

This was the 15th Golden Jubilee Commemoration, the first having been held in 1986 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the opening of Bonython Hall. Seventy-eight graduates travelled from overseas and interstate, as well as many parts of South Australia, to attend the event.

Guest speaker at the commemoration ceremony was fellow 1951 graduate Dr Rex J Lipman, who received a Bachelor Degree in Dentistry from Adelaide University and is a well-known member of the Adelaide community. The Golden Jubilee celebration was an enjoyable experience for guests and graduates alike, enhancing the many fond memories of their University days.

Following the commemoration ceremony, graduates and guests attended an afternoon tea which included a presentation of images and reminders of their student days. The afternoon tea offered a wonderful opportunity to catch up after many years, to swap old stories and to share new ones.

THERE'S A GENE IN MY FOOD!

PROFESSOR Peter Langridge of the Department of Plant Science will be the guest speaker in the final presentation for the 2001 series Evening Talks organised by the Sciences and Mathematical Sciences Chapter of the Alumni Association.

Professor Langridge has an international reputation as a leading research worker in the occasionally controversial field of genetically modified foodstuff production.

From its earliest days genetic engineering was viewed by scientists as a powerful technique for improving the quality of life and the environment, and also as a technology with the potential for harm. After a long period of relative disinterest in the technology by the Australian community, the techniques of genetic engineering have recently attracted considerable attention and concern. The role and use of genetic engineering in crop and food production has raised particular concerns and led to strong opposition by several groups. This science talk will summarise the current status of genetic engineering in crop and food production and look at some of the major areas of concern that have developed in recent years.

The presentation will be on Wednesday, December 12 in the Rennie Lecture Theatre, Johnson Building, Adelaide University at 6pm. Admission is free and bookings are not necessary. For more information call the Chapter Chair on 8303 4965 or the Alumni and Community Relations office on 8303 5800.

UK Chapter reception

THE UK Chapter held its first Christmas function in London at the Art Workers Guild on November 16, with up to 100 alumni attending.

The function venue was a beautifully preserved Victorian hall and created a unique atmosphere for the alumni present, most of whom had graduated from Adelaide University in the last two decades.

The Hon Greg Crafter, Chair of the Adelaide University Alumni Association, provided an update on progress with Alumni Chapters around the world as well as the positive developments taking place at the Elder Conservatorium and in the Law School at Adelaide University. The event also gave alumni a chance to network and meet old friends over a glass of South Australian wine or Coopers Pale Ale.

Guests included alumni from the two other South Australian universities as well as Sydney University and the Menzies Centre, Kings College London. A highlight of the night was the 'Oz Raffle', which was made up of a basket of Australian goods not readily available in the UK.

The evening was generously supported by a number of South Australian companies: Penfolds Wines, Coopers, Lindemans Wines, The Australia Shop and Two Dogs, as well as the Office of the Agent General for South Australia.

ALUMNI NEWS

NEW SENIOR DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

The Alumni and Community Relations staff are pleased to welcome Elaine Baker as the newly appointed Senior Development Officer. Elaine brings a wealth of experience and valuable knowledge in the field of fundraising and development to the Alumni and Community Relations office. She has previously held development positions at the Multiple Sclerosis Society of South Australia, Wilderness School, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Crippled Children's Association and, most recently, as the Development Officer at St Peter Girls Collegiate.

"It is with much pleasure that I have joined the enthusiastic and vibrant team in the Alumni and Community Relations office," Elaine said. "I look forward to helping Adelaide University build rewarding philanthropic relationships with its alumni and friends so that they may have the opportunity to make a significant contribution towards the University achieving its goals for the future."

KEEPING IN TOUCH... Adelaide-Link

Have you received your first edition of Adelaide-Link? The Alumni and Community Relations office has just released its enewsletter, a new and effective way to stay in touch with our many and varied alumni! To register your email address and to read the news and information in our first edition visit our website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni

AFTER- HOURS PARKING PERMITS

The Alumni and Community Relations office is now offering Alumni After Hours Parking Permits for 2002. These permits allow you to park on our North Terrace Campus before 9.15am and after 4.30pm Monday to Friday, as well as all day Saturday, Sunday and Public Holidays and are available for an annual fee of \$75.00 (including GST). To apply for a permit, apply online at www.psb.adelaide.edu.au/parking.

MARES-EADEN FUND

The Mares-Eaden Fund has been established as a memorial to the life and work of Tim Mares and Robin Eaden following their tragic deaths in a car accident in February. Both Tim and Robin were former members of staff at Adelaide University's Department of English. Their contribution to literary scholarship is valued by friends and colleagues here and overseas.

The Mares-Eaden Fund has been established to provide perpetual endowment for a prize for an undergraduate essay or honours thesis in Shakespearean and Elizabethan Studies, for students enrolled in the Department of English at Adelaide University.

Further information on the Mares-Eaden Fund and how you can contribute can be obtained from the Alumni and Community Relations office, ph (08) 8303 5800.

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT MAKING A GIFT TO THE UNIVERSITY?

A bequest is a gift to the future generations of students and scholars who will continue our tradition of excellence. For information contact: Ms Carol Ible, Development Officer, Alumni and Community Relations, Level 1, 230 North Terrace, Adelaide University SA 5005. Tel: 8303 6356, Fax: 8303 5808. Email: development@adelaide.edu.au.

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the staff in the Alumni and Community Relations office and the Alumni Association I would like to thank the many members of our alumni community who have dedicated their time and effort towards the achievement of a progressive and successful year in 2001. The University gets its strength from its relationship with alumni, friends and staff and we have been proud to foster some of those ties in 2001. May I take this opportunity to wish each of you a safe and peaceful festive season. We look forward to the exciting year ahead in 2002.

—Rachael Oliphant.

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Melbourne Festival success

THE WINNING streak enjoyed by a team of five young percussionists from Adelaide University's Elder Conservatorium continues unabated with a series of wins at the International Percussion Festival held during the recent Melbourne Festival.

The team of Nick Parnell, Joseph Fragnito, Jamie Adam, Paul Butler and Andrew Buchan spent five days in Melbourne picking up awards, attending workshops and giving concerts.

First to win was Nick Parnell who claimed first place in the Open Individual Competition with Jamie Adam second and Paul Butler in fourth place.

In the Open Ensemble section Joseph Fragnito, assisted by Paul Butler, Jamie Adam and Andrew Buchan, won second prize.

Nick Parnell, 24, is a Masters student and his record of achievements continues to grow. Earlier this year he was a finalist in the Young Performers Award and currently is a finalist in the Arts category for The Young Australian of the Year. He performed with the percussion group Hormingo in Malaysia and in Musica Viva's new season's opening concert.

While still only in his first year of study, Paul Butler, 18, is already showing his mettle as a talented percussionist. Earlier this year Paul won first prize in the Open Solo section of the Sydney Eisteddfod followed by his successes in Melbourne. Not bad when up against the best of the country's student percussionists.

Jamie Adam, 21, already has two other wins this year under his belt from the Sydney Percussion Eisteddfod, where he came first in the Two Mallet Marimba section and second in the Open Snare Drum section. Jamie gave his recital in November in the Scott Theatre and performed in the David Galliver Memorial Awards final, in the Elder Hall [see story below].

Both Joseph Fragnito and Andrew Buchan



The successful team. Photo courtesy of the Helpmann Academy.

are Honours students and are both seasoned performers and consistent winners of awards.

This tight-knit group supports and encourages each other in their work and over a short period have established themselves as accomplished percussionists and achievers of awards for their skill. Asked the secret of their success, they all say "practice and more practice—every day if possible".

Having more or less conquered the local scene, the group is now turning their attentions to international competitions. Already members of the group are drawing up plans for an equally successful sortie on the competition at the Stuttgart Percussion Festival next May and an international percussion festival in the United States. The US trip, funded by the Helpmann Academy, will take in Nashville, San Francisco and New York.

Closer to home over the next two months

will be a round of recitals and a Riverland tour with the award-winning Adelaide University Wind Ensemble.

The group claim that they owe it all to Percussion lecturer Jim Bailey, who heads the Elder Conservatorium's Percussion Department and has made this one of the leading departments in the country in terms of consistency and standards. He agrees with the students when they say it's all about practice "Dedication, training and a passion for percussion is what it all boils down to," says Jim, "and with these we're created some remarkable musicians."

Admissions to Elder Conservatorium 2002 courses are open until December 10, 2001.

The Elder Conservatorium is a Helpmann Academy partner.

—Sheila Bryce, Helpmann Academy

PERCUSSIONIST Jamie Adam (second from left) is the winner of the inaugural David Galliver Memorial Awards, held recently at the final Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series for 2001.

Jamie, who came second in the annual awards last year, performed *Prism Rhapsody* by Keiko Abe, and was presented with his prize by Professor Galliver's widow, Gabrielle Galliver.

Previously known as the Elder Conservatorium Classical Music Awards, the awards were renamed in memory of Professor Galliver, who died earlier this year. He was Elder Professor from 1966 to 1983.

Other finalists were cellist Pei-Sian Ng (far left), pianist Yuh T'Sun Wu (second from right) and Pei-Jee Ng (far right). Also pictured is the current Elder Professor of Music, Charles Bodman Rae.



NEWSMAKERS

An irrigation technique developed by Adelaide University and CSIRO scientists has made it on to the list of the 100 most important innovations of the 20th century (*The Advertiser*, November 20). Partial Rootzone Drying (or PRD) was jointly invented by **Dr Peter Dry** (Horticulture, Viticulture & Oenology) and Dr Brian Loveys from CSIRO, and enables grape yield to be maintained with half the normal amount of water, while at the same time possibly significantly increasing wine quality. PRD is now being used commercially in vineyards in Australia, USA, Argentina, Spain, Israel and South Africa. The list of innovations was a joint project of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and Sydney's

Powerhouse Museum.

The thorny media issue of koala culling on Kangaroo Island kept **Dr David Paton** (Environmental Biology) busy in the early part of November. Among others, Dr Paton was featured on *Triple J* (November 8), Channel Nine's *A Current Affair* (October 31), and *The Advertiser* (November 2) to describe how the island's population of koalas is literally eating itself out of its habitat, with culling the only real solution. The State Government has ignored Dr Paton's findings, saying the State's tourism industry would suffer badly if koalas were culled.

Another animal-related story received strong media attention in early November—the Melbourne Cup. Adelaide University gained

exposure during this time with its own horse story, that of using breath testing on horses to detect a disease that causes particular problems in the racing industry. **Dr David Tivey** (Animal Science) told *ABC South East* (November 6) about the work of Honours student Belinda Argent to use breath testing to find traces of Inflammatory Airway Disease in horses.

Proposed changes to house energy ratings in South Australia saw **Dr Terry Williamson** (Architecture, Landscape Architecture & Urban Design) gain an appearance in the *Financial Review* (November 22). Dr Williamson tested the accuracy of a computer-based rating system, to be introduced to all homes built in SA after July

2002, on 31 houses and found the system did not correlate to the actual energy being consumed. "We got zero correlations. It's the first time the scheme's computer modelling has been compared to reality and it has shown to be incomplete," he said.

Adelaide University Science student and intrepid adventurer **Ben Kozel** reflected in *The Advertiser* (November 24) on his history-making rafting expedition down the world's fifth-longest river, the Yenisey, in Mongolia and Siberia recently. He said even after spending four months in such isolated places, he felt as if he hardly knew the place and its people at all: "On a map, we cut through the very heart of Mongolia and Siberia. In reality, we barely managed to glimpse their souls."