Ecstasy warning: brain damage from just a few doses

DISTURBING evidence is emerging that the increasingly popular drug ecstasy can be linked to users suffering long-term brain damage.

University of Adelaide researchers have found that ecstasy taken on a few occasions could cause severe damage to brain cells, with the potential to cause future memory loss or psychological problems.

Dr Rod Irvine, an internationally regarded ecstasy expert from the University’s Department of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacology, said with 7% of 17-year-olds reporting use of ecstasy, major health problems could be expected in the future.

“For many years it has been known from animal experiments that small doses of ecstasy—even if only taken on only a few occasions—can cause severe damage to certain brain cells,” he said.

“More recently, evidence has started to accumulate suggesting that this damage may also occur in humans. Brain scan and psychological assessment of ecstasy users has been used to obtain this information.

“If our suspicions are proved correct, it will mean many of our young people will have memory loss or psychological problems in the future.”

Dr Irvine’s research on brain damage caused by ecstasy shows that the drug seems to work mainly through its effects on one type of brain cell, and even through one molecule in those cells.

It also seems likely that the way the body reacts chemically to ecstasy is important in producing adverse effects, as is the surrounding temperature, which can lead to users overheating.

Adelaide’s reputation as having the highest per capita death rate from ecstasy in Canada, and now it’s reappeared here in Adelaide,” Dr Irvine said.

“We don’t know where the PMA came from, but we do know that it has been prevalent in Adelaide since the mid 1990s.”

Part of the challenge facing Dr Irvine and other ecstasy researchers around the world is that they are limited to the extent they can research ecstasy’s effects on humans.

“We are trying to uncover new approaches to treatment and prevention, but we can’t do that unless we understand exactly how the drug works,” Dr Irvine said.

“Finding out exactly how the drug works on humans is a bit of a problem, because we cannot perform experiments with dangerous drugs like ecstasy on humans, due to the ethics involved.

“Instead we use cell and animal models to provide us with basic biological information which we can apply to the human situation.

“Using the cell model is limiting, because of the complicated way drugs are absorbed, moved around the body and excreted.

“Our main model was the laboratory rat which, surprisingly, shares a lot of biology with humans and was the animal in which the brain damage from ecstasy was first described.”

— Ben Osborne

N A S A has eyes on Ian’s satellite ocean studies

Professor Ian Young’s global perspective on ocean conditions has helped him receive a contract from NASA, as well as interest from such other ocean users as shipping and oil companies. Turn to Page 3 to find out what NASA is so interested in. Photo: Ben Osborne.

New Law Dean appointed

PROFESSOR Paul Fairall is the new Dean and John Bray Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide.

He is currently Professor of Law at James Cook University in Queensland, where he also chairs the Academic Board, and was Dean of Law for the past five years.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor Professor Cliff Blake said the appointment was an outstanding one for the University.

“Professor Fairall has a proven record of achievement at James Cook University where he has led a dramatic growth in the Law School over the past six years,” Professor Blake said.

“He is also a prominent figure in legal education at national level. As chairperson of the Council of Australian Law Deans, he has oversight of all the major developments taking place in law schools across the country.

“His leadership experience, combined with a strong research background, will be substantial assets to the University of Adelaide.”

The appointment has also been welcomed by the Executive Dean of the Faculty of the Professions, Professor Fred McDougall.

“One of Professor Fairall’s early tasks will be to address the issues raised in the report of the Law School Review team which brought forward 41 recommendations last year on how the School could enhance the quality of its teaching, research, and professional outreach,” Professor McDougall said.

“Man University is committed to providing additional resources to the Law School to give effect to these recommendations.”

Continued Page 2
O B I T U T A R Y

Ong Teng Cheong

ONE OF the University of Adelaide’s most illustrious alumni, the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong, died at his home in Singapore on Friday, February 8, at the age of 66.

Mr Ong, who graduated with an Honours degree in law from the University of Adelaide in 1962, was awarded a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University in 2000. The award, the highest honour given by the Alumni Association, was given “in recognition of his sustained and illustrious service to the alumni of the University of Adelaide and, auspiciously, to the people of Singapore”.

Ong Teng Cheong was born in Singapore in 1936, the second of five children. At the age of 16 he met his future wife, a fellow Singaporean, 15-year-old Ling Siew May. Both eventually became students of architecture at the University of Adelaide, and married in 1963, and both returned to Singapore where they practised architecture for several years.

Mr Ong was introduced to politics in 1969 and became a Member of Parliament in Singapore in 1972. He held his seat for 21 years.

Mr Ong served in the Singapore Government as a Minister, becoming Secretary-General of the National Trades Union Congress and was also Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Ong is widely credited as having made a unique contribution to his country and his people. His wide-ranging contributions include town planning and the building of a modern transport system, as well as his passionate involvement with the Singapore labour movement.

On September 1, 1993, Mr Ong became the first Executive President of the Republic of Singapore and its fifth President overall. His term lasted six years. He decided not to seek re-election, and Mr Ong resumed life as a private citizen on September 1, 1999, just weeks after his beloved wife died of cancer at age 62.

One year before he became president, Mr Ong was diagnosed with low grade lymphatic cancer. He had made several trips to the United States for treatment and had only been discharged from his most recent hospital visit on February 4, a few days before he passed away.

Throughout his career, Ong Teng Cheong supported his alma mater and was instrumental in the establishment of the Adelaide Alumni Chapter, inaugurated on May 28, 1995—a chapter that is still strong and continues to grow and support the University. He continued to take considerable interest in the Chapter’s development over the following years. As a reflected in a biography published last decade, Mr Ong “not only immersed himself in the material build up of the nation, but also happened to be one of improving human quality and spirit as his mission”.

Tributes for the late Mr Ong flowed in from all over the world following the announcement of his death. As a mark of respect, State flags on all government buildings in Singapore were lowered to half-mast on the day of his funeral.

“I’m sure I speak for many among the University community in saying that we are deeply saddened at the death of such an eminent figure in our University’s history,” said the Chair of the Alumni Association, the Hon. Greg Crafter.

“It is a privilege and an honour to lead an enthusiastic and high-quality staff dedicated to enhancing the profile of the Law School over the years. The University has started the process of regenerating the School with the appointment of nine new staff, including Professor Paul Fairall.”

Professor Paul Fairall.

“Professor Fairall will advise which reforms should take priority and what legislation will be required. The additional funding for the School will come from the University as well as from public subscriptions. A major fundraising initiative is currently being planned, and we will be announcing full details later this year.”

Professor Fairall will also ensure that the University of Adelaide’s law degree continues to receive accreditation from the Legal Practitioners Education and Admissions Council, the official accreditation board which is chaired by the Chief Justice. He will lead an enthusiastic and high-quality staff dedicated to enhancing the profile of the Adelaide law School.

The University has started the process of regenerating the School with the appointment of nine new staff, including Professor Paul Fairall.”

Professor Fairall said he was “absolutely delighted” by his appointment.

“It is a special privilege and an honour to lead Australia’s second-oldest law school,” he said.

“Ander’s proud tradition, its excellent staff and its first-class resources make it by reputation one of the best law schools in the country. It has the potential to be the finest.”
Students take stage at World Congress

The University of Adelaide has apologised for scientific experiments conducted on Aboriginal people by some of its researchers in the 1920s and 1930s. These experiments were conducted as part of a broader program of research into the development and health of Aboriginal people.

The apologises to the descendants of all those who were subjected to this treatment and to their communities. The University has also committed to promoting an understanding of indigenous issues, cultures and history in programs and courses.

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Business links a priority for new G S M Dean

Adelaide: M R Bob Bishop, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Silicon Graphics Inc (Bachelor of Science with Honours, University of Adelaide; Professor G rant Sutherland, Director of the Department of Cytogenetics and Molec lar Genetics at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, Adelaide, and Affiliate Professor at the University of Adelaide’s D epartment of Paediatrics.

Graduate is Citizen of the Year

Dr Mark Gryst from the South Australian Dental Service has been named Adelaide’s Citizen of the Year. Dr Gryst, a graduate of the University of Adelaide, has worked for many years with people with disabilities, a challenging area of dentistry that requires particularly high levels of commitment, patient management skills and advanced technical ability.

Debate centres on Adelaide

Debaters from around Australia will compete at the University of Adelaide’s North Terrace campus to take part in The Economist’s National Inter varsity Debating Competition (NIDC). The tournament is the nation’s most prestigious debating tournament, attracting the cream of Australia’s tertiary students. All preliminary rounds and most finals debates will be held at the University, with the grand final held in Broken Hill. The debates will encompass topical social, political, environmental and economical issues.

Mega-what?

Two new exhibitions have opened at Adelaide’s Investigator Science and Technology Centre.

We are a nation of people who have taken to the skies and are constantly looking for new ways to travel. This year 80 teams from 15 Australian universities will take part in the event, involving up to 350 debaters and adjudicators. For more information visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/esters

Voyager cruises into uni libraries

Users of the three South Australian university libraries will now benefit from a new system that enhances cooperation and shared services. Called Voyager, the new application developed by librarians and researchers at many major research libraries worldwide, including Cambridge and the US National Library of Medicine.

Voyager provides the University of Adelaide library with the best tool available to discourage the theft of books and the public from being asked to pay for digital resources provided by the Bertram Smith Library. The system includes Universal Borrowing that will allow for reciprocal borrowing between the three South Australian universities.

For more information visit: www.library.adelaide.edu.au
CD-ROM the key to world of biodiversity

Thousands of Australian university students studying in the areas of biology and environment science are set to benefit from a new hi-tech teaching tool developed by the universities of Adelaide, Queensland and Sydney. BioED is an interactive CD-ROM system that enables students to easily identify thousands of Australian animals, plants and micro-organisms. Free copies of the CD-ROM, launched last month at the University of Adelaide, will be distributed to every university in Australia.

BioED provides eight separate keys to groups including:
- Protista
- Soil micro-arthropods (segmented invertebrates)
- Insects
- Wasps
- Mosquitoes
- Microscopic fungi
- Weeds and
- Urban pests

The Adelaide team, under Dr Dr Andy Austin and Mr Nick Stevens, led the project. "There has been a real need for an easy-to-use identification system in CD-ROM form for many years," said Dr Austin. "The CD provides a resource for learning about various groups of organisms with text boxes and some video that provide information on structural characteristics, behaviour, ecology, etc." BioED also contains a huge library of digital images and illustrations that would be prohibitively expensive in any printed form. For instance, the wasp key contains more than 350 separate images.

In all, there are 500 different groupings representing tens of thousands of Australian species. "The sheer scale of the material contained in BioED will aid students throughout Australia in the identification of this important part of Australia’s biodiversity, and it will help immensely in students' learning," Dr Austin said.

BioED was developed thanks to a $160,000 grant in 1999/2000 from DEETYA’s Committee for University Teaching and Staff Development, the biggest such grant awarded in 1999. Dr Austin said the project was the first stage of a larger, ongoing national initiative that would include other groups of organisms as keys for them to be developed.

David Ellis

Free Public Lecture

Talking Psychology: Featuring a Princess, a Short Skirt and the Cast of Friends by Professor J. Nathan Potter (Loughborough University, UK)

Visiting Research Fellow, Faculty of Health Sciences (University of Adelaide)

Where: Hughes Lecture Theatre, Hughes Building, Level 3 University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus

When: 4pm, Monday, March 11

Where do you find psychology? In the last century this question has been answered by looking to the relationship between what people do and the rewards and punishments they suffer, or, more recently, by comparing what goes in to peoples heads with what comes out.

This lecture advances a third answer. Psychology is found by looking at what people say. People manufacture psychology in their talk as they live their lives. The mind (cognition, memory, emotion and so on) is produced in talk to do things— to complain, gossip, flint, justify; to live and work at jobs. Discursive psychology starts with what people actually do—it is literally the study of mind in action.

Commercialisation of research

"The process of transforming ideas, knowledge and inventions into greater wealth for individuals, businesses and/or society at large..."

"...enables students to easily identify thousands of Australian animals, plants and micro-organisms. Free copies of the CD-ROM..."

"...there are 500 different groupings representing tens of thousands of Australian species. "The sheer scale of the material contained in BioED will aid students throughout Australia in the identification of this important part of Australia’s biodiversity..."

"Talking Psychology: Featuring a Princess, a Short Skirt and the Cast of Friends by Professor J. Nathan Potter (Loughborough University, UK) Visiting Research Fellow, Faculty of Health Sciences (University of Adelaide) Where: Hughes Lecture Theatre, Hughes Building, Level 3 University of Adelaide, North Terrace Campus When: 4pm, Monday, March 11 Where do you find psychology? In the last century this question has been answered by looking to the relationship between what people do and the rewards and punishments they suffer, or, more recently, by comparing what goes in to peoples heads with what comes out. This lecture advances a third answer. Psychology is found by looking at what people say. People manufacture psychology in their talk as they live their lives. The mind (cognition, memory, emotion and so on) is produced in talk to do things— to complain, gossip, flint, justify; to live and work at jobs. Discursive psychology starts with what people actually do—it is literally the study of mind in action.

Commercialisation of research

"The process of transforming ideas, knowledge and inventions into greater wealth for individuals, businesses and/or society at large..."
Seawater solution to Adelaide’s water problems

DE SALT ED seawater is being touted as a potential replacement for the River Murray as Adelaide’s main source of drinking water. The idea comes from University of Adelaide researchers heading a major study into the issue.

The study, funded by a 2002 ARC Linkage Grant, and led by postgraduate student Michelle Wittholz and Kylie Hyde, is due to its reliance on the river. Adelaide’s water supply is already a concern.

• Desalination of groundwater.

Adelaide’s wastewater treatment plants; desalination of reclaimed sewage from metropolitan coastline; desalination— the process of removing salts—has traditionally been regarded as an expensive technology, but desalting costs have gone down dramatically in the last decades, Dr Colby said.

“Desalination has traditionally been regarded in Australia as an expensive technology, but desalting costs have gone down dramatically in the last decades,” Dr Colby said.

New large-scale desalting plants built overseas are now able to produce freshwater from seawater, for less than $1 per kilolitre.

Some of these desalting plants are built next to existing or new power plants to recycle water feed from electricity generation.

“The study will focus on how desalting (or desalination)—the process of removing salts from water—would resolve predicted water quality problems,” the study’s direction of Project Chief Investigators Brian O’Neill (Chemical), and Dr Holger Mair (Civil & Environmental),

The University study will be jointly undertaken by two postgraduate students, Michelle Wittholz and Kylie Hyde from the departments of Chemical Engineering and Civil & Environmental Engineering, under the direction of Project Chief Investigators Dr Chris Colby and Associate Professor Brian O’Neill (Chemical), and Dr Holger Mair (Civil & Environmental).

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Dr Colby said the amount of salinity in Adelaide’s water supply is already a concern.

“Now a recent salinity audit by the Murray-Darling Basin Commission has found that average water salinity has exceeded desirable drinking water quality by 40% of the time within the next 20 years, unless remedial action is taken,” he said.

The study will set out to show that desalination could be used to augment Adelaide’s water supply—measuring both the public and industry that future water supplies should be secure no matter how much the River Murray might deteriorate.

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Dr Colby said the findings of the study would also be of interest to the States food industry. While, according to Government reports, is expected to grow from its current size of $5.5 billion per year to $15 billion per year by 2010.

“Such growth would be of tremendous benefit to the State, generating jobs and economic development not only in the country, but also the city,” he said.

“But this would require a cheap and reliable source of water, and the River Murray is still the best place to obtain this.”

Dr Mair said that this was the other goal of the study, to see how the desalination scenarios could affect Statewide allocation of water resources from the River Murray to regional communities.

“For example, say part or all of Adelaide’s water supply pumped from the Murray was replaced by desalted seawater, could this river water be diverted elsewhere for other uses, such as for irrigation of agricultural crops or assisting environmental flows?” Dr Mair said.

“Could it be more sensible to use cheaper untreated river water for agriculture, where it can be value added, and desalted water for Adelaide’s drinking water?”

The study has the financial support of the South Australian Departments of Industry and Trade, and Water Resources, and will feed into an integrated water management strategy titled Water for the Future being developed for metropolitan Adelaide by the State Government.

— Ben Osborne

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NA SA eyes ocean studies

ADELAIDE’S Faculty of Engineering, Computer & Mathematical Sciences already has strong links with the pre-eminent space organisation, NASA.

Australia’s first astronaut, Andy Thomas, was an Adelaide engineering graduate and has gone on to fly many NASA missions. And now the Faculty’s Executive Dean, Professor Ian Young, has received a major contract to provide NASA with information on ocean surface conditions.

Professor Young has an international reputation in the field of using oceanographic satellites to measure ocean surface properties.

“How it works is that we have been gathering data from these satellites for about 10 years,” Professor Young said.

“A satellite orbits around the Earth, it sends pulses of energy down to the surface. These pulses are reflected back to the satellite, and by timing how long it takes for the energy to return and measuring how much energy returns, we can calculate properties of the ocean surface—we can determine things like the wave height, the period of the waves, the speed of the wind, and the direction of the wind.”

“We’ve been able to obtain data for 200km by 200km tracts of ocean, and put it together into a database available in CD-ROM. This sort of information is very useful for many different people and groups and we’ve had a fair amount of interest in it already.”

NASA is the highest-profile organisation to take an interest in Professor Young’s research—it will shortly receive copies of the CD-ROM and distribute them primarily among its design team.

Professor Young’s research has the greatest implications for NASA’s design engineers, who need to know about ocean conditions for a number of reasons.

“They design spacecraft taking into consideration many properties of the ocean,” Professor Young said.

“If they have to ditch their craft in the ocean, they need to know which part of the ocean has the best chance of favourable conditions for recovery. This is particularly important directly down from the launch pad: if something goes wrong early in the launch and they have to ditch the craft, they need to know what ocean conditions could be like near the launch pad.”

“But when they design the craft they can use this data to determine specifications so that it won’t sink or break up, no matter the conditions.”

“They are also looking at making their booster rockets retrievable, and therefore they need to know about ocean conditions when designing those.”

A unique feature of Professor Young’s research is that it has been accumulated over such a long time (10 years), it can be used to predict such occurrences as once-in-100-year storms.

This information is not only extremely useful to NASA, but for other ocean-based industries such as the offshore oil industry and global shipping industries.

“By extrapolating the 10-year data, we can predict the impact of, for instance, once-in-100-year storms, which give an extra level of security when designing things like oil rigs,” Professor Young said.

“If course there is always the risk that the once-in-100-year storm might happen tomorrow, and it is extremely difficult to predict such extreme events, simply because we haven’t been collecting data for anywhere near long enough. However, our database is still a very useful device to have in determining both average conditions and extreme conditions on any ocean.”

In addition, we can determine these conditions anywhere on the ocean surface, no matter how remote.”

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In addition, we can determine these conditions anywhere on the ocean surface, no matter how remote.”
Stories of secret war expose our pioneer spirit

A SECRET war fought on South Australia’s frontier from the 1840s onwards is the subject of a new book co-authored by University of Adelaide academics.

Fatal Collisions takes a close look at key incidents of violence between European settlers and Aborigines and the stories surrounding those incidents.

The book’s main theme is how stories about frontier violence changed over the years, and how they were used to support notions such as the pioneer spirit.

The three authors of Fatal Collisions are Dr Robert Foster and Dr Amanda Nettelbeck, lecturers with University of Adelaide’s departments of history and English respectively, and Mr Rick Hosking, English lecturer at Flinders University.

When they learnt that they were all working on the same area independently, they decided to collaborate on the one book.

The result is a fascinating account of how some of the worst tragedies in South Australian colonial history have been altered, mythologised and exploited for particular causes through their retelling.

In some cases, the retold stories bear little resemblance to the actual tragic events that unfolded; in others, the tragedy was amplified.

Two examples used in the book are the case of James Brown in 1849 and the “M aria massacre” in 1840.

James Brown, a pastoralist in South Australia’s south-east, was charged with shooting dead nine Aborigine people.

The victims included babies, young girls, old women and a blind man. Unable to find witnesses, the Crown was forced to drop the case despite the magistrate’s conviction of his guilt.

Two generations later, a glowing review of Brown’s life merely noted that he was involved in a charge of poisoning an Aborigine man but emerged from the trial with a clean slate.

The story had changed from shooting to poisoning, from nine victims to one, from evading trial to being found innocent. Stories told about Brown in local communities also gave him heroic qualities.

“H e [Brown] rode on his horse, all the way up the Coorong to the mouth of the M urray, and he eventually got to Adelaide where his alibi was established,” Dr Foster said.

“So that becomes what the story is remembered as: Brown was a great horseman. That’s part of the pioneer thing: good pioneers are good horsemen. So theatrocity, which has been watered down in the retelling, becomes a device to set up the horse ride.”

The Brown case is “a massacre by any standards,” Dr Foster said. “It’s cold-blooded killing. If Brown were around today, he’d be reviled as a mass murderer.

“T he Brown case is a massacre by any standards... It’s cold-blooded killing. If Brown were around today, he’d be reviled as a mass murderer.”

X University of Adelaide academics Rob Foster (left) and Amanda Nettelbeck with their new book, Fatal Collisions. Photo: Ben Osborne.

Students of secret war expose our pioneer spirit

The revelation that stories about the violence between settlers and Aborigines were more controversial than previously thought are told in a book by Rob Foster and Amanda Nettelbeck.

The book is scheduled to be launched in Adelaide on Thursday, along with a discussion on the role of history in current debates.

The book, co-authored with Rob Foster and Amanda Nettelbeck, is the result of research in the 1990s that examined the relationship between the two groups.

Professor Tony Cloke, a historian at the University of Adelaide, said the book was a significant contribution to the understanding of the history of the region.

“T he book is an important contribution to the understanding of the relationship between European settlers and Aborigines,” Professor Cloke said.

It is hoped the book will be used to educate students about the complexities of the relationship and how it has evolved over time.

The book is a part of the University of Adelaide’s series on the history of South Australia.

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A-Z history of South Australia first of its kind

THE FIRST A-to-Z reference book devoted to the history of an Australian State has been compiled by an editorial team at the University of Adelaide.

The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History is a one-volume guide to, and commentary on, more than 600 events, institutions, people, places and topics of significance in the history of South Australia. Its 655 pages were compiled by Professor W. (Will) Prest (Editor) and Dr Kerrie Round (Managing Editor) from the University’s Department of History, with entries written by 220 contributors from South Australia, interstate and overseas.

Dr Round said the idea for the book originated with Professor Prest, who is currently on leave at Princeton University.

“Although his research specialty is early modern Britain, Professor Prest has a strong interest in South Australian history,” Dr Round said.

“In what one pre-publication reviewer described as “an astonishing feat”, final text of A-Z history of South Australia describes as “an astonishing feat”, final text of South Australian history has earned its author a major prize from the University.

A BOOK about one the greatest figures in the University of Adelaide’s history has earned its author a major prize from the University.

A mid Own Place: The Thought of Sir William Mitchell is written by Dr W. M. attic Daves and is due to be published this year by E. W. M. Allen Press in the United States.

Dr Daves, who is a Academic Coordinator at the University of Adelaide, said: “It will be of interest to school librarians and public libraries but will be equally useful on the home bookshelf.”

The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History is published by Wakefield Press and is available in bookstores now for $79.95 (hardcover).

— John Drislane

Sallis releases her novel

AN AWARD-WINNING author and lecturer in the University of Adelaide’s Creative Writing program is to launch her new book at this month’s Writers’ Week as part of the Adelaide Festival of Arts.

The work by Dr Eva Sallis (pictured below), who won The Australian/Vogel Literary Award for her novel, is called The City of Seals.

The central character is the girl Lian, born of a Vietnamese mother, who finds herself on a journey of personal discovery through Areal and social landscapes. It is through Lian’s loss of identity in a confronting foreign culture that she is able to find compassion for her mother’s difficult life and an understanding of their unforgiving relationship. The novel’s central themes are community and identity, others and self.

Renowned South African author J. M. Coetzee describes The City of Seals as “A rich book—a lyrical account of a girl’s growth and self-discovery, and at the same time a deeply sympathetic exploration of Muslim culture.”

Dr Sallis won the 1997 The Australian/Vogel Literary Award and the 1999 Dobell Award for her novel, which also dealt with Islamic culture. Dr Sallis has a PhD in comparative literature (English and Arabic) from the University of Adelaide, travels regularly to the Middle East and is a teacher and supervisor in the University’s Creative Writing program.

The City of Seals, published by Allen & Unwin, goes on sale from Friday, March 8.

Dr Kerrie Round. Photo: John Drislane.
A NEW Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies has been established at the University of Adelaide.

Located within the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Centre comprises two key existing indigenous units, Wilto Yerlo and the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music (CASM). Both units have retained their names as entities within the Centre and are staying in their current physical locations.

The Director of Wilto Yerlo, Mr Roger Thomas, has been appointed Head of the Centre for 2002. It is envisaged that an Indigenous Chair will be appointed for an initial period of five years, starting next March.

Mr Thomas said the new Centre would bring together proposals for a Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies, headed by Professor Michael Eastwood, as well as the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music, headed by Dr John Lee. The Centre offers a unique program for Australian Indigenous students. It would also conduct market research to determine demand and scope for Indigenous programs, develop links to local and national industries, and the arts, and strengthen connections with Indigenous community groups.

Wito Yerlo (Sea Eagle in the Kaurna language) is a teaching research, learning, access and support centre for a Baboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, offering foundation programs in Science, Humanities and the Social Sciences.

The Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Music (CASM) offers a unique program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander musicians, leading to the Advanced Certificate or Associate Diploma in Music. The Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies can be contacted on tel. (08) 8303 3623, fax (08) 8303 4966 — John D’Ilande

Performer with the Centre for Aboriginal Studies in Music. Photo: Ben Osborne.
IT WAS party time at the University of Adelaide recently as the Adelaide Fringe 2002 kicked off in a blaze of colour, excitement and entertainment.

The University has a starring role in the Fringe with its Cloisters and Union Building serving as the Hub, while around the North Terrace campus some 16 different locations are hosting more than 60 official Fringe events.

The Fringe began in its customary extravagant manner with its Opening Parade through the east end of the city, culminating in a massive Opening Party at the Barr Smith Lawns attended by more than 30,000 people.

Adelaide Fringe 2002 runs until March 17.

The University of Adelaide and the University of Adelaide Union are official sponsors of the Fringe through their support of the Hub.

Photos by Emily Shepherd.
The link between foetal development and diseases that affect us later in life is the main aim of research undertaken by Dr Cathie Coulter in the University’s Department of Physiology and the newly formed Research Centre for Physiology of Early Development.

Dr Coulter, a NHMRC RD Wright Research Fellow, heads the Developmental Endocrinology Laboratory and is a Chief Investigator on the recently funded NHMRC Program Grant investigating the “Early Origins of Adult Disease.”

She arrived in Adelaide in late 1998 after undertaking post-doctoral work at the University of California, San Francisco, the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada, and the Baker Medical Research Institute in Melbourne.

Dr Coulter is currently on the National Board of Directors of the Australian Society for Metabolic Research and is also Treasurer of the Endocrine Society of Australia.

Her research program comprises a series of studies to investigate the mechanisms underlying the “Foetal Origins of Adult Disease,” a rapidly growing research field that has received considerable international attention including a World Congress in 2001.

“The Foetal Origins of Adult Disease” hypothesis is based on data from a remarkable series of over 35 epidemiological studies which have demonstrated a clear relationship between maternal under-nutrition, restriction in foetal growth and the onset of hypertension in later life,” Dr Coulter said.

According to studies, prenatal exposure to excess levels of particular adrenal steroid hormones called glucocorticoids may play a major role in the “programming” of the foetal’s key endocrine systems, she said.

A CREATIVE writing student at the University of Adelaide has been awarded the Inaugural Driftwood Manuscripts Prize.

The prize recognises the achievement of a writer enrolled in the University’s Creative Writing Program, and is awarded for the best manuscript submitted in a given year.

This year’s writer, James Roberts, produced a novella manuscript that dazzled its examiners. It is described as a “mix of the surreal and the mundane that is witty, energetic, engaging and inventive.” Mr Roberts received $300 for first prize. The runners up were Sue Fargulia and Marie Kinnon.

Driftwood Manuscripts has a special relationship with the University, consolidated by the establishment of this annual prize. Driftwood was founded by Creative Writing lecturer Dr Eva Sallis in 1991, prior to her appointment at the University. At the beginning of 2001 she sold the business to novelist, journalist and freelance editor for major NZ and US rock magazines, extended Driftwood’s range and reputation. The agency uses the services of nearly 50 expert assessors Australia-wide to provide detailed reports on writers’ manuscripts in all genres.

“This is an extraordinary prize.” Dr Sallis said. “Driftwood Manuscripts is increasingly acknowledged as the foremost manuscript assessment agency in Australia. This prize celebrates what is happening in South Australia both in the industry and among emerging and established writers.”

The University’s Creative Writing Program has gone from strength to strength. In 2002, two writers who completed the MAs were and are currently enrolled for the PhD. Corrie Hosking and Stephen Donal Thomas, are shortlisted for the Festival Manuscript Award. Two others, Cath Kenneally and Steven Kellen, shortlisted for the John Bray Poetry Award, are current PhD candidates. Former student Wendy Wright will launch her novel The Air of Tokyo on Thursday, March 14 at Imprints.

Meanwhile, two other students in the Creative Writing Program have shared the Bundy prize for English Verse. The annual prize is offered for the best poem or group of poems in English submitted in competition. This year’s winners are student Gabrielle Artini, who is also a staff member with the University Secretary, and Rebekah Johnhke.

C afters writers awarded for unpublished works

APPLICATIONS are now available for the April round of the Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants and the AUG/RH Eddey Award.

Up to two Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants of up to $2500 each and one AUG/RH Eddey Award of up to $1500 are available to assist doctoral candidates enrolled within the University of Adelaide to travel to conferences or similar gatherings to present his or her work, or to travel to another institution to learn a particular method essential to his or her own work. Such travel may be undertaken within the state, within Australia, or overseas. Applicants may apply for either or both of these grants/awards.

Applications can be downloaded from the Alumni, Community Relations & Development website: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni, sent to you via internal mail or collected from the office at Level 1, 230 North Terrace. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 5.00pm on Friday, April 12. Contact Joan Soon on (08) 8303 3317 for further information.

Rugby challenge tries to convert new recruits

IT’S 70 years since the first university rugby team in South Australia pulled on its boots and packed down for the scrum. To celebrate this milestone, the Adelaide University Rugby Union Football Club has announced its University Rugby Challenge—a $5000 prize for the best new player to the club and a free end-of-season trip to the Gold Coast.

The challenge is open to any able-bodied person, male or female, from anywhere in the community, who joins the University Club and plays with the club for season 2002.

“We will provide expert coaching and support with fitness, nutrition, and physical wellbeing,” said club president Mr Jeremy Cape, a University of Adelaide graduate who now works with the CSR Group.

“As well, we are offering the opportunity to participate in a full calendar of entertaining and fun social events throughout the season,” The University Rugby Challenge is open to anyone who has the enthusiasm and spirit to participate.

“Attitude is more important to us than specific knowledge or history,” Mr Cape said. “The future is tomorrow not the past,” said Mr Cape, who first played for the club in 1975 and represented South Australia from 1975-77.

“We expect that quite a number of players will be interested in coming and playing with us this year as a result of the Challenge.”

The University Club is also offering a $5000 cash bonus to the player judged best and fairest for season 2002, as well as the chance to win a trip to the Gold Coast.

The 2002 season begins on March 16. The University Club trains at the Waite Oval, Netherby, on Tuesdays and Thursdays each week. For more information call Jeremy Cape on 8303 8532, or email jeremy.cape@csiro.au
Fran reflects on a life of plane sailing

**FRAN West** has seen more of Australia than many of us will ever see in our lifetimes.

In 1999, Ms West became the first woman to fly a fixed-winged aircraft completely around the coast of mainland Australia. In 2000 she also flew around the coast of Tasmania, making her the first woman to fly a fixed-wing aircraft around the whole nation.

Now the Adelaide graduate, Bachelor of Arts, 1972, former librarian and business woman has released a book about her round-Australia flight, which includes photographs of some of Australia’s most startling and inaccessible coastline.

**Named Plane Efficiencies** - about life and a flight around Australia's coast, the book is not just a collection of fascinating anecdotes about her journeys, but also personal insights and messages of inspiration.

Ms West said her book was itself inspired by a Scandinavian's best selling book Outback Wisdom, as well as the many people, including school groups, who have listened to Ms West talk about the performer for the Year of the Outback and Encounter 2000 in the way that I know best, she said.

Proceeds from the sale of Plane Efficiencies will help Ms West fund an annual commemorative flight. For more information about the book or to obtain copies, contact Fran West on (08) 8270 6623, or email: fwest@hotmail.com. You can also find out more information about Fran, her flights and sponsoring further flights by visiting: www.slsa.sa.gov.au/ozflight/

**Further information** about the Convention and the Alumni Association is available by contacting June Field at Lincoln College (08) 8290 6006 or via email at jfield@adelaide.edu.au.

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**NEWSPRINT MALAYSIAN**

The Adelaide Uni Alumni M alaysia Bhd are pleased to announce the following events:

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN Alumni Business Plan and Leadership Dinner**

The banquet will be held in the lookout Mountain Restaurant at BB Park, Kuala Lumpur on Sunday, March 7 at 7.00 pm. Tickets at RM 50.00 are available from the Chapter’s Secretariat.

**VISIT OUR HISTORIC CAMPUS**

Heritage Tours of the historic North Terrace Campus are available every Tuesday. These one hour tours, conducted by trained volunteer tour guides, provide a great opportunity for parents of new students at Adelaide University to walk around the grounds of South Australia’s oldest University, learn about the history and heritage and to see where your children are studying. An ideal way for you to rekindle your alma mater.

For details on the tours call the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office on (08) 8303 3234 or email: judith.edwards@adelaide.edu.au

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**ALUMNI NEWS**

**Funds donated to the Mares-Eaden fund** will help Ms West achieve her lifetime goal.

The Mares-Eaden Fund was established in 1995 to support excellence in Shakespeare and literary scholarship.

Funds donated to the Mares-Eaden fund will help to provide perpetual endowment for a prize for an undergraduate essay or honours thesis in Shakespeare and Elizabethan Studies, for students enrolled in the Department of English at Adelaide University.

Further information is available on our website or from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office.

**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... If you wish to help Adelaide University in your will, and would like advice or further information about making a bequest, please contact:

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Adelaide Uni, University SA 5005
Telephone +61 8 8303 5800
Facsimile +61 8 8303 5808
E mail development@adelaide.edu.au

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**50 YEARS OF LINCOLN COLLEGE**

Past and present collegians are invited to gather to celebrate 50 years of service to tertiary students at Lincoln College on the weekend of April 13 and 14. Celebrations will commence with a Welcome Reception on Friday evening, April 12 followed by various group dinners at some of Adelaide’s fine local restaurants.

A program of activities has been planned for the weekend including Past and Present Collegians Football and Soccer matches at the University Grounds. Further details of the program and registration forms are available by contacting June Field at Lincoln College on (08) 8290 6006 or via email at admin@lincoln.college.adelaide.edu.au
Elder Professor’s debut recital

CHARLES Bodman Rae, Elder Professor of Music and Dean of the Elder School of Music at the University of Adelaide, will make his Australian debut as pianist and solo composer at Elder Hall on Friday, March 8.

This concert opens the Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series and is part of the Adelaide Festival of Chamber Music. Professor Bodman Rae is highly regarded internationally as a composer, pianist and author.

From 1997 to 2001 he was Director of Studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester. He has been Visiting Composer at the Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music and at the Chopin Academy of Music in Warsaw, where he worked closely with Włodzimierz Turciński. His monograph on The Music of Józef Turciński is now in its third edition.

His secondary field of research concerns the symbolism of birds in 19th and 20th century European music. This interest has inspired his program choice. Entitled Planos and Bellas, it includes two of his own compositions, Jete il luccio (‘I, Earthly Venus’) and Fuglura Franga: (“I break the thunder”) along with works by D. Beethoven and R. Schumann for solo and two pianos. Stefan Ammer, another pianist of distinction, will again join Professor Bodman Rae for this recital.

This stunning program is the first of more than 30 lunch hour concerts being held at Elder Hall throughout the year. It is followed on Friday, March 15 with a performance by the H acquaire Trio, led by Nicholas M. Iton.

Later in May in the Australian String Quartet will be joined by colleagues from the Elder School of Music for a special presentation of Carnival of the Animals by Saint Saëns.

In support of the Year of the O-Utback, the ASQ will travel more than 13 rural locations throughout Australia in the space of four weeks, including places like the Queensland mining town of M 1s a and the most isolated spot on the 2002 program, the WA town of Karratha, south of Port Hedland.

“Our biggest national tour ever will see performances in Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, Western Australia and the Northern Territory—a marathon tour with performances named after the Australian String Quartet,” Mr Block said.

As well as the outback tour, the ASQ will hold its usual series of concerts in Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne and, for the first time ever, Perth. “We’re very excited about our first coast-to-coast national subscription season,” said Mr Block.

The concerts will be held at Elder Hall every Friday at 1.10pm from March 8 until June 28, and from August 2 until November 15. Subscription prices are $4 and tickets are available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of the concert.

Detailed brochures are available from the Elder School of Music, or may be obtained by phoning the concert office on (08) 8303 5925.

The 2002 Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series is proudly supported by the Doris West Bequest and SUV Radio Adelaide.

— Alison Beare

String Q quartet prepared for biggest season yet

ADELAIDE’s quartet-in-residence, the renowned Australian String Quartet, has launched its biggest national tour in the ASQ’s 17-year history.

The 2002 season for the University of Adelaide-based quartet officially began last month, with a concert in Tasmania. This follows a highly successful appearance at the Sydney Festival in January, which The Sydney Morning Herald described as “an exceptional display of chamber music making”.

The new-look ASQ, featuring for the first time two female performers as well as two males, are Niall Brown (cello), James Cordeaux (violin), Esther van Stralen (viola) and newcomer Natsuko Yoshimoto (violin), a multi-award-winning violinist from Japan.

Together they are the only full-time professional string quartet in Australia.

The players are passionate about every piece in this year’s concert season because they have chosen the whole program, according to ASQ’s general manager, Mr Stephen Block. This year’s program features some familiar and not-so-familiar pieces from composers Bartók, Beethoven, Dvorak, H. aydn, Martinu, Schubert, Schumann, Shostakovich, Smalley and Webern. Each selection is a recognised masterpiece and “in very few organisations would the performers have such direct responsibility for the program choice,” Mr Block said. “The quartet has chosen each item because they feel it has something special to say, and provides a wonderful variety of experiences for the audience.”

That audience will be the biggest yet for the ASQ, which is featuring not just a variety of music but also a variety of concert locations.

In support of the Year of the O-Utback, the ASQ will travel more than 13 rural locations throughout Australia in the space of four weeks, including places like the Queensland mining town of M 1s a and the most isolated spot on the 2002 program, the WA town of Karratha, south of Port Hedland.

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The first concert in Adelaide will be “Four Visions” at the Adelaide Town Hall on Monday, May 6, featuring works of Schubert, Beethoven and Dvorak. Guest artist Vladimir M endelssohn, on his first visit to Australia, will join the quartet on viola.

Subsequent concerts follow in July, August and October.

Another entirely new addition to the ASQ’s 2002 season this year is the special student price. At $15, the student price is less than half the full price of $42. This price is aimed at encouraging young people to attend concerts of classical music.

Student subscriptions are just $45 (that four concerts for the price of three) and are even cheaper in Perth. Both full-time and part-time students are eligible for the discount.

For complete details of the ASQ’s 2002 subscription season, phone freecall 1800 044 444 or visit the website: www.asq.com.au

NEWMAKERS

Dr Kingsley Garbett’s 12th course on sorcery, witchcraft, shamanism, and healing attracted local, national and international attention. According to course administrator Megan Ogan, in The Advertiser (Feb 15), the subject is being offered through the Centre for Professional and Continuing Education as a direct result of the popularity of Harry Potter and The Lord of the Rings. Several letters written to The Advertiser diaplayed, while several talkback callers to SAA (Feb 20) supported the decision to offer the course. The course also came from ABC and commercial radio stations in Brisbane and Melbourne, as well as the BBC and France.

Channel 9’s A Current Affair (Feb 6) interviewed Professor Maciej Henneberg about the changing size and shape of women’s bodies. The program highlighted calls for a new sizing system for women’s clothing to take account of how bodies had developed over the past 175 years. Professor Henneberg also featured in an Indian newspaper, The Telegraph (Feb 23), which named it Book of the Week. The article discussed the changing size and shape of women’s bodies, and the move towards a more flexible system for understanding size and shape.

Dr John Williams spoke to Channel 10 News (Feb 19) about the University of Adelaide’s Elder School of Music. He was interviewed on the publication of The Wakefield Companion to South Australian History. Praise for the book came from several quarters, including The Wakefield Yearbook (Feb 23) which named it Book of the Week. Dr Gary W. Witte spoke to Channel 9’s A Current Affair (Feb 5) about a new drug, which, it claimed, has the same effects as exercise. The drug was developed by M crash University and is being trialled by the University of Oxford and developing companies.

On Channel 10 News (Feb 11), D. D. d’Avignon and Dr John Randles sounded another warning about the threat to native vegetation in South Australia. Dr Geoff Cripp spoke to SAF M and Triple M (Feb 13) about the University’s new MyUni online education system. In the run-up to the State election, research by Dr John Spoerer contrasting official jobless figures, attracted the attention of SAF M and Triple M (Feb 7). The election itself, and subsequent efforts by both major parties to form government, generated extensive media discussion. Participants included Dr Clive Mc Atnyre and Dr John Williams on (Feb 12), ABC’s Drivetime (Feb 12), Professor Geoff Lindell on 5DN (Feb 12), and Emeritus Professor Alex Caltis in the Australian Financial Review (Feb 19). The University’s apology for past experiments on Aboriginal people was highlighted on ABC TV News and Channel 10 News (Feb 8) and by D. D. d’Avignon.

The reports carried interviews with Professor Penny Buurbauma.