

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY

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Young geologist wins State's top honour

Science

A University of Adelaide graduate who is helping to improve mineral exploration techniques in the Olympic Dam region has been named the 2008 Young Achiever of the Year for South Australia.

Dr Kate Selway, a postdoctoral research associate in the University's School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, took out the top award recently at a gala presentation dinner at the Hilton Hotel, which honoured the achievements of South Australia's most talented young people.

The 26-year-old geologist is working on a collaborative project between the University of Adelaide, BHP Billiton and Teck Cominco in the Olympic Dam region, carrying out large scale magnetotelluric (electromagnetic) surveys, which provide 3D images of the earth to depths of about 70 kilometres.

This research will help to define the full extent of major mineral deposits in South Australia's mining belt, which is expected to reap substantial economic benefits for the State.

"In a broader sense, this research will enable us to better understand how these deposits formed. Since the majority of our mineral deposits are hidden beneath large thicknesses of sediment, any discoveries will be extremely important for South Australia," Dr Selway said.

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Right: SA Young Achiever of the Year, and winner of the Science & Technology Award, Dr Kate Selway

Photo by Sarah Reid, courtesy of *The Advertiser*



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From the Vice-Chancellor

It might seem like an obvious statement, but universities cannot exist in a vacuum.

The advancement of knowledge in and of itself has no meaning unless it somehow relates to – or benefits – our society, and I mean that in its broadest sense, whether it be a cultural, economic, scientific, environmental, or health benefit. I do not – and have never – subscribed to the notion that universities are “ivory towers”, so far removed from the community that they have lost sight of their place in society.

Our University was founded because a relatively small but influential group of like-minded people realised that Adelaide needed its own centre of higher learning. They understood that in order for the community to flourish, they needed a university that would help that community to develop knowledge. The community stood to reap great benefits from that knowledge. So from the very start, the community itself was responsible for establishing our university.

For more than 130 years, the University of Adelaide has played an important role in the life of the city of Adelaide, through education, research and community engagement. It has been a leader in many respects, and has responded to community needs.

We were the first Australian university to admit women to academic courses – back in 1881, which is well ahead of universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. We were the first Australian university to grant degrees in Science – our first science graduate was also our first female graduate. We were the first Australian university to establish a Conservatorium of Music. Australia’s first female surgeon graduated at our university, and so on...

Providing opportunities for the community and responding to their needs has always been a part of what we do. And, given that our university was the only university in the State for the better part of 90 years, we have always been seen as the leader in education in South Australia.

The University of Adelaide has a fine history of community engagement in the State and the nation, but we can do more – and are doing more – to engage with the community. This has now reached the point where community engagement is entrenched in our Strategic Plan, and forms one of the key pillars of our Values as an institution.

Last year, we appointed our very first Director of Community Engagement, whose overarching role is to develop, maintain and enhance our relationships with community and business.

We respond to community needs in terms of our education and research programs, with key industry linkages that help to ensure that there are employment and development opportunities for our students and graduates. Community service is being built into some parts of the curriculum.

Our volunteering programs are bigger than ever before, tapping into a valuable part of the community, which includes people who have never set foot on a university campus before. Our fundraising committees include people who have had no past history with our university, working passionately to secure funding for facilities and scholarships because they believe in the work that we do.

A great university is measured by its value to society, and I believe very strongly that we exist for the good of the community – the whole community, and not selected parts of it. We want to continue to give back to the community fine graduates and greater knowledge, to contribute to public debates, and to conduct top-class research that by all measures is valuable, useful, and impacts upon people’s lives.

Universities are a social necessity and an economic driver, and we want them to be wanted. The best way to do this is to place them in the middle of our community, and to make the community an important part of who we are and what we do. In the end, if we don’t meet community expectations, we will – and should – cease to exist.

JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

This has been adapted from the Vice-Chancellor’s speech on community engagement to the 6th Annual Higher Education Summit, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

Art & Heritage Collections

The University’s Visual Art Collection includes a small number of silverware items by one of the leading and most prolific colonial silversmiths and jewellers, Henry Steiner.

German born and trained, Steiner arrived in Adelaide in 1858 where his finely worked pieces were in high demand.

The University of Adelaide regularly presented trophies created by Steiner as service and sporting awards.

A two-handled trophy was named in memory of John Walter Tyas, linguist, bibliophile and the University’s second registrar (1874-1882). The Tyas Prize was established in 1908 for the Senior Schools Fours rowing and was first awarded to the Engineers.

■ Anna Rivett, Collections Officer, Art & Heritage Collections



Tyas Cup (c.1870-80)
Silver gilt
by Henry Steiner
(1835-1914), Australia/
Germany
Photo by Mick Bradley



Locals make up 70% of medical intake

■ Medicine

“We are going a long way towards providing for our future medical workforce needs”

The number of South Australian students accepted into medicine at the University of Adelaide has more than doubled in the past five years, despite stiff competition from interstate applicants.

Contrary to reports that local school leavers are being overlooked in the selection process, the University has enrolled 94 new South Australian students in first-year medicine this year, compared to just 41 in 2003.

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Justin Beilby, said the increase reflects a commitment by the State Government and the University of Adelaide to answer South Australia’s medical needs.

“Many people are under the misapprehension that interstate applicants are taking the majority of medical school places at the University of Adelaide, and that is simply not the case. The figures show this quite clearly,” Professor Beilby said.

In 2008, South Australians make up 70% of the domestic first-year medical students, despite the fact that locals applying for medicine accounted for just 31% of the total pool of applicants.

“Entry into medicine at the University of Adelaide is highly

competitive, with 2071 applications received this year from all over Australia,” Professor Beilby said. “Unfortunately, due to overwhelming demand, more than 93% of applicants do not get offered a place, regardless of how well they score – and the average TER for successful applicants is over 99.

“The TER is not the sole criteria for selection, however. An interview and medical admissions test help us to identify desirable traits, apart from academic ability, for people wanting to work in the medical profession.”

Professor Beilby said the increase in local representation among medical students would help to meet the State’s health needs in the next two decades.

“Thanks to the additional 40 medical places allocated to the University in 2007 by the Federal Government, as well as the extra rural bonded places funded by the State Government and the places offered through our tertiary transfer scheme, we are going a long way towards providing for our future medical workforce needs.”

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Top academics chosen for 2020 Summit

Some of the University of Adelaide’s top academics in health and the arts were among those chosen to attend the Federal Government’s Australia 2020 Summit.

The 2020 Summit, held in Canberra last month, was aimed at playing a key role in helping to shape the future of Australia across a broad range of areas.

“We are delighted that a number of University of Adelaide academics with national and international reputations were chosen to attend the Summit,” said the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

“Their selection as delegates to the Summit is a reflection of their level of expertise.”

The Australia 2020 Summit delegates and their Summit areas include:

A long-term national health strategy

- **Professor Christian Gericke**
Professor of Public Health Policy, Discipline of Public Health;
- **Professor John Spencer**
Professor of Social and Preventive Dentistry and Co-Director, Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health;
- **Professor Gary Wittert**
Professor of Medicine and Head, School of Medicine.

Options for the future of Indigenous Australia

- **Dr Veronica Arbon**
Senior Research Fellow, Yaitya Purrana Indigenous Health Unit, Discipline of General Practice.

Towards a creative Australia

- **Professor John Coetzee**
Winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, Honorary Visiting Research Fellow, Discipline of English;
- **Professor Nicholas Jose**
Professor of Creative Writing, Discipline of English.

A University of Adelaide student – **Mohammad Al-Khafaji**, who is studying for a Bachelor of Engineering (Software Engineering) – was also chosen to attend the Youth Summit in Canberra.

■ Story by David Ellis

Law lectures celebrate 125 years

Three free public lectures will be held by the University of Adelaide's Law School in May as part of its Law 125 Distinguished Speakers Series.

On Friday 2 May, Professor David Campbell of Durham University, UK, will deliver "Breach of Contract and the Efficiency of Markets" at 12.30pm in Room LG24 in the Napier Building, North Terrace Campus.

On Tuesday 20 May, Professor Elizabeth Boros of Monash University will present "What is the right division of power between boards of directors and shareholders?" at 1pm in the Moot Court Room, Ligertwood Building, North Terrace Campus.

On Thursday 29 May, Professor Russell Smandych of the University of Manitoba, Canada, will speak on "Mapping Imperial Legal Connections: Toward a Comparative Historical Sociology of Colonial Law" at 1pm in the Moot Court Room, Ligertwood Building.

For more information on these and future events, contact Dr Paul Babie, Associate Dean of Law (Research), on (08) 8303 5521 or email: paul.babie@adelaide.edu.au

Letter to the Editor

I was delighted to see in your latest issue (*Adelaidean*, April 2008) so much about the success of Adelaide's writers, and also the appointment of my former student and friend Eva Sallis as Writer-in-Residence.

It is good to see that the Writers-in-Residence program is happening again, to augment the very prestigious Creative Writing course you now have.

One correction though. Eva may be the first Writer-in-Residence in the current program, but not "the University of Adelaide's first", as reported.

When I was Chair of the English Department it hosted the brilliant English novelist, the late Angela Carter, in 1984, followed by the New Zealand-born British resident poet Fleur Adcock. Although Creative Writing in those days was not considered a respectable part of the University's intellectual offerings, despite my advocacy, the University did have the resources and the insight to enable students to benefit by their presence during an extended stay.

Andrew Taylor
Professor Emeritus, Honorary Professor
Faculty of Education and Arts
Edith Cowan University



Acclaimed novelist is writer-in-residence

Creative Writing

"Eva Sallis is a generous and inspiring mentor whose creative insight and professional experience have helped her to offer our students the world already with an acknowledgment of her own writing."

Adrian D. de Vries

The Writers-in-Residence program aims to support creative writers in their creative work while making available to students in the Creative Writing program, said Professor Nicholas John, University of Adelaide's Chair of Creative Writing.

"Eva Sallis is a generous and inspiring mentor whose creative insight and professional experience have a great deal to offer our students. Many books have written the world already with an acknowledgment of her own writing."

Adrian D. de Vries

New writers create a scene

What happens when some of the University of Adelaide's most talented Creative Writing students focus on the 125th anniversary year?

The result is Page #1, Volume #1 of the end-of-the-year issue. The issue features the work of 125 writers, each with a unique voice and a story to tell.

The success of their project inspired the staff to create and edit #1 for the 2008 edition. A series of interviews were conducted with the authors to explore their writing process and the challenges they faced.

All issues #1s available from the University of Adelaide, Book Centre at 8303 5599. Book centre at: www.adelaide.edu.au/bookcentre

Got some feedback for us?

Letters to the Editor should be no more than 200 words and can be sent to:

The Editor, *Adelaidean*,
Marketing & Strategic Communications,
The University of Adelaide, SA 5005,
or via email: adelaidean@adelaide.edu.au

Authors should include their name and contact details.

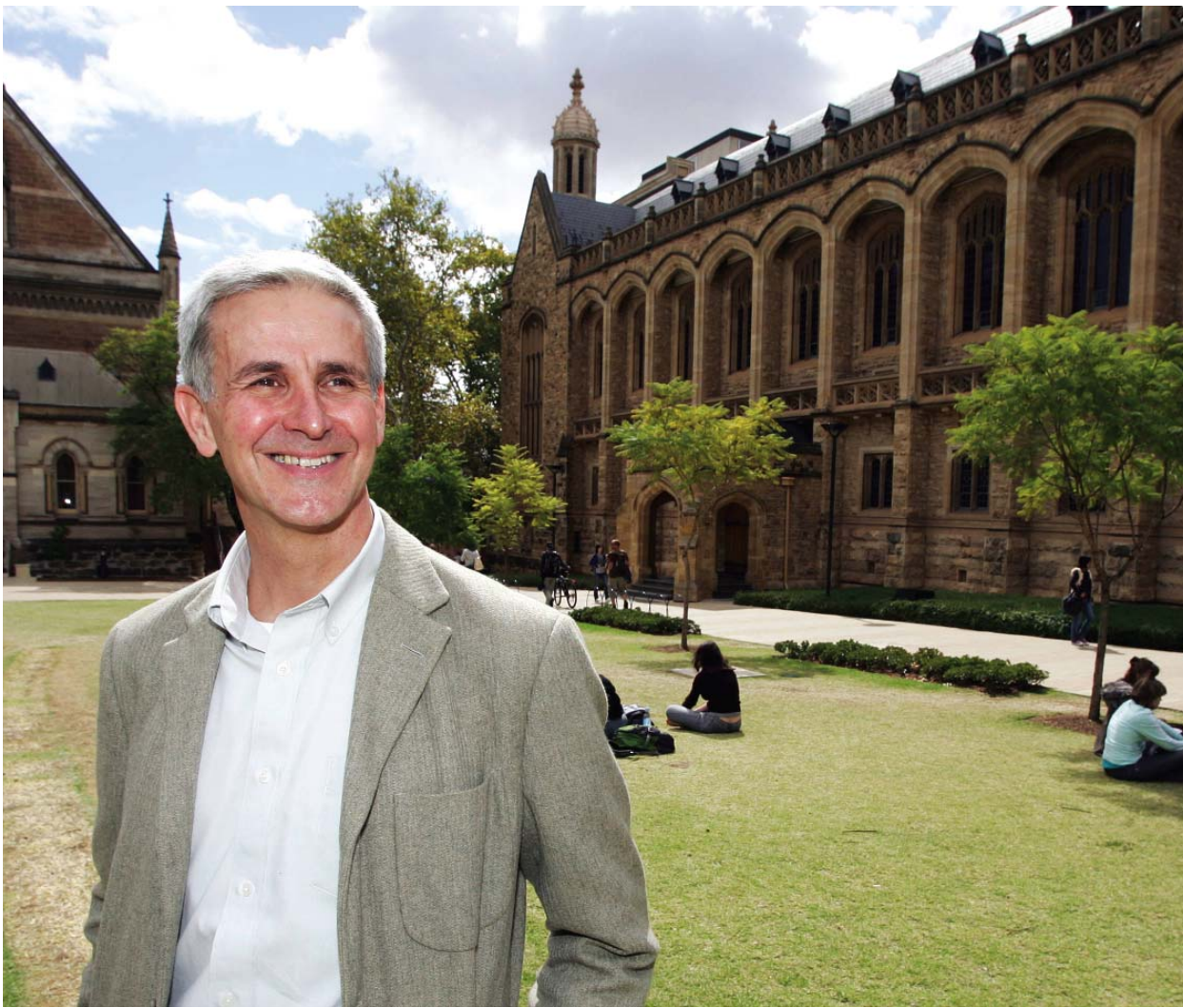


WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW IDEAS TO IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY

If you have a project idea to help reduce the number and impact of road injuries and deaths in SA, you may be eligible for a crash prevention sponsorship or grant from the Motor Accident Commission (MAC). For further information visit www.mac.sa.gov.au.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 16 May 2008.





“It’s a great opportunity to familiarise North American scholars and students with contemporary developments in Australian literature”

Harvard chair for Adelaide professor

■ Creative Writing

Above:
Professor Nicholas Jose at
the University of Adelaide

Photo by Kelly Barnes,
courtesy of *The Australian*

The University of Adelaide’s Professor Nicholas Jose is one of two distinguished scholars appointed to the prized annual Chair of Australian Studies at Harvard University for 2009.

Professor Jose will share the honours with University of Sydney’s Associate Professor Alison Bashford.

It’s the first time more than one Chair has been appointed to take up the role simultaneously – Professor Jose in Harvard’s Department of English, and Associate Professor Bashford in Harvard’s Department of the History of Science.

The Visiting Professorship was first established by a gift from the Australian Government to Harvard in 1976 in commemoration of America’s Bicentennial, and famous names to hold the post have included Manning Clark, Gough Whitlam, Geoffrey Blainey and Tim Flannery.

“We are thrilled that two such outstanding scholars will

be occupying the Chair. With the recent announcement that Harvard intends to sponsor joint conferences of Australian and American researchers, we expect that the post will grow even further in influence,” said Professor Graeme Davison, Chair of the Australian Nominating Committee.

Professor Jose is Chair of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide, a novelist, critic and General Editor of the *Macquarie PEN Anthology of Australian Literature*, to be published in 2009.

“It’s a great opportunity to familiarise North American scholars and students with contemporary developments in Australian literature, including indigenous writing and writing that engages with our environment and our region,” Professor Jose said.

Professor Jose was Cultural Counsellor at the Australian Embassy, Beijing from 1987-1990, has written widely on contemporary Asian and Australian culture and has

published several acclaimed novels as well as short stories, essays and translations.

At Harvard, he will teach courses in Australian fiction, fiction from the Asia-Pacific region, and creative writing.

The endowment for a Visiting Professorship in Australian Studies was given to Harvard to “maintain such teaching, research and publication as will help to promote awareness and understanding of Australia in the United States”.

Alison Bashford is Associate Professor in History at the University of Sydney and has published widely on the history of infectious disease management and its links with regulation of immigration and global movement. She will be the first Australian Studies chair to be hosted by Harvard’s Department of the History of Science.

■ Story by Robyn Mills



Helping farmers cope with stress

■ Psychology

“The investigation of farmers’ stress is not only a short-term issue in the face of drought, but also a long-term investment in the health and well-being of rural communities”

Above:
Psychology Honours student Kate Gunn at a property near Blanchetown, South Australia

Photo by Briony Lord

How do South Australia’s farmers cope with stress, and how can their experiences help others cope?

That’s the focus of a new study being conducted at the University of Adelaide, which aims to better understand the stress farmers and their families go through during times of drought.

Kate Gunn, an Honours student in Psychology at the University of Adelaide, is hoping that South Australia’s farmers and their spouses will take part in the study.

“As South Australian farmers are acutely aware, the everyday experiences and stressors associated with life on the land are very different from those experienced by their urban counterparts,” Kate said.

“However, it is not only the sources of stress that often differ, but also rural people’s ways of coping.

“While much research has been done on levels of depression and suicide in rural communities, less is known about how everyday rural people, in particular farmers, cope with the problems that present themselves in everyday life.”

Kate grew up on a farm near Streaky Bay, and is keen to promote a greater understanding of rural communities.

Her study aims to identify unique stressors faced by South Australian farmers, and to inform the South Australian farming community of constructive ways of coping with difficult times, based on the experiences of their peers.

“While there is often no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ way of dealing with stress, it is hoped that this research will identify broad strategies that farmers find helpful and, importantly, are willing to use in the rural setting,” Kate said.

“The investigation of farmers’ stress is not only a short-term issue in the face of drought, but also a long-term investment in the health and well-being of rural communities of the future,” she said.

The relationships between stress, coping, age, gender, remoteness, marital status, perceived control over stress, optimism, personality and levels of social support will also be explored.

Participation in the study involves the completion of a simple

questionnaire, which should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

“In the coming weeks, members of the South Australian Farmers’ Federation (SAFF) will receive a paper copy of the survey in the mail, a faxed copy of the survey or an email from SAFF with the link to our website where the questionnaire can be completed online,” Kate said.

Anyone interested in participating in the study – even if they are not a member of SAFF – can find more information and complete the survey online at: www.psychology.adelaide.edu.au/expts/farmers.html

All participants will remain anonymous but may leave their addresses if they wish to receive a summary of the study’s results. The findings will be made available online (linked from the questionnaire website) or can be obtained after 15 December 2008 by phoning Kate on 0417 852 537 or emailing her at: kate.gunn@student.adelaide.edu.au

The study is being supervised by Professor Deborah Turnbull, Head of the School of Psychology at the University of Adelaide, and Psychology lecturer Dr Lisa Kettler.



Driving ahead on road safety research

■ Road Safety

“We are working on new tools to make our cars and driving environment much safer”

Above:
The new director of the Centre for Automotive Safety Research, Professor Mary Lydon, with the centre's crash investigation vehicle

Photo by Robyn Mills

The new director of the University's Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR), Professor Mary Lydon, will be ensuring the centre comes to the attention of the world's road safety policy-makers.

“Where we need to be is in the minds of the people responsible for road safety policy globally,” said Professor Lydon, who joined the University of Adelaide at the end of March.

“We want to be where they look for the research evidence they need to formulate policy.”

Professor Lydon said she will be aiming to secure and build on the centre's existing research capability and reputation as the national leader in automotive safety research.

An expert in road safety, traffic management and road design with more than 30 years' experience in the field, Professor Lydon has replaced the founding director of CASR, Professor Jack McLean.

She spent the past five years as General Manager of the Research Division of the Australian Road Research Board, based in Melbourne. Before that she was a traffic engineer, rural road designer, network manager, road safety research scientist and senior policy analyst. Apart from her extensive management and operational roles she also has a PhD in Civil Engineering from the University of Queensland.

Under her directorship, CASR will focus on providing technological solutions to improving road safety,

providing the research evidence for road infrastructure resource requirements, and meeting the challenge of new road users.

“The big issue is safety and we are working on new tools to make our cars and driving environment much safer,” Professor Lydon said.

“This includes the design and manufacture of ‘intelligent’ vehicles which improve driving skills, the provision of user aids for motorists as well as more fatigue control measures.

“Improving our road infrastructure is also CASR's priority and we will continue to demonstrate what funds are required and where they can best be applied.

“The third biggest challenge facing the organisation is the significant increase in new transport modes as a result of recent petrol hikes and concerns for our environment. Traditional road users now have to share their space with cyclists, scooters and different types of vehicles. Trucks are also getting bigger and we have to find a way of accommodating all these vehicles on our roads in the safest possible way.”

Outgoing director Professor Jack McLean said Professor Lydon's unique combination of skills would ensure that CASR brings even greater credit to the University of Adelaide and South Australia as “an outstanding road safety research centre on the world stage”.

■ Story by Candy Gibson and Robyn Mills

Women sought for study

University of Adelaide cardiology researchers are seeking female volunteers aged 20-60 years for a study on possible links between polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) and heart attacks.

The syndrome is a common hormonal disorder affecting about 10% of women of reproductive age and is a leading cause of infertility.

The principal features of PCOS are obesity, irregular periods and excessive amounts of androgenic (or masculine) hormones resulting in a hairier body and acne.

PCOS is also associated with high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes, which are all high risk factors for heart attacks, according to Professor John Horowitz, Head of Cardiology, and Dr Alicia Chan, Cardiologist at the University of Adelaide and Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

“We are interested in finding out the link between PCOS and heart disease as it may give us a better understanding into the causes of heart disease in women, who now make up almost half of Australians affected,” Professor Horowitz said.

Previous studies show that several early markers of heart disease, such as calcium deposits in blood vessels, are increased in PCOS individuals.

Professor Horowitz said his team of researchers had already found that young women with PCOS had abnormal blood clotting and blood vessel function, irrespective of whether they were overweight.

“We want to know whether these anomalies persist as PCOS sufferers age, and whether common treatments for PCOS (metformin and oral contraceptives) affect the anomalies,” he said.

Participants in the study will be required to have a blood test and their blood vessel function will be assessed with a small ultrasound probe on their wrist.

Female volunteers with and without PCOS are required for the study. They must be aged between 20-60 years. People interested are asked to contact Dr Alicia Chan from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on (08) 8222 6000.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

History Week offers taste of uni heritage

Community

The University of Adelaide is again playing an important role in South Australia's history – History Week, that is.

SA History Week 2008 will be held from 16-25 May, with many organisations and community groups helping to bring the State's history to life to members of the public.

The University of Adelaide is a major sponsor of SA History Week. A number of events at the University's North Terrace and Waite campuses will make a key contribution to the wide range of History Week activities. These include:

Right: Hallett Cove East Primary School students take a step back in time to re-enact a typical day for the Waite family back in 1892
Photo by Candy Gibson



Cultural Tours: Heritage

Art & Heritage Collections and Development and Alumni of the University of Adelaide invite members of the public to join a tour of the University's many State heritage-listed buildings. These buildings demonstrate the venerable age of the University and include some inspired building projects.

Bookings are required for this event.

Dates and Times: Sunday 18 May, 2:00pm–3:00 pm; Tuesday 20 May, 10:30am–11:30 am; and Thursday 22 May, 2:00pm–3:00pm

Venue: Tours begin at the Mitchell Building, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Admission is free and all are welcome

Enquiries/bookings: Gaynor Tyerman (08) 8303 6356, gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

The Living Stage: 70 Years of the Theatre Guild

Over 70 years and 350 productions, the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild has been at the heart of the University's theatrical life and a leading player in Adelaide's flourishing amateur theatre scene. Its challenging repertoire has included many premieres and its alumni include well-known theatre identities.

This exhibition looks at seven decades of the Guild's work, with a fascinating range of programs, photographs, posters, costumes and other memorabilia.

No bookings are required for this event.

Dates and Time: Exhibition on display from Friday 16 May to Sunday 22 June (open Public Holiday Monday 11 June), 10:00am–5:00pm

Venue: Barr Smith Library Foyer, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Admission is free and all are welcome

Enquiries: Sue Coppin (08) 8303 5184; John Edge (08) 8303 4030

A Morning in Urrbrae House in 1892

Based on the schools' program offered by the University of Adelaide's Community Engagement programs, members of the public are invited to enter the world of Peter and Matilda Waite in 1892. Staff and volunteers in period costume will engage in a series of late 19th century activities, which also includes a tour of the historic Urrbrae House and rose garden, weather permitting. Each participant will be assigned to a small group with a particular status, such as guest or servant, and undertake activities appropriate to that status. Morning tea included.

Bookings are required for this event.

Date and Time: Thursday 22 May, 10:00am–12:30pm

Venue: Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, University of Adelaide (enter from Fullarton Road, Urrbrae)

Cost: \$25 per person

Enquiries/bookings: Amanda Jackson (08) 8303 7497, amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au

Cultural Conversation – “Non Scholae Sed Vitae”

Professor Margaret Allen (Gender, Work and Social Inquiry, University of Adelaide) will explore relationships between the State's oldest university, the University of Adelaide, and the State's oldest public high school, Adelaide High School. She will trace the careers of some of the men and women who attended both institutions. 2008 is the centenary of Adelaide High School.

No bookings are required for this event.

Date and Time: Wednesday 21 May, 1:00pm–2:00pm

Venue: Ira Raymond Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Admission is free and all are welcome

Enquiries: Anna Rivett (08) 8303 3086, anna.rivett@adelaide.edu.au

Guided Tour of Urrbrae House

Built in 1891, Urrbrae House is one of the most significant private houses built in South Australia. Visitors will learn about the history of wealthy pastoralist Peter Waite and his family.

Bookings are required for this event.

Dates and Time: Sunday 18 May, Wednesday 21 May and Sunday 25 May, 2:00pm–3:00pm

Venue: Meet guide at front entrance to Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, University of Adelaide (enter from Fullarton Road, Urrbrae)

Enquiries/bookings: Amanda Jackson (08) 8303 7497, amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au

Waite Arboretum – Discover One of Adelaide's Richest Botanical Treasures

Enjoy a guided walk through a collection of 2000 trees from around the world at the Waite Arboretum, established in 1928. The walk will feature the bizarre Dragon Blood tree, the unique collection of waterwise Californian oaks and other special collections, as well as the heritage listed Elm Avenue. The Arboretum also features contemporary sculptures, a watercourse and plentiful birdlife.

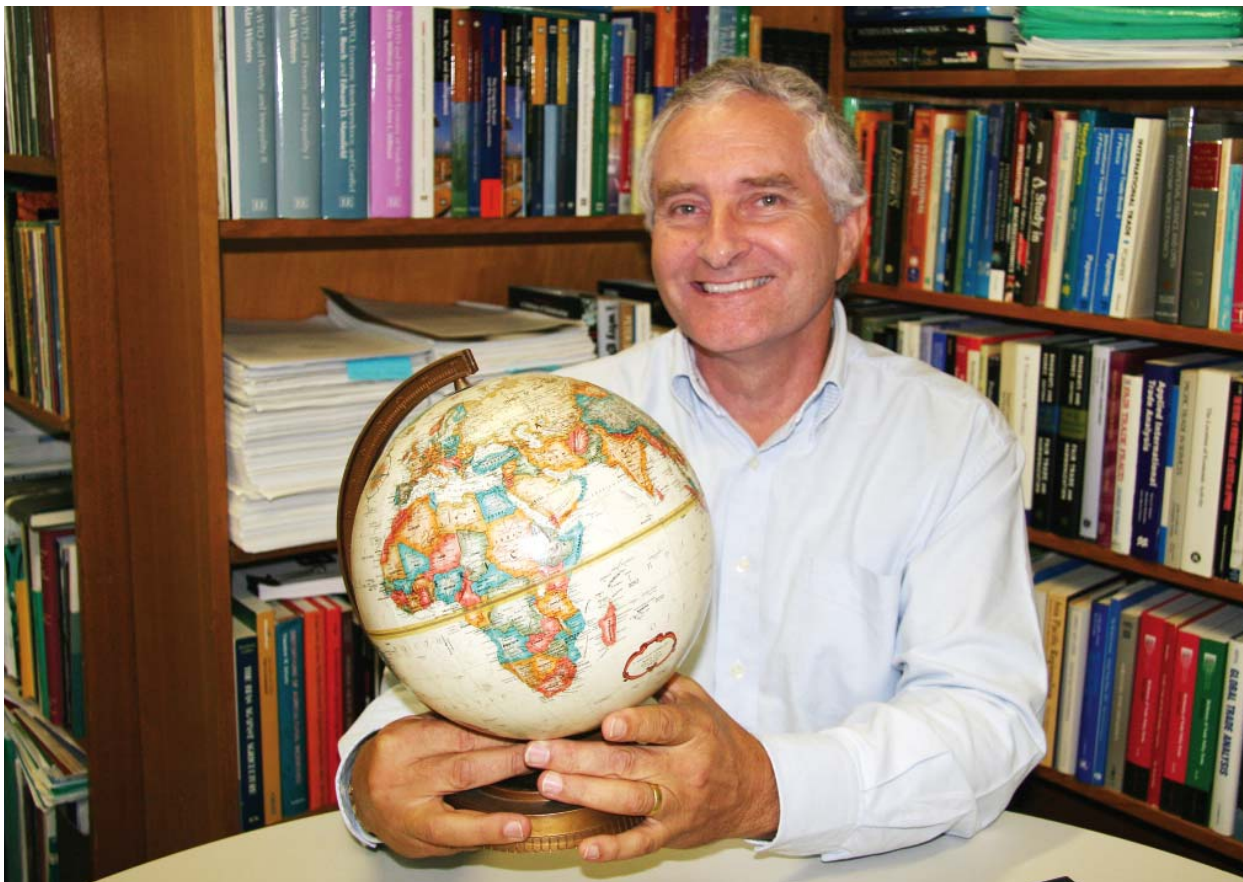
The thematic gardens of the Waite Historic Precinct include soundscapes and bookworks celebrating early scientific achievements at the Waite. Waite Arboretum and gardens are open daily, dawn until dusk. Wheelchair and disabled access limited. Parking available in carpark on left just before Urrbrae House.

Bookings required for groups only.

Dates and Time: Sunday 18 May, Wednesday 21 May and Sunday 25 May, 11:00am–12:30pm

Venue: Meet in front of historic Urrbrae House, Waite Campus, University of Adelaide (enter from Fullarton Road, Urrbrae)

Enquiries/bookings: Jennifer Gardner (08) 8303 7405, jennifer.gardner@adelaide.edu.au; Amanda Jackson (08) 8303 7497, amanda.jackson@adelaide.edu.au



Professor Kym Anderson in the School of Economics

Photo by Robyn Mills

Tackling the world's top problems

■ Economics

“Gradual reductions in subsidies and trade barriers... would yield huge economic benefits at relatively little economic cost”

University of Adelaide international trade economist Professor Kym Anderson is taking part in a global project to find the best solutions to the world's biggest challenges.

Professor Anderson and nine other authors will face a panel of leading international economists, including five Nobel Laureates, at the Copenhagen Consensus 2008 in Denmark from 25-30 May, to rank priorities for action to solve these problems.

Professor Anderson was Lead Economist for Trade Policy at the World Bank from May 2004, until he returned to the University of Adelaide's School of Economics in August 2007 as George Gollin Professor of Economics.

At the Copenhagen Consensus, he is the lead author of a paper analysing one of the 10 “biggest challenges”: reducing trade and migration barriers. The other challenges are: air pollution, conflicts, diseases, education, global warming, malnutrition and hunger, sanitation and water, terrorism, and women and development.

His paper, with co-author Professor L. Alan Winters of the University of Sussex, analyses costs versus benefits of liberalising global trade and international

migration. Professor Winters is also a Senior Affiliate of the University of Adelaide's Centre for International Economic Studies.

“We are looking at the economic consequences of trade reforms and, in a parallel way, what would happen if we opened up markets to the movement of workers from poor to rich countries at a slightly faster rate than has happened in the past,” said Professor Anderson.

“If you had \$75 billion to spend solving the world's 10 biggest problems, we want to see how much bang for your buck would result from addressing them with the opportunities currently available. And we're looking at how the benefits net of costs would rank against other actions, such as eradicating malaria or boosting education.”

The paper concludes that multilateral gradual reductions in subsidies and trade barriers, and in restrictions on the international movement of labour, would yield huge economic benefits at relatively little economic cost, and would contribute enormously to reducing global inequality and poverty including via faster economic growth.

The World Trade Organization's Doha round of negotiations is already aimed at liberalisation of global trade.

“The opportunity to achieve these trade reforms is sitting there before

us with the Doha multilateral trade negotiations,” said Professor Anderson.

The Copenhagen Consensus paper is based on Professor Anderson's World Bank work on global modelling of the economic consequences of various possible outcomes of the trade negotiations, as well as Professor Winters's analysis of migration.

Meanwhile, Professor Anderson is completing a major study on the long history of agricultural and trade distortions over the past half-century, covering 75 countries and 90% of the world's economy. Seven books will be published from this work.

Professor Anderson is the foundation Director of the University's Centre for International Economic Studies. Recently, along with the Executive Director of the University's Institute for International Trade, Dr Andrew Stoler, he was appointed to an expert group investigating Australia's approach to free trade agreements as part of Trade Minister Simon Crean's review of Australia's export policies and programs.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

Dance that sparked a cultural

Australian dance and art was forever changed after tours here by the Ballets Russes from 1936 to 1940. This month, the University of Adelaide is hosting a symposium that takes a detailed look at this cultural revolution, and how it continues to influence Australian dance today.

The Ballets Russes (Russian Ballet) was established in 1909 by the Russian Serge Diaghilev. It became one of the most influential ballet companies of the 20th century, and was renowned for its groundbreaking artistic collaborations between choreographers, composers, artists, and designers.

In 1936, Colonel Wassily de Basil brought the Ballets Russes to Australia. Over three tours of Australia, the company influenced some of the greatest names in Australian art history.

The Australian Ballet, the University of Adelaide and the National Library of Australia are currently undertaking a four-year joint research project, "Ballets Russes in Australia: Our Cultural Revolution". Funded by the Australian Research Council (ARC), the project looks at the history of the Ballets Russes tours and their cultural impact on Australia, and helps to inform modern-day performances by The Australian Ballet.

"The Ballets Russes tours in Australia basically constitute the Big Bang, if you like, for Australian high art and music," said the Chief Investigator of the research project, Associate Professor Mark Carroll from the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music.

"It raised the bar for what was possible, and it changed the way Australian artists conceived of European art. Up until that point, Australians had been really starved of the latest trends in European art and performance," he said.

"Through exposure to the Ballets Russes tours, the careers of artists like Sidney Nolan and Donald Friend got going. A 23-year-old Nolan received from the Ballets Russes one of his first commissions, and Friend ran a competition for stage design sponsored by de Basil.

"Max Dupain, the famous Australian photographer, documented the Ballets Russes heavily while they were here. In the realm of music, people like composer Margaret Sutherland got

their first big break through the Ballets Russes. Artists like Norman Lindsay were really drawn to what the Ballets Russes were doing, and he made a number of paintings depicting their performances."

Symposium

A symposium being held at the University of Adelaide, *Our Cultural Revolution* (23-25 May), will explore the enormous impact of the Ballets Russes on the Australian cultural scene.

The symposium features a number of international guest speakers, including Professor Lynn Garafola from Columbia University, New York, and Professor Stephanie Jordan from Surrey University.

Dr Carroll will co-present a session on the cultural revolution with research partners Nicolette Fraillion, Music Director and Chief Conductor with The Australian Ballet, and Lee Christofis, Curator of Dance at the National Library of Australia.

Another session will explore how artists in different fields collaborate to produce a performance, and how visual archives of the Ballets Russes tours in Australia help to inform modern-day choreography and design.

"The symposium is a working model of cross-institutional interaction," Dr Carroll said. "Collaboration is at the centre of our ARC project, just as the original Ballets Russes was all about collaboration across the art forms."

Among those to attend the symposium will be some of the original dancers from the Ballets Russes, who settled in Australia following the tours. The symposium will be held in the Hartley Concert Room, North Terrace Campus (off Kintore Avenue). **For more information and to register, visit: www.australianballet.com.au/brsymposium**

The Australian Ballet

The symposium coincides with the Adelaide tour of The Australian Ballet, *French Connections* (23-27



May), which features three ballets, *Ballet Imperial*, *Afternoon of a Faun*, and *Symphonie Fantastique*, that are in various ways linked to the Ballets Russes.

For more information about The Australian Ballet and its 2008 season, visit: www.australianballet.com.au

Exhibitions

The symposium also includes two exhibitions celebrating the Ballets Russes in Australia – one at the Art Gallery of South Australia (2 May-6 July), and another at the Adelaide Festival Theatre (20 May-20 July).

Both of these exhibitions are free and feature items from The Australian Ballet, the National Library of Australia and the Special Collections of the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library.

"Special Collections has a fantastic treasure trove of Ballets Russes dance-related material, which I found out about when I first started work on this research project," Dr Carroll said.

"You'll see some of these things, such as designs, drawings, paintings and original programs from the period, all on display at the two exhibitions."

For more information, visit: www.artgallery.sa.gov.au

■ Story by David Ellis

revolution

Right:
The Australian Ballet's Kirsty
Martin in *Symphonie Fantastique*

Photo by Justin Smith, courtesy
of The Australian Ballet

Left:
One of the original Ballets
Russes dancers to come to
Australia, Irina Baronova



Young geologist wins State's top honour

continued from page 1

Her PhD research at the University of Adelaide focused on Australia's geological structure, and she made headlines in 2006 when she found evidence of a collision between northern and central Australia 1.64 billion years ago.

Dr Selway described her work in the magnetotellurics field as "incredibly exciting" and said the electromagnetic imaging work she was involved in was increasingly being used as an exploration tool by mineral and geothermal energy companies.

"There are lots of ground-breaking discoveries ahead of us and I am very keen to stay in Australia to be part of it all."

A total of 27 finalists vied for the top honour, which was announced by the South Australian Minister for Youth, the Honourable Paul Caica MP.

Categories in the Young Achiever of the Year awards included science and technology, indigenous achievers, sports, leadership, arts, environment, regional achievers and community service.

Dr Selway also took out the Science & Technology Award ahead of two other University of Adelaide finalists, mechanical engineering graduate and Fulbright Scholar Laura Brooks, and biomedical science PhD student Brooke Summers.

Ms Brooks is researching environmentally friendly techniques to map the sea floor for commercial, environmental, defence and archaeological applications, and Ms Summers is investigating the effects of binge drinking during pregnancy on fetal development.

The Science & Technology Award is sponsored by the University of Adelaide's Faculty of Sciences.

Another University of Adelaide graduate, Sky Ingram, won the Arts Award sponsored by the Coffee Club.

A graduate of the University of Adelaide's Elder Conservatorium of Music with First Class Honours, the 23-year-old soprano has been widely recognised by critics and through scholarships, competitions and awards. She is currently studying Classical Music at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Switch on to wind power

■ Engineering

"We're looking to produce turbines that are cutting edge in technology, aerodynamics and construction"

Adelaide isn't exactly known as a "windy city", but a group of University of Adelaide engineering students is hoping to do its part in helping to make wind power technology more effective and affordable for home owners.

As part of their Mechanical Engineering honours project this year, the group of 10 students is working hard to improve the feasibility and practicality of wind energy turbines for homes around the city.

"Popular uptake of wind energy could have a dual benefit – it would help to take financial pressure off home owners from ever-increasing power bills, and it would also take some pressure off the State's power grid," said the Technical Director for the Adelaide University Wind Turbine Project, student Ashby Martin.

"Unfortunately, the technology is currently not at the point where it is cost effective for Adelaide home owners, which is where our project comes in," he said.

This year, the students will plan, design, build and test three different types of small scale wind turbines.

"We're looking to produce turbines that are cutting edge in technology, aerodynamics and construction, making them cheap to buy and install in the average Adelaide household," Ashby said.

"The designs will include a revised version of the traditional

horizontal axis wind turbine – what most people would commonly know as the 'propeller' wind turbine – as well as two types of vertical axis turbine.

"Of the vertical systems we're constructing, one uses aerofoil blades around a central shaft to generate lift and cause the shaft to spin, while the other uses drag on a 'scoop'-style device to turn the generator."

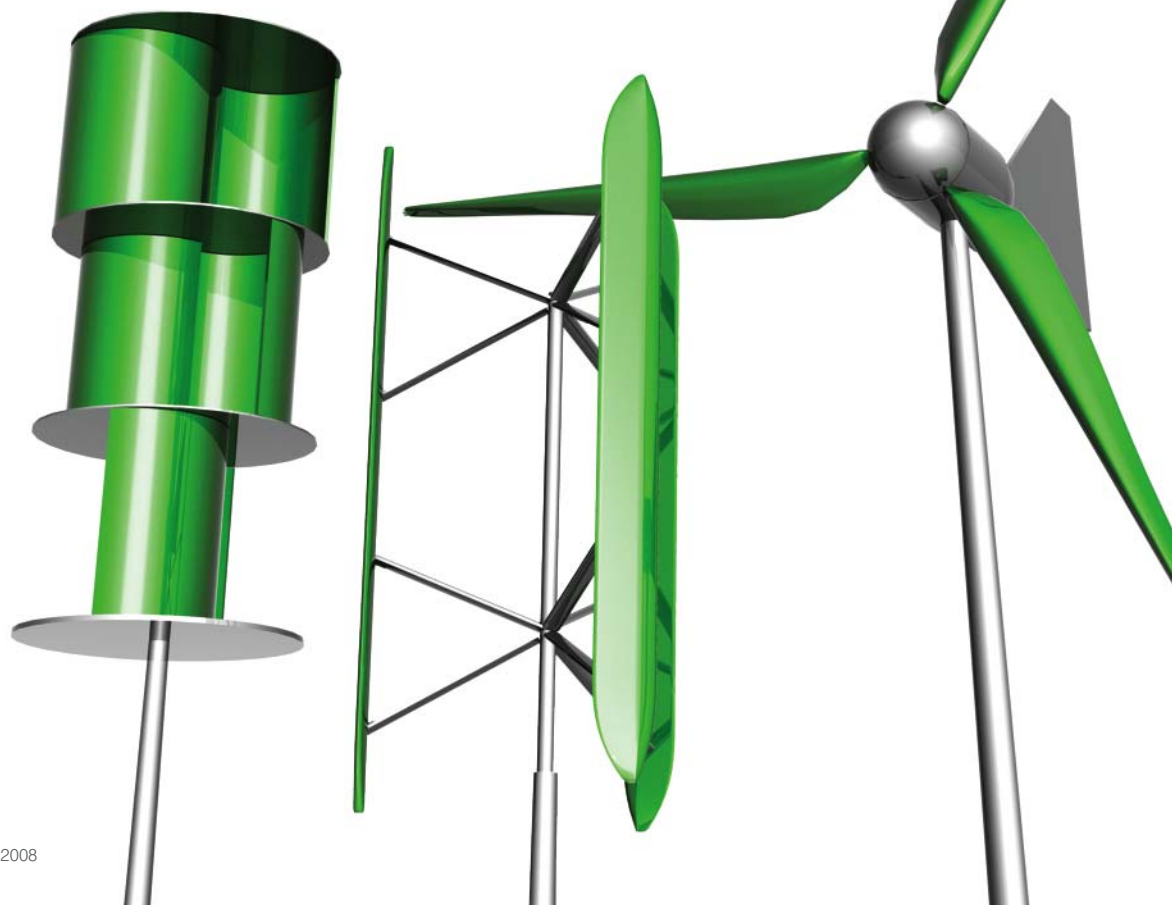
Ashby said the team expected each turbine to produce a peak 500W of energy per turbine. This will be compared to typical domestic usage, looking at the quality and consistency of the power.

"The team will take into consideration a broad range of factors, including price, size, sensitivity, noise, manufacturability, durability, vibration and aesthetics," he said.

"Significant time has been put into the analysis of composite materials, as their role in extending the possibilities of the turbines is very important.

"We're already well advanced in our designs and ahead of schedule. The turbine testing is expected to begin in July with the final results on display at the Mechanical Engineering honours project exhibition in November this year."

■ Story by David Ellis





From left:
The Pro Vice-Chancellor
(International) of the
University of Adelaide,
Professor John Taplin,
pictured with the Hon. Paul
Holloway and the President
of Lingnan University,
Professor Yuk-Shee Chan

Photo by Candy Gibson

Adelaide's five-star MBA offered in Hong Kong

■ Business

“Lingnan has excellent relations with the business community in Hong Kong and China, ensuring that our graduates will be highly regarded in the region”

Hong Kong's Lingnan University has entered into a partnership with the University of Adelaide to provide an MBA program that combines the best of East and West business practices.

The partnership was formalised today in Hong Kong with an official signing ceremony attended by high-ranking officials from both universities and a senior minister from the South Australian Government, the Hon. Paul Holloway.

The Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Adelaide, Professor James McWha, said Lingnan University enjoyed a strong reputation in economics and business, and was renowned for the quality of its teaching programs.

“Lingnan has excellent relations with the business community in Hong Kong and China, ensuring that our graduates will be highly regarded in the region, which is recognised as an international centre for business and trade. We will offer an MBA program with state-of-the-art teaching facilities, which meets the core needs of the market,” Professor McWha said.

The President of Lingnan University, Professor Yuk-Shee Chan, said: “What we seek to

impart among our students is not just knowledge and skills, but also creativity and wisdom in problem-solving, and the ability to handle various situations in life. I am certain that the MBA jointly offered by both universities will help students in these aspects.”

The 18-month MBA program, to start in July 2008, will be taught through intensive lecture sessions by University of Adelaide academics as well as qualified specialists from around the globe.

The University's MBA program has been operating since 1963 and is offered in Adelaide, Singapore and Hong Kong. It carries a five-star rating within Hong Kong and is ranked by Singapore's Edupoll Education Guide as the Best Value Australian MBA.

“The University of Adelaide MBA is a world-class postgraduate qualification that prepares students to lead and succeed in the global business world,” Professor McWha said. “Students undertaking the Hong Kong MBA program will acquire skills in contemporary business perspectives that will stand them in good stead anywhere in the world.”

Lingnan University is the youngest tertiary institution in the territory,

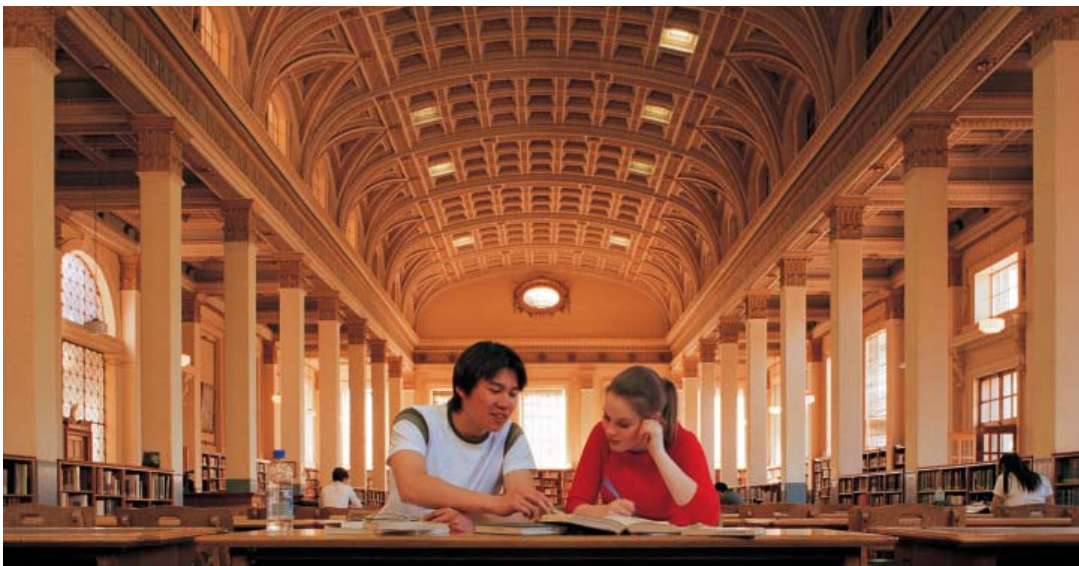
yet has a long tradition of higher education in the region. The University was incorporated in 1999 but its history dates back to 1888 when its forerunner, the prestigious Lingnan University in Guangzhou (Canton), China was founded.

It is one of the eight government-funded universities but the only liberal arts college in Hong Kong offering bachelor programs in Arts, Business Administration, Social Sciences, and postgraduate studies to over 2000 students.

The South Australian Minister for Police, Mineral Resource Development and Urban Development and Planning, the Hon Paul Holloway, said education was now South Australia's fourth largest export, valued at close to \$650 million per annum. He said Adelaide had become an internationally recognised education centre and gained a reputation as Australia's Learning City.

“The partnership between the University of Adelaide and Lingnan University is an exciting development and yet another example of the importance we place on the international education sector,” Mr Holloway said.

■ Story by Candy Gibson



Barr Smith Library 2008 appeal

Fundraising

The annual appeal to alumni and the general community to support the University of Adelaide's iconic Barr Smith Library has now been launched for 2008.

The Barr Smith Library is the central library of the University, providing resources to more than 20,000 students – around 85% of the University's total population – with over 2.2 million items in its collection.

The annual Barr Smith Library Appeal, now in its seventh year, has been widely supported to assist the continuing provision of collections relevant to students' studies in today's world.

"The 2007 appeal helped add more than 1000 new titles to the collection, including a number of research and teaching related materials to which regular funds

could not stretch, particularly in Science, Medicine and Music," said University Librarian Mr Ray Choate.

Funds from the 2008 Appeal will contribute to the currency of collections in emerging areas of knowledge and research, as well as adding to the broader collection to support general learning and education.

"A donation to the Barr Smith Library Appeal will open doors of learning and opportunity for current students and support an important South Australian resource, ensuring that it can provide for future generations," said Mr Choate.

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, please contact Helen Paul, Development and Alumni, on (08) 8303 4275.

■ Story by Lana Guineay

Development & Alumni Events

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: Carmel Bird author event – author of *The Essential Bird* (2006) and *Cape Grimm* (2005)

Date: Thursday 29 May

Time: 6.00 for 6.30pm

Venue: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Admission is free and open to the public – gold coin donation invited

RSVP: Bookings by Tuesday 27 May to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 4064

MBAAA

Event: Networking breakfast

Date: First Wednesday of every month

Time: Any time after 7:30am

Venue: East Terrace Continental Café (between North Terrace and Rundle Street), Adelaide

The MBAAA Executive Committee welcomes contact from MBA Alumni and current MBA students in other Australian states or other countries. Let us know of your interest in coordinating or participating in networking gatherings with MBA Alumni colleagues living in the same city. If you are interested, email the Executive Committee on mbaaa_committee@adelaide.edu.au and we will coordinate contact between alumni in the same city.

News in Brief

Blues turn 100 years old

This month marks a century since the University of Adelaide awarded its first Sporting Blue, recognising sporting excellence among students.

On 23 May 1908, the Adelaide University Sports Association adopted the rule for the awarding of Sporting Blues and the Blues crest.

Since then, more than 1500 University of Adelaide students have been awarded a Full Blue and more than 4500 sporting club members have been awarded a Half Blue and Club Letters (both competition and service) by their respective clubs.

In 2008, the Sports Association will be celebrating 100 years of Sporting Blues by holding its Blues Presentation on Wednesday 26 November in Bonython Hall.

Former and current recipients of a sporting award who wish to donate/ lend memorabilia to the Sports Association for this event, or who wish to attend, should contact: blues@theblacks.com.au or contact Pene Knott on (08) 8303 5403 (phone) or 08 8232 1300 (fax).



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Adnan Glinac at the University of Adelaide

Photo by David Ellis

Learning is for life

■ Student Support

“There is no bigger gift to give someone than an education – it’s a real head start to life”

University of Adelaide graduate Adnan Glinac knows all too well the benefits of additional support while studying.

Adnan was in his late teens when he arrived in Australia from Bosnia in 2000 with his mother and sister. It was at a crucial stage in his high school education, and he lacked confidence in himself and his English.

Adnan joined The Smith Family’s Learning for Life program as he began Year 11. The support received from The Smith Family has an enormous impact on young students, providing them with a financial scholarship to assist with educational expenses and access to a network of support and development programs to help them with their learning.

A naturally gifted student, Adnan was accepted into the University of Adelaide to study for a Bachelor of Mathematical and Computer Sciences.

Transition from school to university can be hard for any student, especially those who face some kind of disadvantage, which is why The Smith Family created the tertiary mentoring scheme.

“As part of my tertiary scholarship from The Smith Family, I was offered the help of a mentor and I jumped at the chance to have someone with real-world experience help me through the difficult transition from high school to university,” Adnan said.

“I was a bit lost when I got to uni – the university environment is very different, and I was very insecure. It can be pretty daunting, especially when you don’t know many people and don’t really know what to expect.”

With the help of The Smith Family, Adnan was matched with a mentor – David Pender, Associate Lecturer with the University’s Business School. According to Adnan, they “hit it off” the very first time they met.

“David was great from day one,” he said. “He was really interested in my development and helped me settle into university life.”

Adnan and David met every month during his first year, talking about his studies and sharing their experiences. Over the next three years they developed a strong rapport, with David providing much needed support and insight.

“I knew I could go to David with any problem, and if I hadn’t gone as well as I thought I would, or if I was struggling with a particular subject or topic, he was always there and always offered encouragement,” Adnan said.

“It wasn’t just the academic side of things – his advice and his assistance in a wide range of areas has been extremely helpful to me over the years.”

By the time Adnan was in his final year, he was meeting David every fortnight and beginning to plan his

career path, identifying employment opportunities and negotiating the difficult and challenging final exam period.

“He’s helped me to think ahead and to think of the bigger picture, and because of his encouragement I’ve definitely gained some confidence. I certainly feel like I’ve grown a lot over the last few years,” Adnan said.

Adnan graduated from the University of Adelaide last year and is now working for Lifeplan Funds Management as a Project and Research Coordinator. David and Adnan still keep in regular contact.

Adnan said the support he received from The Smith Family has been extremely positive, and he hoped that others would continue to benefit from the program.

“There is no bigger gift to give someone than an education – it’s a real head start to life. The Smith Family has helped to give me that head start,” he said.

The University of Adelaide is a supporter of The Smith Family’s education and learning programs.

The Smith Family’s Mid Year Appeal starts in May. For more information about Learning for Life or to make a donation, call 1800 633 622 or visit: www.thesmithfamily.com.au

Inaugural prize highlights a winning voice

Music

Elder Conservatorium soprano student Lisa Cannizzaro has been awarded the inaugural \$1200 Rae Cocking Memorial Prize in memory of South Australia's grand dame of opera and musicals.

Lisa, 23, who is completing her Honours degree in Voice, was recently presented with the prize by Rae's husband, Frank Sullivan, who has bequeathed a generous sum to the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

The annual prize is intended to commemorate the well-loved Adelaide soprano who taught at the Elder Conservatorium for 18 years, and who died in a car accident in 2006.

In February 2007, a year after Rae's death, a fundraising memorial concert was held in Elder Hall, featuring 23 singers and three pianists spanning opera and music theatre, from Mozart to *Les Mis*.

The combined funds of \$25,000 provide for an annual prize to an Elder Conservatorium of Music

undergraduate or single studies singing student who demonstrates outstanding talent, application and attitude.

Lisa Cannizzaro's extensive stage experience includes performing across Australia with the State's only professional touring opera company, Co-Opera.

She has given multiple solo recitals in Adelaide with Recitals Australia in their Lunch Hour Concert series, and was a finalist for their awards in 2006. In 2000 she performed before 30,000 parishioners as a soloist at the Jubilee Mass at Adelaide Oval.

Lisa has also performed with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra and Adelaide Chamber Singers as a chorister, as well as numerous solo roles in University productions.

In 2005 she won the Lady Anne Miller Award at the Adelaide Eisteddfod and is recognised as one of South Australia's up-and-coming young talents.



"I feel very humbled and honoured to receive the inaugural Rae Cocking Memorial Award," Lisa said.

"I met Rae only a few times, but have heard many stories – not only about her wonderful voice and stage presence, but also of her great spirit, energy and friendship. I hope that I can follow in her footsteps and achieve as she has done."

Lisa Cannizzaro as 'Annina', a character in Verdi's opera *La Traviata*

Photo by Alex Makeyed

■ Story by Candy Gibson



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Taking the right steps towards transition



Transition to university can be a daunting experience as it is often a time of uncertainty, confusion and isolation. While most students look forward to the challenges of starting this new phase of their life, many underestimate the significant adjustments to be made. The University's Transition Unit Coordinator, Sandra Gault, takes a look at what is being done to assist new students make the transition to university.

■ Commentary

“An exciting development in 2008 has been the introduction of UniStep, a comprehensive orientation program to help students “step” through the first weeks of uni life”

Above:
Students enjoying a BBQ during orientation week activities on Goodman Lawn, North Terrace Campus

Photo courtesy of the Transition Unit

Academic demands and social factors such as loneliness, lack of support networks and adapting to a new environment can lead to stress and anxiety. Stress and anxiety can interfere with learning and academic progress, and unfortunately, many students who are unsuccessful in adjusting to university decide to leave.

Research has demonstrated that the first-year experience is pivotal in establishing positive attitudes, expectations, motivation and approaches to learning for students that contribute to their participation and success. The first few weeks in particular are a critical time for engaging students in the broader university life and connecting with the learning community.

Recognising the importance of the first-year experience, the University is committed to developing innovative approaches to engage and support first-year students. A Transition Unit has been established, which is working in partnership with academic areas and support services to provide an environment that is responsive and supportive and one in which the delivery of information and support is timely and appropriate. The Transition Unit has developed a number of initiatives to improve the first-year experience, with a particular focus on the first few weeks of university life.

An exciting development in 2008 has been the introduction of UniStep (University Student Transition Experience Program), a comprehensive orientation program

to help students “step” through the first weeks of uni life.

UniStep starts with orientation week, offering students the opportunity to participate in a diverse range of academic and social activities. With so much on offer in such a short space of time, students can experience information overload, so for the next six weeks UniStep provides information to students on an “as needs” basis. Each week has a theme and related activities which are promoted through the first-year students’ website and with promotional flyers and posters displayed on campus.

The weekly themes are designed to help new students learn more about what is on offer around the uni and to encourage them to gain skills that will help them to be successful students.

In addition to the extended orientation program, the Transition Unit has been working closely with academic areas to provide new students with opportunities to meet with other students and staff early in the academic year, to encourage a sense of connection and belonging. Faculty and school staff have engaged with students in various ways - from hosting morning teas for first years, to piloting peer mentoring programs.

The School of Business (undergraduate and postgraduate programs), School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design, School of Economics, and the Faculty of Science (Bachelor of Science students), have established

peer mentor programs based on the successful university-wide equity peer mentor program, SmoothStart, which was introduced in 2005.

The number of SmoothStart mentors and mentees has increased each year, and feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Many mentees have been keen to return the following year as mentors. An exciting change to the SmoothStart peer mentor program in 2008 has been the participation of Wilto Yerlo (indigenous programs) mentors and mentees.

The faculty and school-based mentor programs are individually tailored to meet the needs of the specific academic area and are coordinated by either academic or professional staff from that area.

Peer mentor programs take advantage of the often under-utilised resource of other students. Senior students are recruited “in house” and are provided with training that helps them to develop their professional skills. Senior students are an invaluable source of information for new students and can promote a positive environment for first-year students, encouraging friendship networks and reducing isolation.

The Transition Unit is looking forward to increasing the number of peer mentor programs on offer to first-year students in 2009, and working with academic areas and support services to give new students the information and support they need to succeed at university.



University of Adelaide law student Nicole Bichard being interviewed by media to help raise awareness of the study of law among indigenous people

Photo by Matthew Stubbs

Uni leads drive to attract indigenous law students

■ Law

“My law degree will put me in good stead for a successful career and a bright future”

The University of Adelaide’s Law School has been a major sponsor of a forum aimed at addressing the issue of attracting indigenous law students to university.

The two-day forum, held last month at Port Augusta 300km north of Adelaide, was organised by a committee of the Law Society of South Australia, chaired by Justice John Sulan of the Supreme Court.

The Law School was the educational sponsor of the forum, which aimed to identify possible challenges faced by indigenous students and encourage more indigenous students to study law.

“The Law School at the University of Adelaide has a very proud history – we are one of the oldest law schools in the common law world, celebrating our 125th Anniversary this year. However, for the first century of our existence, we had no indigenous law graduates,” said Professor Rosemary Owens, Dean of Law at the University of Adelaide.

“Over the last two decades the Law School has worked much harder to redress this situation, and since 1985, 17 indigenous students have graduated in law from the University of Adelaide. However, we would like to see many more

indigenous people studying law.

“We encourage all indigenous students to consider studying law at the University of Adelaide,” Professor Owens said.

Nicole Bichard, a final-year student in the University’s Law School and a member of the Ngarrindjeri people of the Coorong, was one of the guest speakers at the forum.

“I chose law because it enables me to understand my legal rights, the legal rights of my family and friends, and gives me the ability to stand on my own two feet,” Nicole said.

“My law degree will put me in good stead for a successful career and a bright future.”

Nicole and Matthew Stubbs, a Lecturer and Indigenous Student Liaison Officer in the Law School, were among those interviewed by media as part of the forum’s efforts to raise awareness of the study of law.

“In the past, sadly many indigenous people have experienced the law as an instrument through which other people’s decisions have been imposed upon them,” Mr Stubbs said.

“Our message to indigenous students is that law has a transformative potential – indigenous people can use the law as a powerful tool to advance the interests of their own communities.

“There remain many areas where law’s relationship with indigenous people needs to be further reformed and improved, and the law is poorer in its attempts to reach out to indigenous people because of the scarcity of indigenous perspectives,” he said.

Support and assistance for indigenous law students is provided by the Law School and Wilto Yerlo, the Centre for Australian Indigenous Research and Studies at the University of Adelaide.

“We can help indigenous students gain entry to the University of Adelaide, assist them to adjust to life as a university student, ensure they achieve the best possible outcomes from their studies through the provision of tutoring, mentoring and other forms of support, and help link them up to employers who can provide paid work whilst they are studying as well as employment opportunities at the completion of their degrees,” Mr Stubbs said.



A flock of Crested Terns in front of the dredge, working to keep the Murray Mouth open during the period of low flow

Photo by Keith Walker

Coorong habitat shrinking: scientists

Environment

Scientists studying one of Australia's most significant water systems – the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth – have discovered that many of the animals previously widely distributed across the region are now restricted to a small area around the Murray Mouth.

Researchers, currently assessing the future of the estuary based on different scenarios of water availability and climate change, have recorded the changes following elevated salinities and reduced water levels in the Coorong.

The researchers – in the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth (CLLAMMecology) Research Cluster – recently gave a science briefing at

Goolwa on the long-term future of the water system.

The CLLAMMecology Research Cluster, supported through CSIRO's Water for a Healthy Country National Research Flagship involves a partnership between CSIRO, the University of Adelaide, Flinders University, and SARDI Aquatic Sciences. Geoscience Australia, Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, and Land & Water Australia are additional research and funding partners.

In the first comprehensive research program for this estuary, the \$5.3 million project aims to improve the ecological health of the region and protect threatened birds and fish.

Cluster Leader Associate Professor Justin Brookes from the University of Adelaide's School of Earth & Environmental Sciences said the research was examining the relationship between river flows, salinity, and the ecology of a range of aquatic organisms, including key fish and bird species.

"No single part of the system can be restored without a whole of system approach to water savings and a commitment to an environmental water allocation," Associate Professor Justin Brookes said.

"The work we are doing will help with allocating limited water resources so they have the required environmental benefits."

From Sodom and Gomorrah to Kath and Kim: Urban reform through the ages

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE



Research Tuesdays – sharing great research with the community Tuesday 13 May at 5.30pm, Professor Nancy Pollock-Ellwand

Since ancient times, cities have been perceived as everything from vibrant marketplaces to protective sanctuaries – but one prevalent interpretation has been the city as a place of sin. The urge to reverse urban wickedness has been the great catalyst to urban design.

Venue:

Bonython Hall, North Terrace Campus.
Duration approximately one hour. Admission free.

Bookings essential:

Email: research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au
Phone: 8303 3692

Further information:

Visit the University of Adelaide's Research website: www.adelaide.edu.au/research



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Dreamy illusion meets brutal reality

■ Theatre Guild

The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild turns to the classics for the third production in its 70th anniversary year, with *A Streetcar Named Desire*. Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize-winning classic of delusion, desire, destruction and desolation opens in the Little Theatre on Saturday 10 May.

Ever since Marlon Brando and Jessica Tandy first brought them to life in the 1947 Broadway production, and Brando and Vivien Leigh reprised the roles in Elia Kazan's 1951 film version, the characters of Blanche DuBois and Stanley Kowalski have fascinated and challenged audiences and actors alike.

When Blanche visits her young, pregnant sister Stella in New Orleans, having been driven out of her home town for seducing a 17-year-old student, she is appalled by the crassness of Stella's husband, Stanley.

Around these twin poles of Stanley's raw, macho, working class brutality and Blanche's fantasy-driven, fading Southern gentility, Williams builds his passionate drama.

Blanche's sense of self is fragile and built on lies and false foundations – "I don't want realism, I want magic," she says – and

Stanley's merciless demolition of her over the course of the evening makes for compelling theatre.

The Guild's 70th anniversary production of *Streetcar* is a return to the play by the Guild after 25 years and a successful production directed by Peter Goers in 1983. This new production is directed by Anita Baltutis, an experienced teacher of drama who has brought together a dynamic cast of Guild regulars and new talent, headed by Kate Doherty as Blanche and Adam Tuominen as Stanley.

Among the cast are two University of Adelaide graduates who have been involved with the Theatre Guild for many years.

Marie-Cate Constantine plays Stella. Constantine is an Arts/Law (Honours) graduate of the University and has a Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Society of SA. She became a member of the Theatre Guild in 1998, having signed up during O Week, and has been involved ever since, taking part in productions as a performer, and assisting behind the scenes. She was also a performer and writer for the Annual Law Revue from 1999-2003.

Cate Rogers, who plays Eunice, has continued to be involved in the Theatre Guild since starting her Arts degree in 1988. A graduate

with Honours in English, Rogers was a founding member of campus theatre group Parting Company, and for the past 10 years she has directed and performed for another campus theatre group, Crescent Company. For the Theatre Guild she has appeared in *The Merchant of Venice*, *Tartuffe* and *The Real Inspector Hound*, among others, and directed or co-directed *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *The Rover*.

A Streetcar Named Desire plays in the Little Theatre at 7.30pm on 10, 13-17 and 20-24 May. Tickets \$25 adults/\$20 concession.

Tickets for University of Adelaide staff and students are only \$15 on Tuesday 13 and Tuesday 20 May. For more information, visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/theatreguild or call (08) 8303 5999.

The Living Stage

Also in May, the Theatre Guild marks its 70th anniversary with an exhibition in the Barr Smith Library, entitled "The Living Stage", to be opened by the Vice-Chancellor on 15 May, and then running until 22 June. *See story on page 8.*