

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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5 gold medals 5 world records

Above: Paralympian and University of Adelaide student Matt Cowdrey at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre earlier this year

Photo by Matt Carty, courtesy of Messenger Community Newspapers

Sport

Students and staff at the University of Adelaide have an extra reason – in fact, eight extra reasons – to feel proud of one of their colleagues.

These are the eight medals won by 19-year-old swimmer Matthew Cowdrey OAM at the recent Paralympic Games in Beijing.

Matt, a Media and Law student at the University of Adelaide, was the most successful Australian athlete at last month's Games and the most successful of any of the 4000 Paralympians competing in Beijing.

He won five gold medals – all in world record times – and three silver medals, placing him at the top of the individual medal count for the Paralympics. This eclipsed his medal haul at Athens in 2004 of three gold, two silver and two bronze, and earned him the role of flag bearer for the Australian team at the Beijing closing ceremony.

In Beijing, he won gold in the 100m freestyle, 200m individual medley, 100m backstroke, 50m freestyle and men's 4x100m medley relay.

Even before the Beijing Games had begun, Matt had already achieved Paralympic, World Championship and

Commonwealth Games glory. Born with a congenital amputation to his lower left arm, Matt broke his first Australian open record at age 11 and his first world record at age 13. He has since gone on to break more than 70 world records.

In 2005 he was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for service to sport as a gold medallist at the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games, and he was named Disabled Male Swimmer of the Year for 2007 by *Swimming World Magazine*.

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From the (Acting) Vice-Chancellor

Great universities continue to innovate, and one area of innovation that – now more than ever – is required by universities is the area of environmental sustainability.

Some of the impetus for this innovation is coming from legislative changes, but it is also being driven by a growing awareness of the need to act as good citizens, to demonstrate what can be done and to lead by example. Many of our own academic staff involved in climate change research have been calling for this kind of innovation in the wider community for many years.

The University of Adelaide is working on multiple fronts to create environmentally sustainable practices that will hold the University in good stead for the next 130 years and more, while enabling us to achieve our strategic aims and continue to grow our core operations of teaching and research.

In South Australia, as well as in many other parts of Australia and across the western world, some of the most pressing environmental issues facing us include the need for better waste and water management, improved urban design and use of energy, and more sustainable business practices. While these are major issues that are much broader than any one organisation, the University of Adelaide will attempt to address all of these issues and adopt a sustainable, carbon friendly, 'green' approach in the way it operates.

Sound easy? It isn't. But the University is serious about sustainability. To that end, our Sustainability Working Party is investigating many areas in which we can make a real difference, including what goals we can set ourselves and how we can achieve them.

Examples of areas being worked on include: new staff appointments to assist in developing and implementing a University-wide environmental management plan; determining the water needs of each campus, and the limitations and benefits of our water infrastructure; gaining a better understanding of the size of the carbon footprint a large organisation like ours actually

produces, and what we can do to shrink, stop or offset it; identifying opportunities for replacing paper-based processes with automated electronic ones, and so on.

It's no coincidence that our new \$100 million building being constructed on the lower level of our North Terrace Campus has significant green credential aspirations. What else can we do to develop 'green' building standards and designs specific to the university sector? How can we refurbish our existing facilities to enable them to introduce energy-saving features? Can we establish a research funding target that enables us to increase spending on research aimed at reducing carbon pollution? Can we improve the availability, speed and simplicity of video conferencing to reduce travel needs between campuses? These and many other questions are all being asked.

It's important to recognise that we are not alone in trying to deal with these issues; the State and Federal Governments will assist the University in our endeavours to become more environmentally sustainable, and there is also great scope for collaboration across the various universities in South Australia.

Being able to make change towards sustainability requires vision and commitment, and it can only be achieved with the support and involvement of the whole University community. This joint effort will not only have significant environmental benefits, it will also strengthen the University's reputation in the eyes of Australia and the world..

PAUL DULDIG
Acting Vice-Chancellor and President

Art & Heritage Collections

The Tate Museum, located in the University's Mawson Laboratories, is one of the largest and best geology museums in Australia. Established in 1925, the Museum was named after Professor Ralph Tate, the foundation Elder Professor of Natural Sciences (1875-1901).

The Museum's collection contains a vast array of fascinating and historical artefacts, such as a 4.6kg meteorite that is 96% iron, and wonderful examples of Ediacara Biota, the earth's oldest known complex multicellular organisms, which are up to 580 million years old.

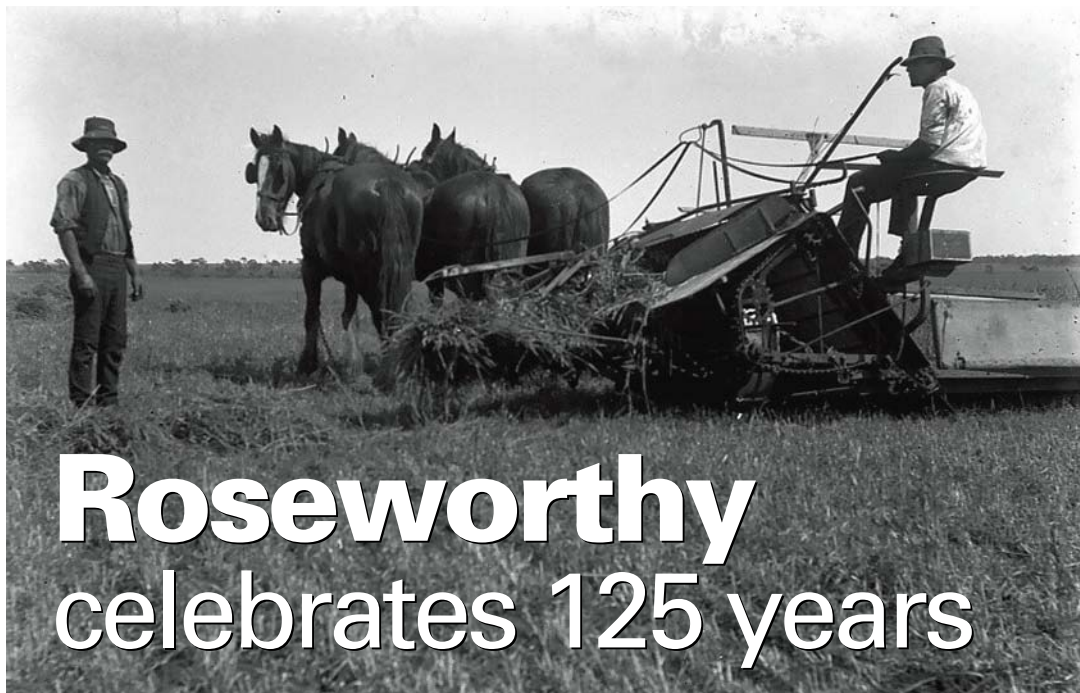
The Museum is free and open to the public from 9.00am-5.00pm Monday to Friday.

■ Anna Rivett, Collections Officer, Art & Heritage Collections



Just some of the many mineral samples inside the Tate Museum

Photo by Mick Bradley



Roseworthy celebrates 125 years

■ Heritage

The University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus will host a series of special events over six weeks to celebrate its 125th birthday and showcase its vision for the future.

The Campus, which began as Roseworthy Agricultural College in 1883, was Australia's first college devoted to agriculture and agricultural science.

On Saturday 18 October, a non-denominational service will be held in majestic St Peter's Cathedral at 11am, followed by a graduation re-enactment ceremony in Bonython Hall at 3pm. This includes the presentation of the Roseworthy Old Collegians Association (ROCA) Commemorative Awards of Merit and Humanitarian awards.

Later that evening a celebratory dinner will take place at the Pavilion

(Adelaide Oval) acknowledging Roseworthy's longstanding involvement in agricultural education and research, with an exhibition of archival photographs, a silent auction of heritage football guernseys and the announcement of the 2008 ROCA Award of Merit recipient.

Current and former staff and Council members will be invited to a reunion at the Roseworthy Campus on Sunday 26 October, while Natural Resources graduates (1976-1980) will get together at the Adelaide Oval Pavilion for a reunion cocktail function on Saturday 1 November.

The following day, on Sunday 2 November, the Roseworthy Campus will hold a special Open Day, featuring the theme, "The Science Behind the Product".

story continued on page 10

■ News in Brief



Study Chinese in the hometown of Confucius

The Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide and Shandong University are jointly running a tour for all those keen to study Mandarin – in China.

Registrations are now open, and anyone can join. The study tour is aimed at all skill levels, from novices to those more experienced with the language.

Participants will undertake five weeks (November to January) of intensive language study, broken up with one week touring around Shandong (the hometown of Confucius), Beijing and Shanghai. More free time to travel and explore is also part of the program.

For more information contact Glen Stafford on (08) 8303 5819, email: glen.stafford@adelaide.edu.au or visit: www.confucius.adelaide.edu.au/news/

Flore Foundation "For The Love of Art"

The Florey Foundation's annual "For The Love of Art" event will be held at 6.30pm Wednesday 8 October in Bonython Hall, North Terrace Campus.

This unique art show sells works of art for \$250 each. Buyers don't know who the artist is until the work is purchased, so they have a real opportunity to own a piece of art by a significant artist for a fraction of its real value.

Funds raised will support vital research into brain injury at the University of Adelaide. Tickets are \$30 each.

For more information contact Judy Turner on (08) 8303 5211 or email: judith.turner@adelaide.edu.au

Olympics and globalisation – what's the connection?

Globalisation expert Professor John Rennie Short (Professor of Public Policy, University of Maryland Baltimore County), will give a free public lecture at the University of Adelaide this month.

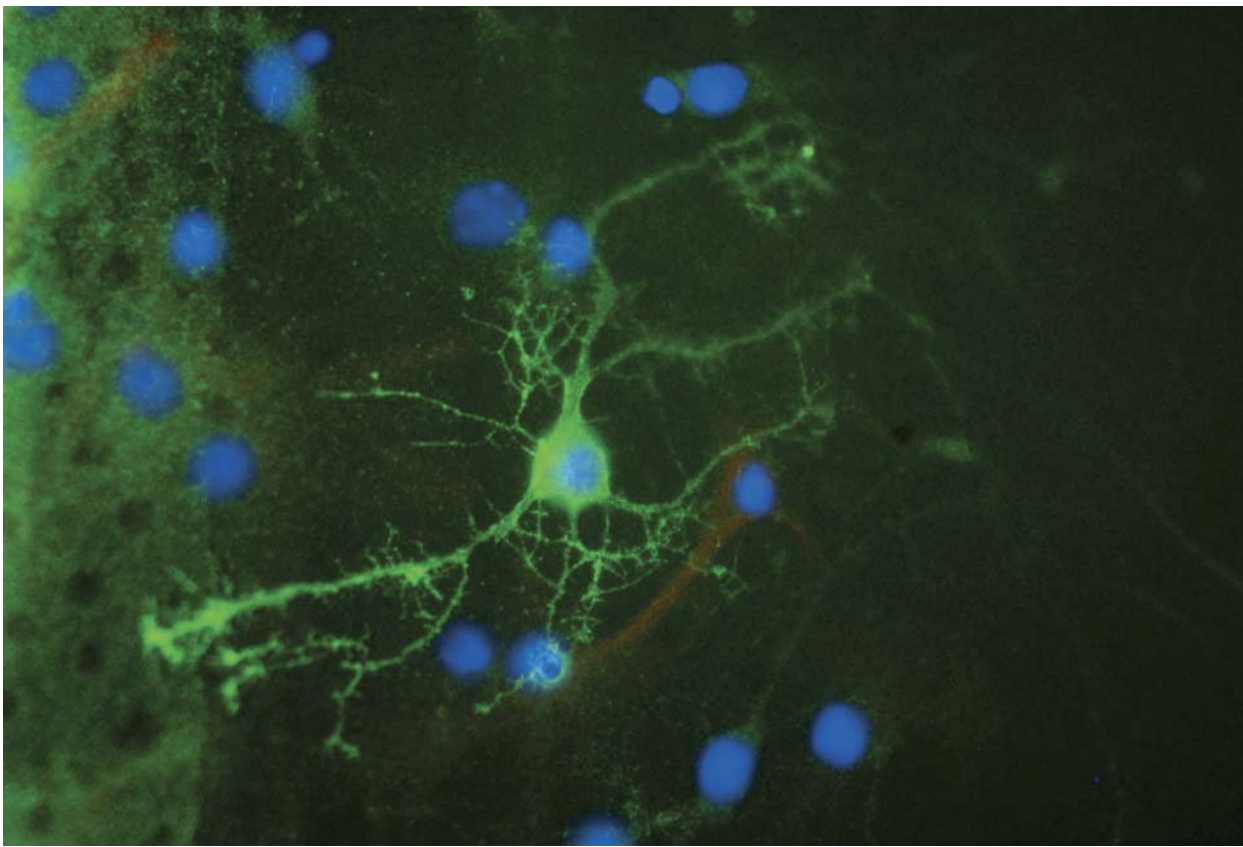
His talk on the Summer Olympics and Globalisation will be held at 5.30pm on Thursday 9 October, Room GO4, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus.

The event is free and all are welcome. Please RSVP by Wednesday 8 October to: jennifer.payne@adelaide.edu.au

There is no need to Seek any longer.

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Australia's University Job Website



A neural cell derived from an adult stem cell

Image courtesy of the Centre for Stem Cell Research

Stem cell centre gives hope for stroke damage

Health Science

“Stroke is the leading cause of disability in Australia with 270,000 Australians left with the residue of strokes every year”

Researchers within the University of Adelaide’s new Centre for Stem Cell Research are aiming by the end of this year to show repair in stroke-damaged brains using stem cells taken from adult teeth.

The world-leading research using dental pulp stem cells from extracted human teeth and stroke-affected rat brain tissue was outlined as part of the recent launch of the Centre for Stem Cell Research.

The focus of the new Centre will be on turning novel basic research into potential life-saving treatments and cures for serious conditions and diseases.

The Centre will draw together almost 100 research scientists and 80 research students from 18 research groups based at the University of Adelaide, the Women’s and Children’s Hospital, the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Sciences (IMVS), Hanson Institute and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said the new Centre would help put South Australian researchers at the forefront of stem cell research in Australia.

“The members of the Centre undertake internationally recognised

and awarded research on areas such as the isolation of adult and cord blood stem cells, clinical applications including potential cures for stroke damage and cardiac repair, and novel approaches to diseases such as cystic fibrosis and leukaemia,” Professor McWha said.

Centre Director and University of Adelaide Principal Research Fellow Associate Professor Mark Nottle said: “The focus of the Centre is on translating basic research into clinical and commercial outcomes through collaboration between members and with external partners.”

The stroke research project is a collaboration between Dr Simon Koblar, University of Adelaide, and Associate Professor Stan Gronthos, IMVS and Hanson Institute. Last month they started injecting adult dental pulp stem cells into stroke-damaged rat brains and should have preliminary results on therapeutic outcomes by the end of the year.

“Stroke is the leading cause of disability in Australia with 270,000 Australians left with the residue of strokes every year,” Dr Koblar said.

“Even if all we can do is get someone’s hand function to improve, that would be a magnificent advance.”

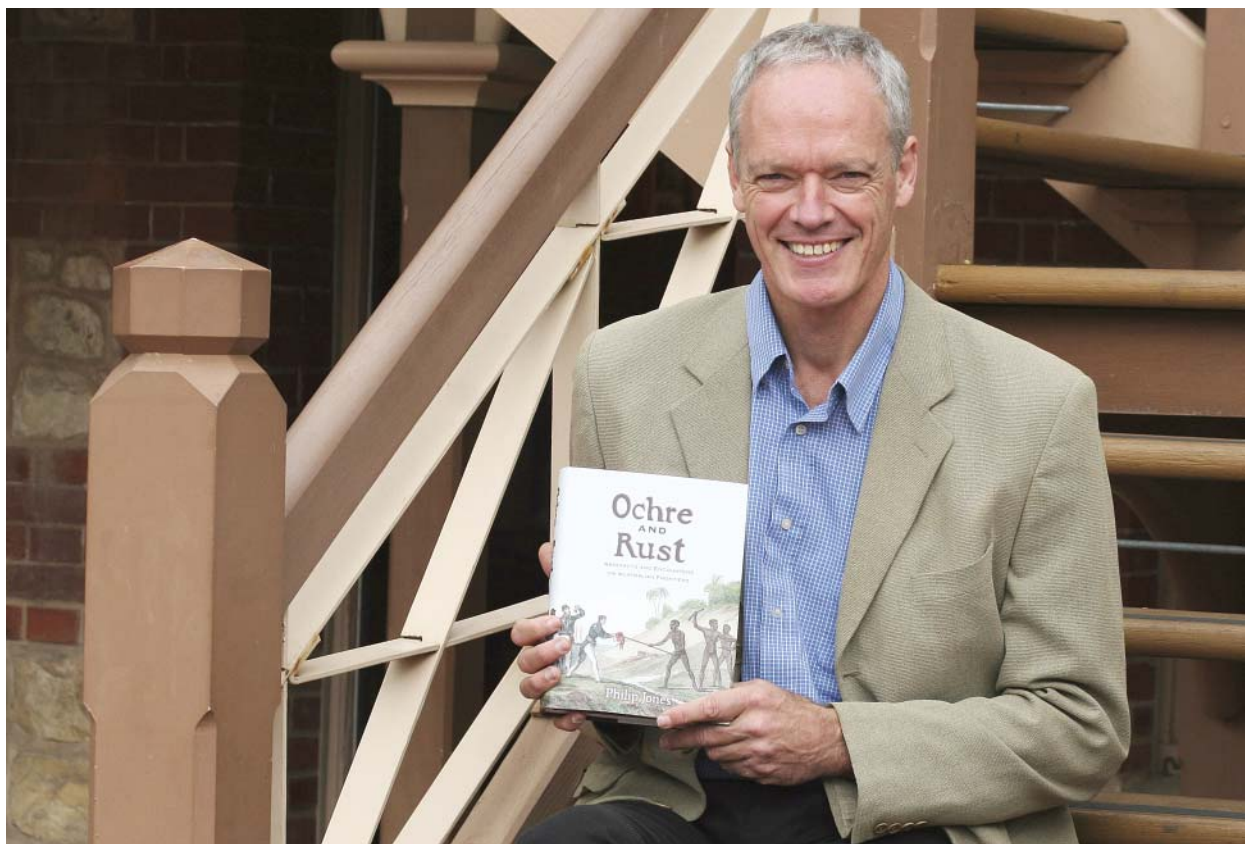
Dental pulp stem cells are highly promising as precursors of replacement neurons (brain cells) because they are easily accessible, can be taken from the patient needing treatment, and they have similar properties to cranial neural crest cells that normally make brain cells and other cranial tissues.

The Centre’s main aims are to:

- undertake and foster world-class stem cell research;
- establish and maintain collaborative links in stem cell research within Australia and internationally;
- provide higher degree and research training opportunities;
- build public awareness of stem cell research in South Australia.

The Centre will provide Early Career Research Fellowships to attract and retain the brightest young minds to Adelaide, and to continue to build the already substantial critical mass of stem cell researchers within Adelaide. Initial funding from the Fellowships has come from the University and Bellberry Limited, a not-for-profit company that manages the only private human research ethics committees in Australia.

■ Story by Robyn Mills



“I was really following Austin’s example in terms of his humanism as an historian”

Dr Philip Jones with a copy of his book *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts and Encounters on Australian Frontiers*

Story and photo by David Ellis

PM’s award writes author’s history

History

Thanks to Wakefield Press, the *Adelaidean* has one free copy of *Ochre and Rust* to give away, plus one free copy of Dr Jones’s earlier book co-authored by Anna Kenny, *Australia’s Muslim Cameleers*. To be the lucky reader to win this double book package valued at \$89.90, be the first to call (08) 8303 5414 before Friday 10 October.

It could be argued that history was written for Dr Philip Jones the moment he set foot on campus as an undergraduate student at the University of Adelaide.

An Arts and Law student in the 1970s, Dr Jones came to embrace the study of History under the inspiration of some of the University’s pre-eminent educators, such as professors Austin Gough and Hugh Stretton.

What he learned from those early years of study, in particular the research he conducted for his Honours degree in History, has held him in good stead ever since.

It also laid the foundations for his latest – and history-making – success: winning the inaugural \$100,000 Prime Minister’s Literary Award for Non-Fiction.

Dr Jones, Senior Curator of Anthropology with the South Australian Museum, won the prize for his book *Ochre and Rust: Artefacts and Encounters on Australian Frontiers*.

Ochre and Rust is an account of Australia’s frontier history using Aboriginal artefacts as the basis for a more detailed look at the people behind the objects.

The book, which won Dr Jones the award ahead of such celebrated

authors as Germaine Greer and Clive James, was described by the judges as a work of “elegance”, “simplicity” and “outstanding clarity”.

The judging panel wrote: “Jones’s conception of using artefacts such as a cake of red ochre, Aboriginal shields and Daisy Bates’s travelling suit to discuss aspects of the Australian frontier is an original one. His work has depth and breadth of analysis; and his prose has simplicity and elegance.

“The insights drawn are through a true historian’s eye and the work illuminates larger debates about encounters between the first Australians and the European settlers.”

Dr Jones credits the techniques used in his book to reconstruct a broader history of the frontier to his studies at the University, which also includes a PhD in History.

“It was doing Austin Gough’s social history/French history course in my final year of the joint Law/Arts degree that made me realise that history would be my vocation,” Dr Jones said. “With Austin’s encouragement I went on and did Honours in 19th century French social history, and I wrote a thesis on the history of leisure among the working class, using primary sources.

“From that point on I saw the value of primary sources and original documents. I was really following Austin’s example in terms of his humanism as an historian, the fact that he used individual stories of real people to open up bigger issues, and his eye for detail. You can use this accumulation of detail to build a bigger picture.

“This was the technique that I used in my Honours thesis and subsequently I guess it has become an almost subconscious methodology,” he said.

Dr Jones, who is also a guest lecturer with the Graduate Program in Art History at the University of Adelaide, said winning the PM’s literary award was an “extremely special feeling”.

Professor David Lemmings, Head of the School of History and Politics, University of Adelaide, was among those to congratulate Dr Jones on his success. “Philip’s outstanding achievement demonstrates the value of studying History, especially for its ability to fire the imagination in relation to the human condition,” he said.

***Ochre and Rust* is published in hardcover by Wakefield Press and sells for \$49.95.**

Pregnancy study aims to limit weight

Researchers at the University of Adelaide and the Women's and Children's Hospital have launched a new study that aims to test the benefits of providing overweight women with help to limit weight gain during pregnancy.

The study, which will include more than 2500 pregnant women, will involve the women being provided with a package of dietary and lifestyle support and advice throughout their pregnancy.

The study will enrol women having pregnancy care at the Women's and Children's Hospital, Lyell McEwin Hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, and Flinders Medical Centre.

"Obesity is a significant health issue for women during pregnancy and childbirth and there are many associated health risks for both mother and baby," said Dr Jodie Dodd, Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist at the Women's and Children's Hospital and Senior Lecturer in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at the University of Adelaide.

"These include pre-eclampsia, gestational diabetes, the need for the induction of labour, caesarean section and even perinatal death.

"Infants of mothers who are overweight are more likely to be of higher birth weight, require admission to the neonatal intensive care unit, be born preterm, be identified with a congenital anomaly, and to require treatment for jaundice or low blood sugar.

"The costs of this are significant, in terms of both the emotional stress on women and the health of their babies."

Dr Dodd said that while there was significant research into the potential complications associated with obesity during pregnancy and childbirth, there was limited information about the effectiveness of intervention measures.

"If our dietary and lifestyle intervention is shown to be an effective way of reducing the risk of adverse maternal and infant health outcomes, this would be a highly beneficial, cost effective and worthwhile treatment, to reduce the burden of a major cause of maternal, infant and childhood morbidity related to obesity."

The four-year study has been funded by the Australian National Health and Medical Research Council.

To find out more about the study or enrol, call (08) 8161 7657 or email: limit@adelaide.edu.au



Award for breeding better varieties faster

■ Plant Science

"Our research means breeders can make crosses that will produce an increased proportion of progeny with good wheat quality"

Above:
Dr Howard Eagles

Photo courtesy of the
Molecular Plant Breeding CRC

An award-winning research project led by University of Adelaide plant scientist Dr Howard Eagles is helping plant breeders produce better varieties at a faster rate.

Dr Eagles, part of the Molecular Plant Breeding Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and based at the University's Waite Campus, started working on the project in 1998 while still with the Victorian Department of Primary Industries.

Dr Eagles, with collaborators including former University of Adelaide plant breeder Gil Hollamby, has developed technologies that can predict the probability of getting acceptable flour quality from thousands of potential wheat variety crosses.

"A lot of promising wheat crosses from breeding programs get to the final testing only to find that their flour quality is not good enough," said Dr Eagles.

"Our research means breeders can make crosses that will produce an increased proportion of progeny with good wheat quality, allowing

greater selection for grain yield and disease resistance. This is increasing the rate of genetic gain of wheat in Australia."

The project recently won one of four national Excellence in Innovation awards from the CRC Association.

Dr Eagles's predictions of wheat quality are based on the possible combinations from eight genes, seven of which have multiple variants.

Using back data from breeding programs from South Australia, NSW and Victoria, he has been able to predict wheat quality for more than 10,000 possible outcomes from potential crosses. Other collaborators include the Victorian and NSW Departments of Primary Industries, Australian Grain Technologies and the University of Sydney.

Dr Eagles is now working another set of genes which influence flowering time.

■ Story by Robyn Mills



Wan Ilma Dewiputri
Wan Burhanuddin at the
Women's and Children's
Health Research Institute

Photo by David Ellis

Penang student wins top prize

■ Achievement

“I chose the University of Adelaide to study biomedical science because of the flexible program structure which allows me to explore my own interests”

A Science Honours student studying a common skull disorder in children has been named the top final-year Malaysian student in South Australia for 2008.

Wan Ilma Dewiputri Wan Burhanuddin from Penang has received the Patron's Award for Excellence, the major prize in the Merdeka Awards given by the Australia Malaysia Business Council SA.

The Merdeka Awards recognise academic excellence as well as Malaysian students' extracurricular activities and how well they interact with the South Australian community.

Ilma, who has been living and studying in Adelaide for the past three years, began her Science degree in the University's School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, and is now working within the Discipline of Paediatrics, based in the Women's and Children's Health Research Institute in the Women's and Children's Hospital.

“My Honours project is about craniosynostosis, which is a debilitating skull disorder that affects one in 2500 children,” Ilma said. “Craniosynostosis is the premature closure of the skull's sutures, resulting in a deformed skull at birth. My project's goal is to improve the understanding of the molecular mechanisms of

craniosynostosis so that treatments supplementary to surgery can be developed.

“I chose the University of Adelaide to study biomedical science because of the flexible program structure which allows me to explore my own interests, as I got to choose the subjects that I wanted to study. The School of Molecular and Biomedical Science and the Discipline of Paediatrics also have many dedicated scientists and lecturers who are keen to impart knowledge to the students, and are very helpful too,” she said.

“I feel very privileged to work under the supervision of dedicated scientists, Associate Professor Barry Powell and Associate Professor Peter Anderson this year, and Dr Felicity Keiper in 2007 (for my summer research scholarship).”

In addition to her studies, Ilma has been a committee member of United Malays National Organization SA (UMNO SA), a Malaysian-based student organisation that represents and serves the interests and welfare of the Malaysian student community in South Australia.

“I enjoyed getting primarily involved in a number of events that promoted Malaysia, the food, the tourist attractions and the culture to the locals,” she said.

She has also been an Enrolment Buddy at the University, helping

local students during the all-important enrolment time.

“All these activities have helped develop my interpersonal skills and confidence. I have gained better insights about other cultures and I have learnt to respect them,” she said.

Winning the Merdeka Award was a welcome surprise, Ilma said.

“I am ecstatic to have won the award – I did not realise the magnitude of the award,” she said. “This really is a motivation for me to work harder. I hope I won't rest on my laurels, but continue to strive harder and challenge myself.”

On her return to Malaysia, Ilma plans to continue to work in biomedical research.

“I have acquired specific research skills that would help me in my career in science, which I can put to good use when I return to Malaysia, where biomedical research is continuing to boom,” she said.

“In my opinion, medical research is as important as the healthcare itself. There is a need to improve our understanding about the molecular mechanisms of diseases so that diagnosis and patient care can be improved. I also would love to help increase awareness about biomedical sciences to Malaysian students and the public,” she said.

■ Story by David Ellis

Chris wins cardiology prize

Health Science

A 21-year-old University of Adelaide medical student has been awarded one of the nation's top cardiovascular prizes for his research into atrial fibrillation, the most common heart rhythm disorder in the world.

Chris Wong, a fourth-year medical student, is believed to be the first undergraduate student in the country to win the Cardiac Society of Australia and New Zealand's (CSANZ) Affiliate Prize for scientific excellence.

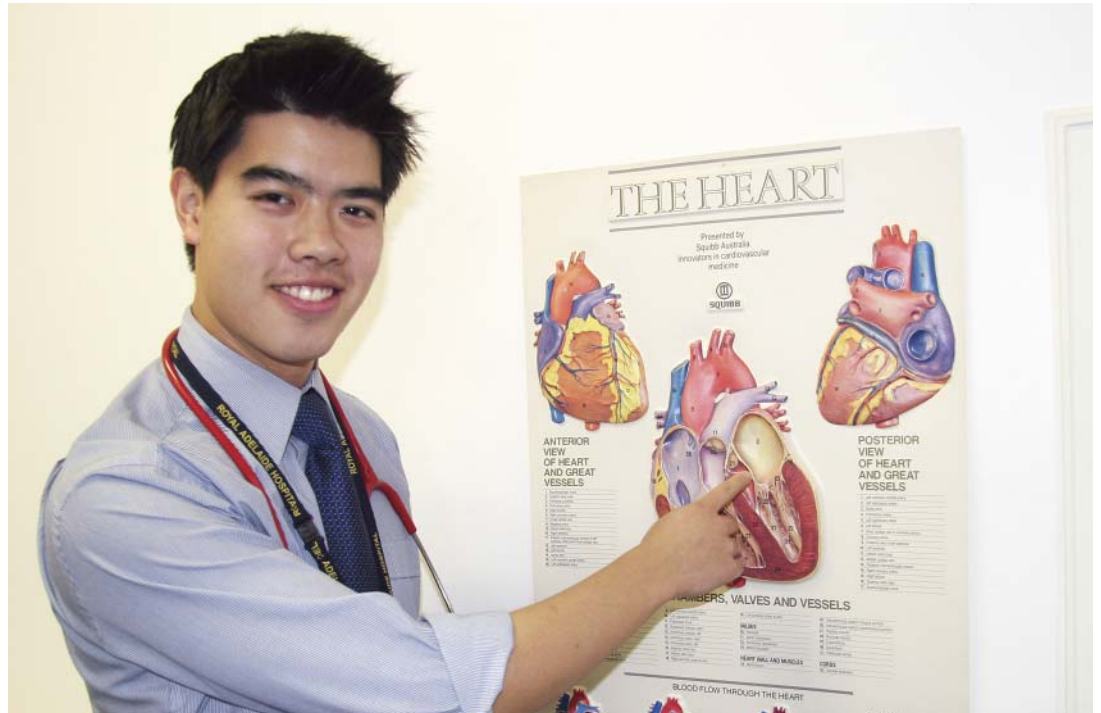
The award was presented at the largest gathering of cardiologists in Australasia, recently held in Adelaide.

Chris was among 2000 delegates who were in contention for the highest graded research paper by an affiliate (not a medical doctor). The majority of people in this category are established postdoctoral scientists with PhDs and large amounts of research funding.

Apart from his studies, Chris is also President of the Adelaide Medical Students' Society.

His research into atrial fibrillation is focused on the mechanisms of this disorder and the resetting of the heart's normal rhythm with defibrillation shocks.

"Atrial fibrillation is a deadly condition and if left untreated can result in strokes, or death," he said. "The findings from this study will



enable doctors to better manage patients with this common heart rhythm disorder."

Chris's supervisor is Professor Prash Sanders, a world-renowned cardiac specialist and Professor of Cardiology at the University of Adelaide as well as Director of the Cardiovascular Research Centre based at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

"Chris is, without doubt, the most outstanding medical student I have ever worked with," Professor Sanders said.

"He has picked up research concepts in a highly specialised field which many experienced doctors grapple with. Chris will have success in whatever field of medicine he pursues."

For the past two years, Chris has worked alongside Professor Sanders at the Cardiovascular Research Centre to help better understand the mechanisms of atrial fibrillation. He has also travelled overseas to present his research at a number of conferences.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Above:
Medical student and prize winner Chris Wong

Photo by Candy Gibson



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING Honours Student Project Exhibition

You are invited to attend the School of Mechanical Engineering's 14th annual Honours Project Exhibition, a display of exciting projects developed by the engineers of tomorrow.

A highlight in the science and technology calendar, this event will feature diverse projects such as the Formula SAE Racing Car, the Eco Trike, the Micro Air Vehicle and the Ultimate Sailing Craft, all under one roof.

This is a unique opportunity for members of the public to encounter engineering in practice, to learn what it really means to be an engineer and to engage with final-year students as they share their experiences.

Friday 24 October, 9am to 4pm

Adelaide Showgrounds
Ridley Pavilion

For more information
contact Vicky Samra,
Phone: 8303 4124
Email: victoria.samra@adelaide.edu.au

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Young engineers take to the skies

■ Engineering

Above (from left): Aliya Valiyff, Elizabeth Pham, Rebecca Baylis, Craig Collins and Christopher French

Photo by Michael Mullan

University of Adelaide engineering students are spreading their wings in one of the fastest growing areas of the international aerospace industry.

Three teams of final-year engineering students in the School of Mechanical Engineering are developing unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) technology.

The teams have designed and built three unique UAVs: one powered by a hydrogen fuel cell; one powered by pulsejet technology; and a third with hovering capability.

Under the supervision of Dr Maziar Arjomandi, the projects are all directed towards the development of efficient, sustainable technologies in the aerospace industry.

A group of five Aerospace Engineering students has developed the first Australian-designed and manufactured hydrogen fuel cell-powered tailless UAV.

Team member Rebecca Baylis said hydrogen fuel cells offered a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.

"While the automotive industry has promoted hydrogen fuel cells as an alternative power source, little has been done to adapt this technology for aeronautical applications, within Australia or worldwide," said Rebecca.

"Fuel cell UAVs can offer increased vehicle endurance compared to a fossil fuel burning alternative – making them ideal for long endurance flight missions such as surveillance and reconnaissance applications."

Another six final-year engineering students (three Aerospace and three Mechanical) have developed a UAV powered by pulsejet technology – the first of its kind in Australia.

Team member Ryan Anderson said pulsejets had key advantages over other forms of propulsion, including extremely quick and inexpensive manufacture and high levels of reliability attributed to the lack of moving parts within the engine itself.

"As such, pulsejet powered UAVs are highly suitable as target drones and decoy aircraft, among other applications," said Ryan.

The pulsejet UAV can run on renewable fuels such as bio-diesel and ethanol.

The third team of five Aerospace and two Mechatronic Engineering students has designed and built a UAV incorporating semi-ducted coaxial counter-rotating rotor technology – another first for Australia.

"This project has the potential to expand the applications and usefulness of UAVs through the provision of efficient hovering functionality, while at the same time being safe enough for use at ground level," said team member Stephen Bell.

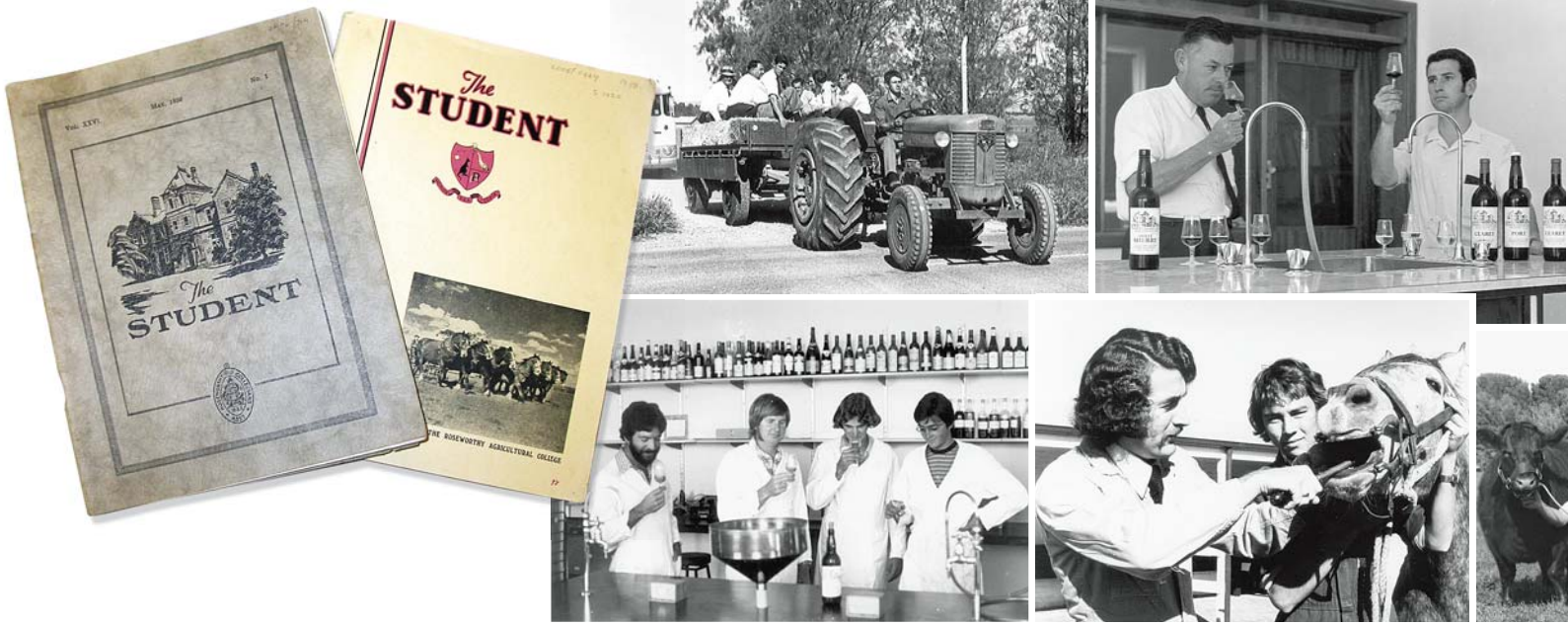
"This is a helicopter in basic design, but has significant packaging and efficiency gains as it does not need a tail rotor in order to maintain stability.

"Its unique ability to hold position while in close proximity to buildings gives this vehicle capabilities that fixed wing UAVs can't match. This will prove beneficial to both civilian and military operators."

Conducting final-year projects is part of the curriculum within the School of Mechanical Engineering. The projects allow the students to develop teamwork skills and the capacity for life-long learning.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles will go on public display this month along with dozens of other dynamic projects developed by students from the University of Adelaide's School of Mechanical Engineering (see facing page for details).

■ Story by Robyn Mills



Celebrating 125 years

ROSEWORTHY CAMPUS

Continued from page 3

Campus Director Professor Phil Hynd said the Open Day would showcase Roseworthy's future while celebrating its history, and would focus on agricultural systems, animal production and veterinary science.

"Over its 125 year history, Roseworthy has developed an international reputation for excellence in research and teaching in dryland agriculture, natural resources management, winemaking and animal production," Professor Hynd said.

"A new vision has been developed for the campus into the 21st century. We aim to combine internal expertise and external resources to make the campus a hub for information transfer, commercialisation, education and research to service the agricultural industries for the next 125 years."

Professor Hynd said research and teaching excellence were critical in achieving these goals.

"Already the campus is home to the State Government's Constellation in Animal Science, a 10-year vision for science, technology and innovation in South Australia.

"Roseworthy is also a major player in five Cooperative Research Centres – pork, poultry, sheep, beef and bioremediation – and a participant in overseas development aid programs in India, China and Tibet."

This year Roseworthy is also celebrating the launch of the State's first veterinary science school, accepting 50 students in the inaugural 2008 intake.

To ensure research and teaching are conducted in a real-world context, commercial partners are encouraged to make Roseworthy their home base.

These include Australian Grain Technologies Pty Ltd, the largest cereal breeding company in Australia,

which has made Roseworthy the centre of its national operations.

The last link in the chain is to develop a seamless transition of education from secondary school to TAFE, and to University.

"Secondary school students are already spending time on the campus using the 'field classroom' to bring science to life," Professor Hynd said. "It is envisaged that a permanent secondary school presence will ultimately be established at Roseworthy with an emphasis on science and agriculture."

The Roseworthy Open Day on Sunday 2 November will be held from 11am-5pm and will include exhibits, talks, food, entertainment and family activities.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Roseworthy – images from history

1885



Main Building

1908



Imported Saunderson Tractor

1922



Grandstand

1925



Mail Drag

1932



Tennis Team



A brief history of Roseworthy

Low agricultural yields and a reliance on imported seed gave impetus to the establishment of Australia's first agricultural college at Roseworthy in the late 1800s.

A growing population in South Australia meant there was also an urgent need for new plant varieties more suited to the State's climate and soils.

Roseworthy Agricultural College was established in 1883 and John Daniel Custance was appointed the first Professor of Agriculture.

The genesis of Roseworthy was Olive Hill Farm, a 335 hectare property purchased for six pounds an acre. Custance started a rainfall register, analysed the soil and acquired dairy cattle, sheep and pigs to make the farm self-supporting. He also planted a total of 180 experimental wheat varieties collected from five continents, 157 manurial substances and 520 types of fodder plants.

Despite modest beginnings, Custance set extremely high standards in the area of education, experimental work and research, which future principals were to emulate.

A measure of the high academic standard set was the inclusion of Roseworthy subjects in Agriculture, Viticulture and Oenology and associated practical work as part of the

Bachelor of Science offered by the University of Adelaide in the early 1900s. A formal affiliation between the two parties was reached in December 1905.

Despite the difficulties of drought, the Great Depression and the resulting decline in student numbers, the College managed to build a reputation as an important agricultural institution for research and education.

Cereal plant breeding received national recognition, as did the newly established Animal Research Unit, and significant advancements were made in farm, livestock, dairy, sheep and horse management.

After the appointment of Allan R. Callaghan as Principal in 1932, the College reaffirmed its role as a training centre for agricultural technologists and the relationship with the University strengthened. Graduates from Roseworthy could complete the B.Ag.Sc. in three years instead of four and University students spent the second year of their course at Roseworthy to get practical experience.

In 1936 the Diploma in Oenology was established and the success of that course and its graduates generated a lot of esteem for the College.

The onset of the Second World War

impacted on Roseworthy as a number of staff and students joined the armed forces. During the 1950s an appeal was launched and the Memorial Chapel was built to commemorate those who had died on active service.

In 1974 Roseworthy became a College of Advanced Education. There followed a significant increase in student numbers, staff and courses, with new programs in wine marketing, farm management, agricultural husbandry and natural resources.

Informal discussions between the College and University started in 1988 regarding a formal partnership between the institutions. In 1991 the College merged with the University and became known as the Roseworthy Campus.

In 2007 the University received State and Federal Government approval for the State's first veterinary school, to be established at Roseworthy, with 47 students enrolling in the inaugural 2008 intake.

Roseworthy Campus's strengths today are in dry land agriculture, animal science, plant breeding, and environmental teaching and research.

Material sourced from University of Adelaide Archives volunteers.

1959



Football Presentation

1962



Royal Show Sheep

1970s



Sports Day

1980s



Computer Age

1990s



Botswana Minister Visit

5 gold medals 5 world records



Continued from page 1

Matt's swimming coach, Peter Bishop, said: "Matt's a real high achiever and he always aims to do the best that he can in most things, whether it's swimming, work or study."

"His ability to perform in the pool under high pressure is amazing."

"Every time he made it into a final in his events at Beijing, he always swam faster than the world record. That was way above our expectations."

The Dean of the University of Adelaide's Law School, Professor Rosemary Owens, described Matt's performance as "truly extraordinary".

"I know that many of us at the Law School – and right across the University – have been transfixed as we watched Matt during the Games coverage, and we have been in awe of his feats in the pool."

"Matt's achievement is remarkable for any athlete, and it will continue

to inspire us for a long time. To see him carrying the Australian flag at the closing ceremony was for all of us the perfect conclusion to the Games. We couldn't be more proud, and we wish Matt every success in his future athletic career and, of course, his studies in Law."

The Head of Media at the University of Adelaide, Associate Professor Mary Griffiths, said Matt's experience in Beijing would also benefit him in his studies.

"For a Bachelor of Media student and someone who's also the focus of intense media attention, the whole visit will have been quite instructional. Students and his teachers will look forward to hearing how media works in China, because Matt's coming back from Beijing having had an exceptional cultural and media experience," Dr Griffiths said.

"Matt's photographs and the interviews he's given have had

global distribution online. Global press is the place where an athlete can really distinguish himself as a preferred role model, as someone whom people want to admire and support, and as a great ambassador for the groups he represents. Matt seems to handle it all very well."

She said Media staff and students were also proud of what Matt had achieved.

"Matt became the face of Australia towards the end of the Paralympics. He's won the medals, the honour of being a top performer and Australia's flag bearer. We're really proud of his success – and the fact he always says he's a student at the University of Adelaide!"

Matt is registered with the University's Elite Athlete program, which helps students to balance their sporting and academic commitments.

Matt Cowdrey at the Adelaide Aquatic Centre in the lead-up to the 2006 Commonwealth Games

Photo by Calum Robertson, courtesy of Messenger Community Newspapers

■ Story by David Ellis

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Wednesday 8 October
Where: Eclipse Room, Level 4,
Union House

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- immigration and visa options for working in Australia
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- working for a Top 4 Accounting firm
- the value of volunteering and internships

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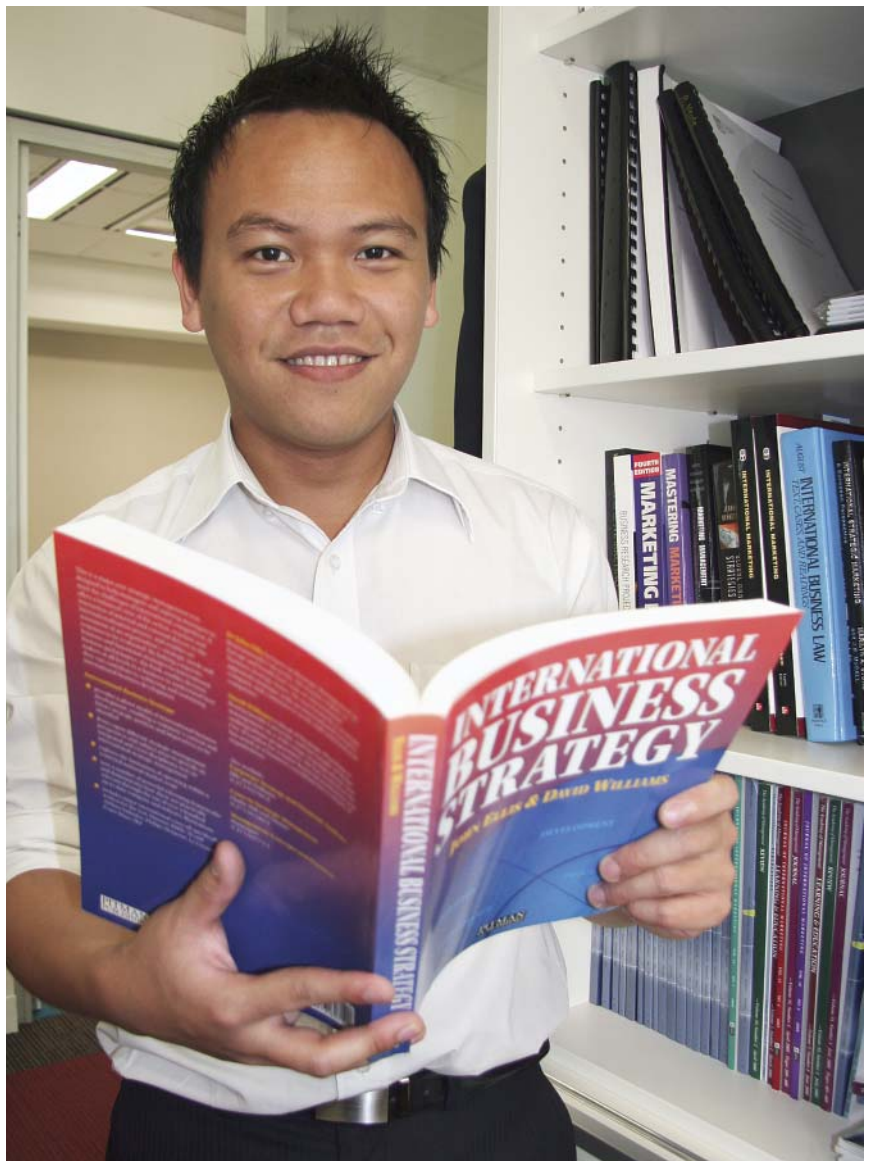
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Our latest export to America: business knowledge

■ Business



A PhD student in the Business School will fly to Washington this month to present a paper that could impact on the success of Australian service exporters.

Twenty-seven-year-old Vinh Lu has spent the past three years researching the key success drivers of Australian service exporters.

His findings could change the way Australian businesses operate in overseas markets as there is very limited knowledge available to help national service exporters understand the determinants of their international success.

"Australia-wide we've got around 2600 service exporters contributing more than 20% to our annual exports of goods and services, valued at approximately 45 billion dollars. We also account for 1.2% of global export of services but know very little about the performance of these firms," Mr Lu said.

He collected data from 254 service exporters around Australia, ranging from construction firms, to computing, IT, consulting and business, training and transportation businesses.

A \$2500 Mutual Community Travel Grant will help fund Mr Lu's United States visit, where he will present a paper to the American Marketing Association Frontiers in Service Conference in Washington on "Government Policies and the Export Performance of Service Firms". In this paper, he examined the extent to which the support from the Australian government and the policies imposed by foreign governments may impact the success of Australian service exporters.

"The findings indicate that the favourable policies by foreign government and the support from Australian government agencies have a positive and significant impact on the firms' commitment to their export ventures, which in turn determines the firms' success."

The doctoral candidate has also looked at a number of other key factors that play a large role in the success of Australia's service exporters. They include international experience, resource commitments, and foreign competition.

"Importantly I also researched how service exporters achieved

strong performance by successfully managing their business-to-business relationship with their overseas clients."

Almost 50% of the businesses he surveyed reported an annual turnover of less than \$10 million, although 10% of the respondents generated total income of more than \$200 million.

Just over a third had been in international business for more than 20 years and 55% exported their services to less than five countries.

Mr Lu is a third-year PhD student at the University of Adelaide Business School, supervised by Professor Pascale Quester and Dr Chris Medlin.

In 2007 his PhD project received an Honourable Mention in an international Business Marketing Doctoral Research Competition organised by Pennsylvania State University.

He has also presented papers on his research at conferences in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, and the Netherlands.

Above:
PhD student Vinh Lu

Photo by Candy Gibson

■ Story by Candy Gibson



From left:
Former Speaker of the House of Representatives the Hon. David Hawker MP, Hawker Scholars Eleni Watts and Katherine Radoslovich and the Master of St Mark's College, Ms Rose Alwyn, following the presentation of the 2008 Hawker Scholarships at Bungaree Station

Photo by Rosey Boehm

Hawker scholars honour a 70-year memory

Scholarships

“Each of these recipients has already displayed a strong commitment to the ideals upon which the Charles Hawker Scholarship Memorial Trust Fund is founded”

Two University of Adelaide students have been awarded the prestigious Charles Hawker Scholarships – the most generous privately funded scholarships available to university students in Australia.

The scholarships have been awarded to Bachelor of International Studies student Katherine Radoslovich and Bachelor of Laws/Bachelor of Development Studies student Eleni Watts.

Both are residents at St Mark's College, with funding from the scholarships paying for their accommodation costs. The scholarships are valued at up to \$60,000 over four years.

The two students were among 10 new Charles Hawker Scholars from five States to be presented with their scholarship certificates at a series of functions in August, leading up to the 70th anniversary this month of the death of Charles Allan Seymour Hawker.

The scholarship perpetuates the memory and commemorates the achievements of Charles Hawker, who was one of Australia's most respected pastoral pioneers. He

died in the *Kyeema* air disaster on 25 October 1938. Among the 17 others to perish when the *Kyeema* crashed into Mt Dandenong were South Australian wine identities Sidney Hill Smith, Hugo Gramp and Tom Hardy.

More than 100 people attended a 70th anniversary commemorative weekend, which included the scholarship presentation at Bungaree Station (near Clare), the birthplace and final resting place of C.A.S. Hawker. The event involved representatives of the Hawker, Hill Smith, Gramp and Hardy families, as well as the former Premier of South Australia and former Master of St Mark's College, the Hon. Dr John Bannon AO.

Since 1991, the Trustees of the Charles Hawker Scholarship have awarded more than \$4 million to 76 young Australians, including a significant number from regional areas. Of these, 32 Hawker Scholarships have been awarded to students from the University of Adelaide and St Mark's College, three of whom have gone on to become Rhodes Scholars.

The 10 successful candidates for

2008 were awarded the scholarship from a strong field of 240 applicants.

“Each of these recipients has already displayed a strong commitment to the ideals upon which the Charles Hawker Scholarship Memorial Trust Fund is founded. They are gifted scholars with inquiring minds and have already contributed to the wider community,” said former Speaker of the House of Representatives, Member for Wannan and Hawker family member, the Hon. David Hawker MP.

Mr Andrew Hawker, Scholarship Trustee and Hawker family member, said: “C.A.S. Hawker was a truly remarkable man and a great Australian. This scholarship is a fitting tribute to his memory and each of these 10 scholars is a very worthy recipient.”

Applications for the 2009 Charles Hawker Scholarships open on 1 December 2008 and close on 9 January 2009. An application form and further information is available by contacting the secretary to the Trustees on (08) 8127 1654 or from the website:

www.hawkerscholarship.org

Country students benefit from drought scholarships



Scholarships

“Our new Drought Scholarships recognise the hardship being felt by country families because of something beyond their control – the drought”

The University of Adelaide is offering \$250,000 in new scholarships to assist students in country areas whose families have been impacted financially by drought.

The new Drought Affected Area School Scholarships, worth \$5000 each, are being offered to secondary schools in regional areas of South Australia for students who will begin study at the University of Adelaide in 2009.

“Our new Drought Scholarships recognise the hardship being felt by country families because of something beyond their control – the drought,” said the University’s Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha.

“Unfortunately, many country families are disadvantaged because they are asset rich but cash poor, which makes it harder for them to support their children living away from home to gain an education.

“These Drought Scholarships will provide \$5000 for educational

costs, helping to ease the financial burden and providing educational opportunities for country students who need the extra assistance.”

Professor McWha said the new scholarships were being offered in 2009 in addition to the Principals’ Scholarships, which started two years ago.

Like the Principals’ Scholarships, students who receive one of the Drought Scholarships will be nominated by the principal of their school.

“The University has written to schools to invite principals to nominate a student for the Drought Scholarship,” Professor McWha said.

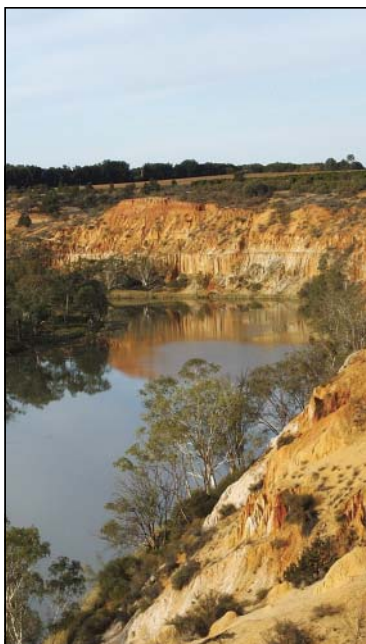
“Principals in country areas are in a unique position to be able to understand the pressures and difficulties facing students and their families. Thanks to these new scholarships, they are also in a unique position to help do something about it by nominating a student from their school.”

Unlike the Principals’ Scholarships, which recognise students who have demonstrated academic merit and community service, the new Drought Scholarships for 2009 recognise students’ and families’ financial need.

“The University of Adelaide is serious about growing educational opportunities for students in South Australia. We feel very strongly about providing these opportunities to students who are experiencing some form of disadvantage, and hopefully these new scholarships will make a real impact on students’ lives,” Professor McWha said.

More information about the new Drought Affected Area School Scholarships for 2009 can be found at the University of Adelaide’s scholarships website: www.adelaide.edu.au/scholarships

■ Story by David Ellis



Research Tuesdays – sharing great research with the community

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE

The Constitution and the Murray-Darling Rivers: Send in the Litigators?

Tuesday 14 October at 5.30pm, Professor John Williams

Can the Commonwealth wrest control of the ‘waters of the rivers’ of the Murray and Darling from the Basin States? In drafting the Australian Constitution in the 1890s the framers hammered out the relationship between the proposed Commonwealth and the States. One issue that exercised the minds of the framers for months was the rights over the interstate rivers. This lecture will outline how the Constitution divided up the rights over the rivers in 1901 and what options are available to the Commonwealth today.

Venue and Time:

Tuesday 14 October at 5.30pm

Lecture Theatre G04, Napier Building, North Terrace Campus. Duration approximately one hour. Admission free.

Bookings essential:

Email: research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au

Phone: (08) 8303 3692



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Life Impact | The University of Adelaide

Deputy Chancellor to mentor scholar

Scholarships



Law and Commerce student Glenn Smith was recently presented with a \$40,000 Order of Australia Association Foundation scholarship by the University of Adelaide's Deputy Chancellor, Mr Ross Adler AC.

Each year the Order of Australia Association Foundation (OAAF) sponsors several scholarships at selected Australian tertiary institutions to "recognise, celebrate and encourage outstanding young Australian citizens to realise their potential to be leaders in tomorrow's community".

Already a winner of a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship in 2006, Glenn was one of four national winners of the Foundation scholarship. Funding for this scholarship was donated by Mr Adler, who will also act as mentor for Glenn as he moves towards establishing his career.

OAAF national secretary Professor Brian O'Keefe said the award was made to Glenn in recognition of his potential as a future leader, his high academic achievement and his involvement in community affairs.

Glenn, from Rawnsley Park Station

in the Flinders Ranges, did his primary schooling at Hawker before moving to Adelaide to complete his secondary years at Pembroke School.

At Pembroke, Glenn achieved outstanding results in his International Baccalaureate and has maintained these high standards at university. He has also recently started studying for a Diploma in Languages in German, while continuing the strong community involvement established during his secondary years.

Glenn has career ambitions in the finance industry and more personal ambitions to spend some time working in the area of human rights, helping refugees.

"It's hard to express just how beneficial this scholarship is – it will help me in living away from home, help towards purchasing textbooks and other material for study and help pay off my HECS debt. But the major benefit of the scholarship will be in the valuable support from Mr Adler as my mentor in helping aid and guide me to reach my career aspirations – for that opportunity I am very grateful," Glenn said.

"The major benefit of the scholarship will be in the valuable support from Mr Adler"

Above:
Deputy Chancellor Ross Adler AC with OAAF scholar Glenn Smith

Story and photo by
Robyn Mills

Development & Alumni Events

Friends of the University of Adelaide Library

Event: Ochre and Rust. Dr Philip Jones will speak about how his award-winning book *Ochre and Rust* developed

Date: Thursday 2 October

Time: 6.00pm for 6.30pm

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

Cost: Admission is free: gold coin donation is invited

RSVP: by Tuesday 30 September to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 4064

Event: Arrested Motion and Future Mourning. Recently appointed Professor of Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide Professor Brian Castro will discuss hybrid writing as it covers skin and ideology, authenticity and tradition, form and reception.

Date: Thursday 30 October

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

Cost: Admission is free: gold coin donation is invited

RSVP: by Tuesday 28 October to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 4064

Entrepreneurship, Commercialisation and Innovation Centre (ECIC)

Event: Cocktail Drinks for ECIC Alumni

Date: November (TBA)

Time: 5.30pm–7.00pm

Venue: Bonython Hall, North Terrace Campus

Cost: Free

RSVP: email ecic@adelaide.edu.au or contact Karen Snook, phone (08) 8303 7422

School of Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design

Event: 50-year celebrations (1958–2008). For all graduates, staff and friends of the School, this special event will be an evening of fun, memories and a fantastic opportunity to renew old friendships. Why not contact some of your fellow students and make up a table?

Date: Friday 7 November

Venue: Auditorium, Adelaide Town Hall

For more information check the School website:

www.architecture.adelaide.edu.au

Alumni

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Adelaide alumni have access to a range of exclusive benefits, services and discounts – and each month we bring you the pick of the bunch for a featured special.

Special Offer of the Month: Aegean Tours

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Aegean Tours have put together two exclusive tours for Australian alumni of the University of Adelaide. You can take advantage of great deals to China in April 2009 and Greece and Turkey in May 2009 – but get in quick, because places are limited.

To access this offer, and check out the full Alumni Privileges Package, logon to: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/adelaideonlion





Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha with two of the scholarship recipients, Mechatronic Engineering student Christopher Lee and Veterinary Science student Stephanie Warwick

Photo by John Hemmings

Helping students realise their dreams

Scholarships

“My vision for the University of Adelaide is that it attracts the best and brightest students and helps them realise their dream”

To find out more about the 2008 Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships Appeal, or to make a donation, please contact:

Development and Alumni on (08) 8303 5800 or visit: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au

Four students at the University of Adelaide have this year received the prestigious Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships.

Announcing the 2008 Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarships Fund Appeal, Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said the scholarships would continue to give “four exceptional students the opportunity to attend the University of Adelaide each year”.

Entirely funded by generous donations from alumni and the University community, the scholarships support outstanding students who experience some form of disadvantage.

“All too often, gifted students are presented with financial obstacles to study – from the cost of moving away from home, to everyday living expenses, to the price of academic books, fees and materials,” Professor McWha said.

“My vision for the University of Adelaide is that it attracts the best and brightest students and helps them realise their dream of attending university, regardless of their financial circumstances.

“This is a cause I am passionate about – both as the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide and as a previous scholarship recipient myself. I know first-hand the difference that a scholarship can make.”

The scholarships are valued at \$5000 per year for the program of study. Recipients are selected on academic merit and financial need, with at least one scholarship each year awarded to a student from a rural or remote area.

This year’s recipients are:

Sarah Fletcher

Sarah, from Port Lincoln, is studying Law and Commerce because it will allow her to develop a wide range of skills and knowledge that can be applied to many industries and fields of employment. She said scholarships provide many students with opportunities they would not otherwise have. “University is a big financial burden for country students with many costs city students don’t have to cover, as well as the extra stress of moving to a new city and not having family support close by,” she said.

Christopher Lee

Christopher, also from Port Lincoln, chose the University of Adelaide to study Mechatronic Engineering because he felt it was the “best choice for engineering”. Christopher found the first few weeks at university a “bit overwhelming” but now, with lots of new friends, he is enjoying university life and living in Adelaide.

Christopher said having the Vice-Chancellor’s Scholarship had made university seem much less stressful: “It gave me one less thing to worry about and allows me to spend more time studying and enjoying my time here.”

Natalie Matthews

Going to university for Natalie meant leaving her home town of Whyalla. Without any financial stress because of her scholarship, she is thoroughly enjoying her time at University. “I feel privileged every day to come to a place like the University of Adelaide where I can learn in an encouraging and positive environment with great facilities,” she said. Natalie had a wide choice of options for study but chose Psychology because she loves being able to help people.

Stephanie Warwick

Stephanie, from Back Valley near Victor Harbor, was set to head to Perth to study veterinary science when the University of Adelaide established its new School of Veterinary Science. Stephanie grew up on a beef cattle farm where she was always interested in the animal aspects of farming. She said her family was very grateful for the scholarship. “My parents would have found it a real challenge to find the funds to support my study,” she said.



Main photo (from left): Tall Poppies of Science Dr Galen Halverson, Dr Megan Mitchell, Dr Catherine Gibson, Dr Tamath Rainsford and Associate Professor Corey Bradshaw

Above: Science Educator of the Year Professor Mark Buntine

Science excellence attracts awards

■ Achievement

“The laboratory environment offers unique opportunities for students”

University of Adelaide researchers and affiliates have been recognised for their science excellence in prestigious South Australian awards.

Professor Mark Buntine, from the University’s School of Chemistry and Physics, was named Science Educator of the Year at the State Government’s 2008 Science Excellence Awards for his outstanding contribution to student learning in the laboratory.

Professor Buntine has established a community of practice to enhance chemistry education in laboratories across the nation, with the development of a program called Advancing Chemistry by Enhancing Learning in the Laboratory (ACELL).

ACELL was founded by Professor Buntine and University of Sydney’s Professor Scott Kable nine years ago. The nationwide collaboration, led by Professor Buntine, provides a free public resource of undergraduate chemistry experiments and documentation with demonstrated educational benefit.

“The laboratory environment offers unique opportunities for students to develop understanding of complex and abstract chemistry,” said Professor Buntine. “Unfortunately, the potential has often been unrealised with laboratory activities offering little more than instructions to follow dull recipes.”

The title of 2008 South Australian Scientist of the Year went to Professor John Hopwood, Head of SA Pathology’s Lysosomal Diseases Research Unit based at the Women’s and Children’s Hospital. Professor Hopwood is an affiliate professor in the University’s Discipline of Paediatrics.

Associate Professor John Mulley, also from SA Pathology, who won the Excellence in Research for Public Good Benefit award, is an affiliate in the University of Adelaide’s School of Molecular and Biomedical Science.

The University of Adelaide is a partner in Marine Innovation SA which won the Constellation SA Award for Excellence in Collaborative Research. Marine Innovation SA is a partnership between SARDI, Flinders University, the University of Adelaide, SA Museum, seafood industries and regional communities focusing on research into the ecologically sustainable development of state fisheries, aquaculture and marine ecosystem industries.

At the Science Excellence Awards, University of Adelaide researcher Dr Tamath Rainsford (School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering) was also named the overall winner of the SA Young Tall Poppy Science Award, selected from 10 winners that included four other University of Adelaide researchers.

Dr Rainsford’s research is about applying mathematics to various real-

world problems, especially those that are medical or biological in nature. She has demonstrated how combining mathematics with the latest medical tools can potentially create new medical solutions.

The other University of Adelaide “Tall Poppies” are:

Associate Professor Corey Bradshaw (Research Director of Marine Impacts, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, University of Adelaide and SARDI) whose research aims to provide a strong scientific basis for justifying conserving biodiversity.

Dr Catherine Gibson (Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Obstetrics and Gynaecology) whose research is aimed at identifying possible causes for cerebral palsy, the most common major physical disability in childhood.

Dr Galen Halverson (Lecturer, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences) who aims to reconstruct the history of the Earth’s surface environment as recorded in ancient sedimentary rocks.

Dr Megan Mitchell (Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Obstetrics and Gynaecology) whose research in reproductive biology looks at how nutrition and the increasing age of first-time mothers affects development of the female eggs, and embryos.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

World premiere winds up tempo

Music

The ELDERHALL evenings 2008 concert season continues with the world premiere of *Brazilian Passacaglia* by young Adelaide composer Aaron Kenny.

Showcasing the award-winning Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra directed by Bob Hower, the concert, Connections, will be performed in the historic elegance of Elder Hall.

Aaron said he was thrilled and honoured to have his work performed. "To have a professional-grade ensemble like the Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra playing one of my compositions is amazing. It's very exciting and terrifying at the same time, like an emotional roller coaster," he said.

Aaron first fell in love with music at just five years of age listening to music on TV and working out favourite tunes on his grandmother's piano. Little more than 15 years later at just 21, he is completing his Honours in Musical Composition at the University of Adelaide.

He has already been a prize-winner, including the ASME (Australian Society for Music Education) Young Composers Award and the Sydney Eisteddfod. More recently he was nominated for a Young Australian Production Award in Sound and Music for his work on the feature-

length student film musical *Something About The KGB*. Aaron describes *Brazilian Passacaglia* as being "like a mini-concerto for wind orchestra" full of Latin rhythms, harmonies and colours.

The concert also features the talents of the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra's principal trumpet, Shane Hooton, in Richard Rodney Bennett's *Concerto for Trumpet and Wind Orchestra*. This includes an exquisite movement dedicated to Miles Davis. Bennett is also known for his film music including *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.

There will be favourites by Grainger and Stanhope, and the evening finishes with *Elegy* by Camphouse.

In November, the Elder Conservatorium Chorale and Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Keith Crellin, presents Purcell's only opera written in 1689, *Dido and Aeneas*.

In her book *Opera*, Susan Sutherland writes that Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* is "now recognised as a miniature masterpiece with melodies that are timeless".

This production will be performed in a semi-staged version with staging and direction by guest director Rob Croser. Artistic director of Independent Theatre, Croser most recently adapted and directed the very successful season of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.



Above:
Honours in Musical
Composition Student
Aaron Kenny

Photo by Claire Oremland

ELDERHALL evenings:

Connections

Monday 13 October 8.00pm

ELDERHALL evenings:

Dido and Aeneas

Saturday 1 November 6.30pm

Elder Hall, North Terrace Campus,
University of Adelaide

Tickets for each concert are \$25 (adult),
\$20 (concession), \$14 (student)

For more information and bookings,
phone (08) 8303 5925

*ELDERHALL evenings is generously
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