Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Joint forces in new battle to save water



From left: Associate Professor David Chittleborough (Earth & Environmental Sciences) and Professor Graeme Dandy (Civil & Environmental Engineering) toast the new Water Research Cluster

Environment

The interests of researchers, industry and the general community alike are being served by a new research initiative launched at the University of Adelaide, the Water Research Cluster

Water, a major geo-political issue with local, national and international resonance, is the theme of one of four Research Clusters supported within the university.

"In South Australia in particular, water has become a crucial community issue as the population begins to face the reality of water restrictions and higher water prices, while at the same time demanding that our rivers and water bodies be protected and restored," said the University of Adelaide's Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha,

at the launch of the Water Research Cluster last month.

The "cluster" concept is designed to build large cross-disciplinary teams with expertise to tackle big research questions and to enable University of Adelaide researchers to work more effectively with industry, other research organisations and the community.

The work of researchers early in their careers will be particularly encouraged through the Clusters.

"Clusters will be a forum for developing dynamic partnerships, making more effective use of our talent and resources, and creating even more innovative educational and training programs by building on cross-sector relationships," Professor McWha said. In the above context, the university's Water Research Cluster has the potential to benefit large communities.

It covers a wide range of waterrelated topics, such as impact of climate change, water supply infrastructure, water-efficient buildings, river ecology, river health, water recycling, and coastal management.

The Water Research Cluster draws on a long tradition of water research at the university.

Adelaide researchers have contributed to a dynamic water industry in South Australia, leading the world in innovative delivery and management of water systems.

Story continued on page 2

Adelaidean

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Editor's note

Sadly, this is my last issue of the *Adelaidean* as editor. Since taking on the role in the year 2000 the publication has changed in many ways – I would like to think for the better.

Today the Adelaidean is read by more people than ever, and not just within the walls of the university; people on buses and in cafes may be reading these words even now!

The aim of the Adelaidean is to spread the good word about the University of Adelaide, its staff, students and graduates. If each issue is just a glimpse of what the university is achieving, it should give you some idea of how much great work goes on here.

Thanks to all of the contributors over the years, thanks to my colleagues, and thanks to everyone for reading!

David Ellis





McWha's Words

I like the first six months of the year. It is a time to look afresh at the opportunities and challenges we are presented. It is also the time to start thinking about visits to the various schools, departments and units around the university.

While it's true that Vice-Chancellors always have openings and launches to go to, and speeches to give, I also like to have informal meetings with staff in their own environment. These meetings tend to be more frequent in the first half of the year because the pressures on everyone build up as the year progresses, and the opportunities to visit seem to get fewer. Over the past two years I've managed to visit every area at least once (and I'm hoping that none have been missed out – if they have, please get in touch with my office!)

Although I prefer an informal atmosphere at these meetings, the importance of such visits cannot be overstated, certainly not from my perspective. Being able to see first-hand the vast amount of work being done at the university is so much more tangible than reading a report about it, and it gives staff, postdocs and postgrads the opportunity to ask questions – and, in many cases, provide the answers.

What I take away from these meetings is something that many members of the public don't get a chance to see – an amazing level of expertise at this university, evidence of true enthusiasm for the work, and a sense that what is being done in each and every area is somehow of benefit and/or interest to the wider world.

Frequently when I visit an academic department I come across some gem of information. It is true that there is a great wealth of talent at this university, across all its campuses, the quality of which continues to surprise me. Now entering my third year at Adelaide I know these things shouldn't surprise me anymore, but they do.

We need to have as one of our priorities informing the community – whether that be industry, professions or the general public – about the quality of our work and the contribution the University of Adelaide makes to our community and society as a whole.

This not only refers to research but also our teaching. The new teaching year has just begun, and thousands of new students have commenced their educational experience with the University of Adelaide. Many more thousands are continuing their experience with us. I'm filled with great pride for the individuals and teams of people working hard to make it all happen. These include both academic and general staff, and the many volunteers and students who also help out in a variety of ways.

Universities are such complex organisations; if it weren't for all of these people, there would be no gems of discovery, no challenging viewpoints, no enrolment of new students, no future for our society.

2005 will bring us many challenges and opportunities. As we take the time to work through everything that is presented to us, let's also take the time to show others at the university and the wider community why we are proud to be a part of the University of Adelaide.



JAMES A. McWHA

Joint forces in new battle to save water



continued from page 1

Academics from the Cluster have already made a difference to water research in Australia through such projects as:

- identifying the impact of human activities on coastal Australia;
- assisting the Murray Darling Basin Commission identify how much water the River Murray needs;
- reducing the costs of installing piped irrigation systems to replace channels in the Riverland; and
- devising soil treatments to reduce loss of nutrients from catchments.

"The Water Research Cluster has the capabilities and resources to have an even greater impact in the future

on our lives and our environment, and as well as on those of our neighbours in the Asia-Pacific region," Professor McWha said.

"For example, the Cluster already has links with the Centre for Water Supply and Drainage at the Harbin Institute of Technology, China.

"The provision of clean water supply is a major issue in China, where it is not possible in many cities to drink water out of the tap without first boiling it."

The other University of Adelaide Research Clusters are: Healthy Ageing, Healthy Development, Defence and Security.

Story by Howard Salkow & Sukhmani Khorana

Eve to tempt concert goers



Eve Vocal Trio (from left): Greta Bradman, Emma Horwood and Christie Anderson



A mix of international performers and high-quality local talent will be on display when the popular Elder Hall Lunch Hour Concert Series returns to the University of Adelaide this month.

The lunch hour concerts, held every Friday during semester, feature an eclectic mix of chamber music, orchestral repertoire, recitals and jazz.

The first concert of the 2005 program features the internationally acclaimed Australian String Quartet (ASQ), quartet in residence at the University of Adelaide's Elder School of Music.

To be held on Friday, March 4 in Elder Hall at 1.10pm, the opening concert features five internationally acclaimed musicians; the ASQ will be joined by Melbourne-based pianist Benjamin Martin to perform Schumann's much-loved *Piano Quintet Op.44*.

Ensembles making their debut in the series include Caliente, Eve Vocal Trio and the Southern Cross Soloists. In addition there will be performances by the Elder School of Music's major orchestral ensembles and many of its staff and students.

Caliente specialise in Brazilian music and for their concert on March 11 they will perform contemporary and traditional songs and choros. The ensemble is flamboyant and colourful, and uses an extensive range of percussion.

Eve Vocal Trio features three outstanding singers who are all graduates of the Elder School of Music. For their concert on April 15 three musicians from the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) will join them. Their program includes some stunning new compositions by leading Adelaide composers.

Southern Cross Soloists are ensemble in residence at the Queensland Conservatorium, where its members also teach. Led by Paul Dean, one of Australia's leading clarinettists, the program features familiar repertoire which has been arranged to specifically suit the unusual instrumentation of the ensemble.

Other highlights include a performance of Beethoven's *Violin Concerto* with Natsuko Yoshimoto (leader of the ASQ) as soloist with the Elder Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra on June 3 and a

performance of Peteris Vasks's *Violin Concerto* with Margaret Blades (leader of the ASO) as soloist with the Elder Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra on June 17.

The concerts will be held in Elder Hall every Friday at 1.10pm from March 4 until June 17. Admission is \$5 and tickets are available at the door from 12.30pm on the day of each concert.

Special subscription passes are also available for \$60. For more information or to obtain a detailed brochure contact the Concert Office on (08) 8303 5925.

For full program details visit: www.music.adelaide.edu.au

Story by Alison Beare & Ben Osborne

Early-warning weather radar on uni grounds



Physics

The University of Adelaide will house the first of Australia's technologically advanced weather radars

To be developed on university land at Buckland Park north of Adelaide, the new radar is expected to be operational by mid 2005.

"This is the first of six new Doppler radars as part of the Federal Government's \$62 million five-year commitment to replace less powerful meteorological radar systems throughout Australia," said Mr Greg Hunt, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

"The improved quality of data provided by Doppler radars allows better detection and improved forecasting of severe weather patterns including severe thunderstorms capable of producing large hailstones, heavy rainfall, damaging winds and tornadoes.

"It will enhance the Bureau of Meterology's ability to identify major storms affecting central South Australia, and should increase the warning times directed to the community in the event of severe weather conditions," he said.

University of Adelaide Professor of Physics Robert Vincent said the new radar data would also be valuable in supporting the university's research programs.

"The site is currently used for atmospheric physics research and the addition of the new radar data will be a major benefit to researchers in better understanding weather patterns," Professor Vincent said.

The Bureau's existing radar at Sellicks Hill, some 60km south of Adelaide city and at more than 300 metres above sea level, is suitable for general weather surveillance but is not ideal as a Doppler radar site.



"The new radar will mean better monitoring of weather fronts as they travel up from the Southern Ocean and across the Yorke Peninsula and improved radar-derived rainfall estimates across catchments in the Mount Lofty Ranges - vital as we continue to experience drought conditions," said South Australian Senator Alan Ferguson, who jointly

announced the new radar with Mr Hunt and Professor Vincent.

"Improvements in short-term forecasting services, including better tracking of wind changes, will also be a significant bonus for aviation, marine and bushfire fighting communities across the greater Adelaide region."



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University of Adelaide engineering graduate Dr Andy Thomas is currently preparing for his latest voyage to space.

Dr Thomas will be a mission specialist, joining six other crew members aboard the NASA space shuttle *Discovery*. *Discovery* will be the first shuttle to return to space since the *Columbia* disaster in 2003, with an expected launch in either May or June this year.

Dr Thomas was a late addition to the crew, and brings with him experience from three previous shuttle missions as well as a long stint in orbit aboard the Russian *Mir* space station.

In an interview on NASA's website, Dr Thomas said a "positive legacy" had to come out of the *Columbia* accident, and his assignment to the *Discovery* crew was an "unexpected privilege".

"I don't know of any [astronauts] that would say that their passion for human space flight has in any way been diminished by [the *Columbia*] accident. It's perhaps given us a sense of resolve, more than anything else, to continue," he said.

Dr Thomas repeated earlier calls for Australians to get involved in space flight, saying: "the resolve of people... has not been diminished in Australia for human space flight, and there is a growing group of people – young people, mostly – who really believe that Australia should become involved in space exploration; that it's actually in Australia's long-term best interest to do that".

"And I hope that those young people and other people in Australia will look at my role on this flight that, although I'm not formally representing the country, it does show what can be done and that it might inspire others, a new generation in Australia, to step up to the challenges of human space exploration."

For the full interview with Dr Thomas, and updates on his shuttle mission, visit the NASA website: http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/home/index.html



Engineering

... Andy Thomas scholar launches into study



Simon Uppill has gone from constructing intricate paper planes as a boy to being the Andy Thomas Scholar for 2005.

The 17-year-old was recently announced as the latest winner of the prestigious scholarship, which is awarded for academic excellence to a new student undertaking Mechanical, Mechatronic or Aerospace Engineering. Other criteria include leadership qualities, career aspirations and involvement in the community.

It is named after one of the university's most prominent graduates, NASA astronaut Dr Andy Thomas. The scholarship pays for all tuition fees and provides the recipient with an annual allowance of \$5000

Simon went to Hawthordene Primary School and Blackwood High School, where last year he obtained a Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) of 99.95. He was also awarded the Campbell Award for the best-performed Year 12 student at a South Australian public school, and the OneSteel Award for the best-performed student in Physics, Maths and Chemistry.

He will now use the scholarship to study for a double degree in Mechatronic Engineering and Maths & Computer Science at the University of Adelaide.

"When I was a bit younger I did have an interest in flight and space, but I never wanted to be an astronaut or anything like that – it was more the idea of flight itself that interested me," he said.

"I used to make these complicated paper planes when I was seven or eight which I used to enjoy seeing fly, but now I'm more interested in the mechatronic engineering field and using computers"

Simon is also a talented athlete, and is currently the Australian champion for his age group in orienteering – a sport he enjoys because it tests him physically and mentally.

"It's more than being able run fast, and it's more than being able to read a map and navigate your way around an unknown area safely and quickly – it's a combination of both," he said.

Simon is among the thousands of new students studying at the University of Adelaide this year.

Story by Ben Osborne

Top guns of science attracted to Adelaide



The University of Adelaide's respected research capabilities have been significantly enhanced by the appointment of three of the world's brightest young scientists.

The scientists are Professor Tanya Monro, who will focus on photonics research; Professor Diane Mather, a world leader in plant breeding; and Professor Alan Cooper, who will bring a biotechnology focus to the evolutionary biology research unit in Adelaide.

"We are proud to attract to South Australia brilliant, innovative minds that will invigorate our intellectual life and provide leadership in key areas of importance for economic development," said Professor Peter Rathjen, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Sciences, University of Adelaide.





Tanya Monro

Professor Monro will help to establish a significant photonics research effort in South Australia, involving the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the university.

Considered to be one of the youngest academics to receive a Chair in Physics, Professor Monro, 32, has commenced her position as Professor of Photonics in the School of Chemistry and Physics.

Professor Monro has spent the past six years in Southampton, where she and her research team developed new technology for the production of a special type of optical fibre called "holey fibre" or "microstructured fibre".

Holey fibres contain an arrangement of micronsized air holes that allow the optical properties of the fibre to be tailored in innovative ways. Professor Monro's group were also the first to apply this holey fibre geometry to optical fibres made glasses other than silica.

"Optical fibres have made a huge impact in the telecommunications industry. One of the aims of our research is to develop new types of optical fibres that can be used for applications in other areas such as industrial processing, displays, biomedical sciences and beyond," she said.



Alan Cooper

Professor Cooper, an Australian Research Council (ARC) Federation Fellow, will link up with the rapidly growing evolutionary biology research unit in Adelaide, which involves the University of Adelaide and the South Australia Museum.

The Federation Fellowship has allowed Professor Cooper and his colleagues to establish an Australian Centre for ancient DNA research at Adelaide. He arrives in Adelaide later this year.

After briefly working in the US, Professor Cooper moved to Oxford University where he has been the Director of the Henry Wellcome Ancient Biomolecules Centre since 1999.

His research will investigate issues such as environmental change and how this relates to climate and human factors.

"The key idea behind [this] is to reveal how things have changed over time, so that current variations and events can be properly understood and interpreted," he said.

"For example, by studying the impacts of climate change on animal populations over the past 50,000 years we can much better anticipate what the effects of current climate change will be."



Diane Mather

Professor Mather has joined the School of Agriculture and Wine as a Professorial Research Fellow in the Discipline of Plant and Pest Science and the Molecular Plant Breeding Cooperative Research Centre (CRC).

Professor Mather is a world leader in plant breeding and her research has focused on mapping genes that affect economically important traits in plants, particularly barley

Previously a Professor of Plant Science at McGill University, Montreal, Canada, Professor Mather's research has included identifying the regions of chromosomes that encode for traits that affect grain and malt quality.

As a research program leader in the Molecular Plant Breeding CRC, Professor Mather will work with researchers in Adelaide, across Australia and internationally, to develop and apply new technologies for crop improvement.

"Adelaide provides an excellent environment for research in plant genetics and for the application of research outcomes in molecular plant breeding," Professor Mather said.

Story by Howard Salkow and Lisa Edwards



The youngest drivers are worse than the oldest. On average... one in every two drivers aged under 25 was involved in a crash

Older drivers get green light: study



The stereotype of older drivers being the worst on the roads may not be entirely true, according to a new University of Adelaide study.

Dr Matthew Baldock studied older drivers for his PhD at the university's internationally renowned Centre for Automotive Safety Research (CASR) and the Department of Psychology.

He found that by avoiding difficult driving conditions such as peak hours, rain and darkness, elderly drivers have far less crashes than their younger counterparts.

"The youngest drivers are worse than the oldest. On average, in South Australia, one in every two drivers aged under 25 was involved in a crash in the previous five years, compared to only one in five drivers aged over 60 during the same period," Dr Baldock said.

Now working as a research officer at CASR, Dr Baldock based his PhD research around the concept of "self-regulation" among older drivers.

Self-regulation can be defined as how, as they get older, drivers can modify their driving behaviour based on their own perception of how good they are behind the wheel.

Dr Baldock conducted a study examining the driving behaviour and attitudes of 104 drivers aged more than 60, and also analysed official South Australian crash statistics for the past five years.

"Overall, my studies showed that older drivers do engage in a degree of self-regulation of driving behaviour, and this self-regulation does have a relationship with driving ability – the more they perceive their ability to be declining, the more self-regulation they employ," he said.

"For example, older drivers with declining driving abilities tend to avoid driving at night and in the rain, because they feel they do not have the ability to perform these sorts of tasks safely any more.

"I also found that most drivers who reported driving less overall than they did 10 years ago did so because of changes in lifestyle, such as retirement. It is promising that many take the opportunity that this provides to avoid situations like night, rain, and peak hour."

However, there are still some driving tasks which older drivers show little self-regulation for, Dr Baldock said. These include such tasks as performing right-hand turns across oncoming traffic.

"Older drivers are over-represented in collisions in which they are turning right at intersections, and a number of drivers in the driving test had difficulty with right turns across traffic – yet this driving manoeuvre is very rarely avoided," he said.

Dr Baldock's study has possible implications for the way older drivers are assessed on their driving ability for re-licensing purposes.

"Because most older drivers remain safe by self-regulating their driving behaviour, mandatory age-based driving assessments are unlikely to be cost beneficial," he said.

"However, it is important to recognise that there are still some drivers who do not self-regulate despite deficits in their driving ability, and a small proportion of drivers who continue to drive when their ability is no longer adequate. A system needs to be in place to refer these drivers for assessment."

Story and photo by Ben Osborne

Graduations

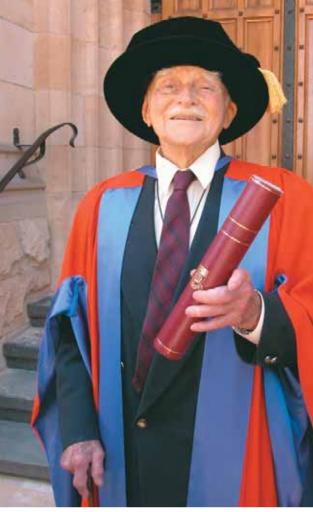
More than 3700 students graduated in stately Bonython Hall last December, with 12 ceremonies held across six days. Here are just some of the faces among the crowd of happy graduates to receive their degrees, diplomas and certificates from the University of Adelaide.



THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT: Bachelor of Design Studies graduate John Kearie gives wife Rebekah a kiss



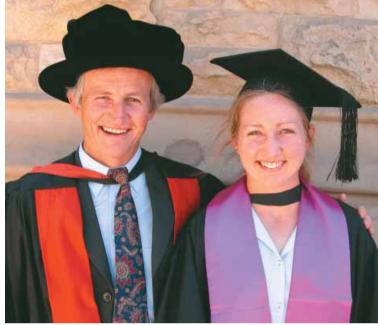
DOUBLE THE CELEBRATION: sisters Tania and Tricia Larking (above) both graduated in December... Tania (left) with an Arts degree, and Tricia with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Meanwhile, Nicole Santinon (right) received a Bachelor of International Studies and a Diploma of Languages!





HONOURED GRADUATE: sculptor John Stuart Dowie (left) received a special degree, the University of Adelaide's Doctor of the University *honoris causa*, for his contributions to the spiritual and artistic life of Adelaide, South Australia and the nation over more than 60 years





LIKE FATHER LIKE DAUGHTER: Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering Professor Colin Hansen (left) was delighted to see his daughter Kristy graduate with First Class Honours in Mechanical Engineering

OARSOME ACHIEVEMENT: Olympian and world champion rower Amber Halliday (far left) graduated with a Bachelor of Media degree



WINE WONDERS: Arthur Ray Beckwith (above, centre) received a special degree, the University of Adelaide's Doctor of the University honoris causa, for his contribution of the highest order to the development of the Australian wine industry. He is pictured here with winemaker and Deputy Chancellor Brian Croser (left) and Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha.

MEDAL EFFORT: Dr Sam Mickan (right), now a Lecturer with the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, received the Postgraduate Alumni medal for his outstanding academic achievement

Dream comes true for student



Medicine

Mount Gambier's McCusker family won't have to wait too long to welcome another medical doctor into the fold.

In a perfect case of like father, like son, Robert McCusker is following in his father Dr Barney McCusker's footsteps by studying Medicine at the University of Adelaide. And the rural community of Mount Gambier will no doubt be hoping that on completion of his studies, Robert will return home to practise, where Dr McCusker is now a highly respected orthopaedic surgeon.

For Robert, this is a dream come true. On receiving his offer from the university's Medical School, the Mount Gambier High School graduate said he always wanted to study medicine and practise in the country.

"My first reaction was one of disbelief. After completing the admissions process and seeing all the exceptionally smart kids applying, I had my doubts," he said. "I'm extremely excited and I cannot wait to get started.'

Robert will be joined in Adelaide by twin brother Doug, who will be undertaking a Bachelor of Design Studies.

In doing Year 12 over two years, Robert achieved a Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) of 98.7. He was among the growing number of the nation's



top students who applied to study medicine in Adelaide. This year, the Medical School attracted applications from a record 2038 school leavers from across Australia.

"Our national program is highly regarded and this is evidenced by the increasing number of applications from across the country each year,"

said Professor Derek Frewin, Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Of those who received first-round offers, 10 had perfect scores while the overall average TER was 99. Medicine remains a popular profession among females, who occupied 60% of the applicant pool. Story by Howard Salkow

The 2005 AWJones Oration **Every School's**

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Emeritus Professor Freda Briggs University of South Australia



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• GOETHE SOCIETY • Alliance Francaise

Thursday 17th March

Time: 19.30 presenter

Dr. Engelhard Weigl

Senior Lecturer, Dept of German University of Adelaide

'Franz Kafka' The Genesis of an Author

Kafka is one of the most important writers of the 20th century

Thursday 14th April

Time: 19.30

- presenter -

Jean Pocet

Head of cultural & scientific section **Embassy of France, Canberra**

'Hector Berlioz' Berlioz, Shakespeare and Romanticism

Hector Berlioz is a very important composer of the 19th century

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(entrance off Porter Street) there is ample parking behind the building Entry: non-members \$10 (concession \$5) Coffee & Tea provided

to view our monthly programme: http://oac.schools.sa.edu.au/ goethe/gg.htm OR www.af.org.au



Secret's out on latest **Guild production**



Theatre

Robbie MacFarlane, a second-year student at the University of Adelaide's Elder School of Music, already has extensive opera and choral experience, with promise of more to come.

The 18-year old was part of the chorus of the recent Adelaide production of Wagner's epic Ring Cycle, and will now play tenor in the University of Adelaide Theatre Guild's upcoming production The Wonder: A Woman Keeps a Secret by Mrs Centlivre.

Currently a member of Adelaide Voices and the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Robbie said singing with more seasoned performers had been a good learning experience for him.

"I've learnt a lot about performance techniques from these great singers," he said.

An important aspect of Robbie's success is the tutelage of Keith Hempton, the Head of Vocal Studies at the Elder School. In addition, the relaxed atmosphere at the university's renowned School of Music has helped him advance in his career despite his young age.

"The Elder School is a good place for young singers to start - it is less competitive here than at similar institutes in other Australian cities, and therefore we're a more close-knit group, Robbie said.

The other two singers in The Wonder, Norbert Hohl and Laurence Leong, are former students of the School and also performed in The Ring Cycle.

Music plays an important role in the Theatre Guild's forthcoming play, making Robbie excited at being a part of it.



"The music of the play is reflecting what the characters are thinking, and would make the play a total piece of theatre as it would have been in the early 1700s," he said.

The Wonder was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane in 1714. Susanna Centlivre was one of the most popular and prolific playwrights of the early 18th century, and The Wonder was considered her masterpiece. The story revolves around two women, Donna Violante and Donna Isabella, and their dilemmas with love, marriage, and jealousy.

"The music complements the mood of love and mistrust in the play, while the poetry of the songs adds to the overall drama," Robbie said.

Music student Robbie MacFarlane will lend his talents to the first Theatre Guild performance of the year Photo by Ben Osborne

Directed by Alex Kirk, the cast includes David Adams, June Barnes, Hal Bruce, Warwick Cooper, Glen Christie, Marlon Dance-Hooi, Rachael Evely, Phil Grummet, Philip Lineton, Ewart Shaw, Emily Smith, Ann Weaver and Bob Weaver. The prologue will be read by John Edge.

The Wonder will be performed as a moved reading for one night only at the university's Little Theatre at 7pm on Thursday, March 17. All tickets are \$5 and are available from the Theatre Guild on (08) 8303 5999.

Story by Sukhmani Khorana

Dental School, The University of Adelaide

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Cherie says hi to Adelaide

Adelaide's role in the childhood of British Prime Minister Tony Blair received a mention recently by none other than Mr Blair's wife. Cherie.

Mrs Blair – described by *Forbes* magazine as the most powerful woman in the United Kingdom and the 12th most powerful woman in the world – was on a speaking tour in Australia and New Zealand last month to promote her new book and to help raise funds for the Children's Cancer Institute Australia.

Mrs Blair's tour included Adelaide, which was the first time she had visited the city.

During her speech at the Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Mrs Blair showed photos of a young Tony at play and with his family in the Adelaide suburb of Dulwich.

Tony Blair spent three years of his early childhood in Adelaide while his father, Leo, was a Law lecturer at the University of Adelaide. He lived just a few kilometres from the university in Ormond Grove, Dulwich, one of Adelaide's inner eastern suburbs, from 1955 to 1958.

Mrs Blair said her husband was only a pre-schooler at the time and "can't remember a thing about Adelaide". However, she said his time in Adelaide had obviously had an important impact on the young Tony whether he knew it or not, attributing Mr Blair's "love for the sun" to his childhood years in Australia.

Mrs Blair's book, written under her maiden name, Cherie Booth, and co-authored by Cate Haste, is called *The Goldfish Bowl: married to the Prime Minister*.

Story by David Ellis

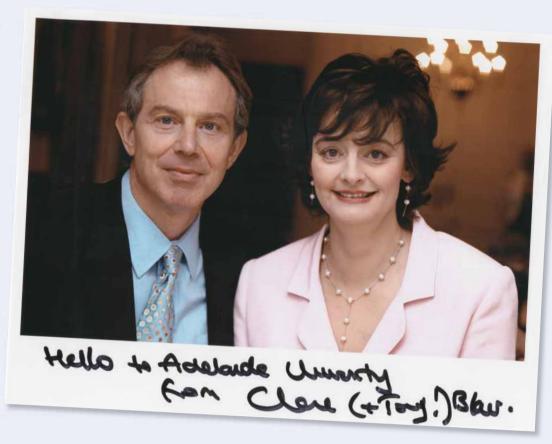


Photo courtesy of Cherie Blair

Which country will you graduate in?



The University of Adelaide's first series of graduations for 2005 will be held this month in Malaysia, Hong Kong and Singapore.

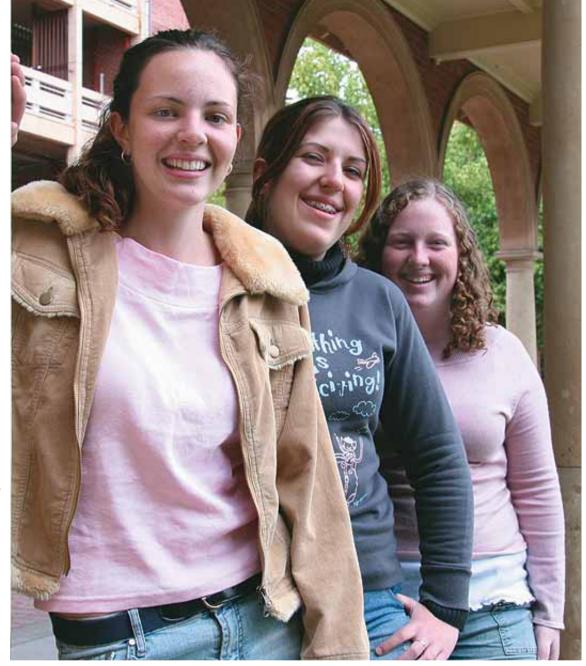
There will be a total of four graduation ceremonies across the three countries, with two ceremonies to be held in Singapore for the first time due to increasing student numbers.

More than 160 students will graduate at the ceremonies.

Country	When	Who	Where
Malaysia	1pm Saturday, March 12	All faculties	Hotel Nikko, 165 Jalan Ampang, Kuala Lumpur
Hong Kong	4pm Sunday, March 13	All faculties	Grand Hyatt Hotel, 1 Harbour Road, Hong Kong
Singapore	2pm Saturday, March 19	Schools of Engineering; Professions (AGSB, Architecture, Law); Faculty of Sciences	Ngee Ann-Adelaide Education Centre, 97 Tank Road, Singapore
	2pm Sunday, March 20	Faculty of Health Sciences (Dental & Medical Schools); Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences; School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences; Professions (Commerce, Economics, Education)	

In addition to the ceremonies, a Friends and Benefactors event will be held in each country:			
Malaysia	Friends and Benefactors Breakfast, 8.30am Friday, March 11, Hotel Nikko		
Hong Kong	Friends and Benefactors Dinner, 6.30pm for 7pm Sunday, March 13, Dynasty Club		
Singapore	Friends and Benefactors Breakfast, 8.30am Friday, March 18, Novotel Clarke Quay		

Next year's hopefuls taste campus life



Future Students

The University of Adelaide has once again shown its commitment to inform school students about tertiary education through the 2005 Senior School Orientation Day organised for Glenunga International High School.

The Orientation Day, held last month at the university's North Terrace Campus, included information on various academic programs and university life, as well as providing campus tours to prospective students.

Among the numerous Year 12 students who visited the campus were Olea Corcoran, Sarah Burrow, Candice Bergin, and Nick Zaglyodnov. They all aspire to visit the same campus next year, but as undergraduate students enrolled in different courses at the University of Adelaide.

While Olea is interested in taking up a program in "special needs teaching", Sarah is keen on the arts and languages. Nick has his future well planned, with the intention to get into a three-year undergraduate program in Design Studies, and subsequently study Architecture or Interior Design.

According to Candice, who has recently returned from an exchange program in Japan, the University of Adelaide's North Terrace Campus is the most convenient for her among the three South Australian universities.

"I want to do a double degree, and Adelaide Uni is the most convenient as I could do both Medicine and Japanese without having to travel and change campuses," she said.

Olea, Sarah and Nick seemed impressed with the good reputation of the University of Adelaide, thereby making it their first choice.

"I've been told that this university has very good lecturers, and also a very enjoyable campus life," Sarah said.

"The University of Adelaide has a lot of history behind it, and also nicer buildings," Nick said.

A large group of Glenunga's Year 13 students, including Michael Tormet and Bess Williams, also visited the university and participated in a number of orientation sessions related to their future courses of study.

While Michael is interested in pursuing Medicine ("The uni has a pretty good reputation, and the Medicine program here is amongst the best"), he would be equally pleased to get a place in Aerospace Engineering if he does not manage the requisite scores for the medical degree. Bess seemed quite certain about her choice of study, which is the Media program at the University of Adelaide.

Michael has been gathering information about study options at the University of Adelaide since he was in Year 10, and said the university's Open Days and orientation sessions for school students were useful. Glenunga International High School students (from left) Sarah Burrow, Candice Bergin and Olea Corcoran Photo by David Ellis

Bess has heard that the Media program at Adelaide is quite comprehensive, and gathered more course details from the Media seminar she attended during the Orientation Day.

"I am interested in a course that covers media as a whole, and not just journalism, which is why I want to do the Media degree at the University of Adelaide," she said.

The Orientation Day was organised by Miss Mary Brownlee, Senior Lecturer in the university's School of Education. Miss Brownlee acknowledged all the staff – academic, administrative and general alike – who gave up their time to help make the day a success for the Glenunga students.

Story by Sukhmani Khorana

Olivia takes Adelaide to the world





Comment

Miss World Australia and University of Adelaide Gastronomy student Olivia Stratton has been busy spreading the word about Adelaide and Australia to the rest of the world.

In the *Adelaidean's* first comment piece for 2005, Olivia tells us about her experiences and her new role.

I believe food, wine, art and language provide such a wonderful reflection of culture.

My international qualifications have helped me to truly realise and embrace culture in my life and career. The global contacts and support I have acquired through my studies, work and travels have enabled me to gain the knowledge and confidence to take on any challenge but most importantly to live my dream.

I have recently completed my 12-month full-time position as Miss World Australia, after being chosen from over 500 contestants nationally to represent my country at the biggest international pageant, Miss World. It was a great honour to be voted and win the international title of 'Miss World People's Choice' in front of an audience of over two billion viewers in 120 countries; the largest annual televised event in the world!

One of the many highlights from my year as Miss World Australia was my world tour. During this time I was chosen as the International Ambassador for the Sauchin Project in Shanghai for four weeks, working with industry representatives and media from both Asia and Australia to promote South Australian food, wine and tourism. From this position, as well as working closely with Australian embassies around the world, I have been able to

Miss World Australia Olivia Stratton (above) has been working to promote the benefits of studying in Adelaide. She played a key role as speaker and presenter at the Australian Universities International Alumni Convention in Hong Kong last December (on stage top, and left with former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke).

motivate others through education, understanding and combining our efforts to make a positive difference globally.

Now in my ongoing role as an Ambassador for Australia I specialise in public relations and as a professional speaker, working both in Australia and overseas. My expertise includes food, wine, fashion and education, with my ambassadorial position involving work alongside of such people as former Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and linking in with numerous and varied organisations, including corporate, government, cultural and charity groups.

I believe South Australia boasts some of the best food, wine and education in the world; this has provided me with a solid foundation from which I have launched into my international position as an Ambassador. While already being multi-lingual, I have also just recently started Mandarin studies to further expand my knowledge of the language and Chinese culture, which will greatly assist me with my work both in Australia and China.

Achievement can mean many things for different people, whether it be for someone to have the right and opportunity to an education or to be the CEO of an international company. I am very passionate about my work and will continue to aspire to one day being an Ambassador for the United Nations. Through hard work, determination and perseverance I believe dreams can become reality.



From law to laughter



Alumni

Shaun Micallef is one of Australia's most successful entertainers. He has succeeded in writing, producing, performing on stage, in movies and on television, appearing in such popular programs as *SeaChange* and *Full Frontal*.

This month, Micallef – who is also a Law graduate of the University of Adelaide – returns to Adelaide to perform with fellow comedian Glynn Nicholas in *The Pleasure of Their Company*.

The following is an edited version of an interview with Edward Joyner, arts writer for the student newspaper, *On Dit.*

EJ: Readers might not be aware that you actually have a law degree from the University of Adelaide, which I think you completed in 1983... I believe you also met some of your colleagues, like Francis Greenslade, at Adelaide University – do you have any memories of your time at Adelaide?

SM: Despite my efforts to obliterate most of them, I do have some trace elements of memory! I started at Adelaide Uni in 1980... The big memory is doing Footlights Reviews... we used to do about three shows a year. Each would run for about two weeks, and would follow exams... so about two weeks of rehearsal, then you do two weeks of actual show... and we'd do them in the Union Hall at the end of the year, and the other two shows were at the Little Theatre... it's about 100 seats I think, and quite a nice little theatre - that was my favourite theatre. Francis Greenslade, with whom I worked on television on many occasions, was also studying French at the time I think. and also Gary McCaffrie, who co-writes and co-produces a lot of stuff we do on television, he was there at law school about a year ahead of me... he sort of led me into Footlights, and then once we'd finished at law school, eventually let me into writing for a TV program on Channel 7. So those two guys have been with me for a long time, I've known them for over 20 years.

EJ: Would you say that Adelaide Uni was where you started out performing?

SM: Yeah, I think so. I did a little bit of acting when I was younger, I went to acting classes... but I wasn't very good, I'm not really an actor! At university I learnt how to write sketches and things, which is really what I'm still doing. It was that exposure to the audience at university... they laughed at a lot of stuff, and if they didn't you just cut it out of the show - it was a great test. A lot of people working on TV now have never had that experience, there doesn't seem to be that tradition anymore of coming from university review at all, it seems to be if there are any comics on they come from stand-up... and they can't string together a sketch or a character or anything like that, which is a great pity.

EJ: Your legal training must have been useful with shows like Welcher & Welcher (legal comedy), but how has it related to the rest of your work?

SM: Well I've always done both. I guess at university I was always studying law and finding time to do these reviews... to me they were always vaguely connected, so even when I went out and worked as a solicitor I was still writing and directing for Footlights, and appearing in them... and doing shows off-campus with university friends like Francis, and Alex Ward also – who is

now president of the Law Society! He's a good friend of mine, and we used to do many shows together... he remained in the legal profession, and I left. So even while I was working, Alex and I used to do radio comedy and cabaret shows... I used to write for Glynn Nicholas when he was on a show called *The Big Gig* on the ABC. While I was still practising I used to write it out by hand and post it off... so when I made the decision to come to Melbourne and write for TV, I'd always been doing that stuff... I think I still use the discipline I picked up in the law course.

EJ: Your delivery is very... deadpan. Do you think that stemmed from your law?

SM: Yeah, even when I see myself on TV now, I reckon I always look like a solicitor [laughs] who is dressed up in a stupid costume and looks slightly uncomfortable... I think that because I happen to have a voice that suits appearing in court, I've always got that with me, that's why I have that slightly uncomfortable look of "why am I here? Shouldn't I be sitting in an office?"

EJ: Do you miss living in Adelaide?

SM: Yeah, all my good friends are in Adelaide... I have two really close friends who I'd see a couple of times a year. I didn't leave Adelaide until I was 31, and I come back every year at Christmas time as my family is

still there... it's just unfortunate that Adelaide didn't have the television industry that seems to exist here in Melbourne. Even in Sydney, television is very Sydney-centric, but in terms of comedy, Melbourne is really the place to come – lots of supportive audiences, and lots of pubs around the place.

EJ: Speaking of Adelaide... your latest show, The Pleasure of Their Company, is the first theatre performance you've done in a while. isn't it?

SM: Yeah, it would be the first since I left. I did a tiny little bit of stand-up in Melbourne when I first started, but really I haven't done any since... we used to do shows all the time in Adelaide, indeed, much of the material I will be doing [laughs] so if you remember those shows... but yeah, it's been... 10 years. So it's quite significant, it's like an anniversary – it's been 10 years since I left, and really, 10 years since I performed in front of a live audience.

The Pleasure of Their Company will be held at the Adelaide Arts Theatre from March 12-20. Bookings available through BASS.

The Adelaidean thanks Edward Joyner and On Dit for this contribution

Try something different for breakfast



Radio Adelaide

Breakfast radio in Adelaide has a new face - and a slightly new flavour.

Radio Adelaide 101.5FM, the University of Adelaide's community radio station, has appointed Lisa Leong as its new breakfast presenter.

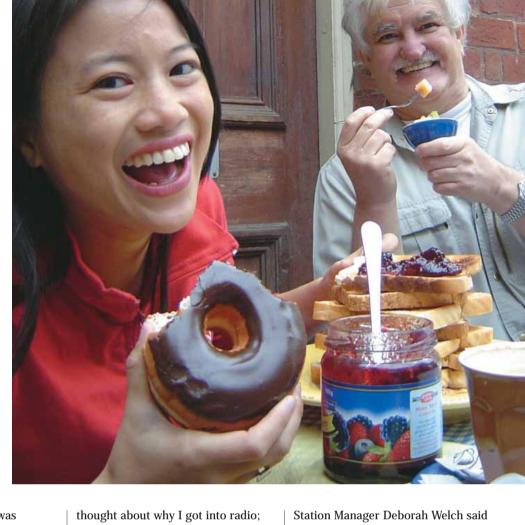
Ms Leong is now hosting the brekkie show on Radio Adelaide from Monday to Thursday, with volunteer presenter Jonathan Lucraft continuing to host on Fridays.

Originally from Melbourne, Ms Leong gave up a lucrative career as an intellectual property lawyer in London to pursue her love of radio. While in London she started working as a volunteer presenter with a hospital radio station, later finding work with other commercial and community radio stations.

"I got to a point where I decided that instead of giving all of my spare time to the law firm, I'd actually like to contribute more to the community," Ms Leong said.

"It was something that was missing from my legal life. I enjoyed the work and I enjoyed the team, and I really enjoyed my time in London as a lawyer. But it wasn't ringing true to me, whereas I felt that when I was doing this [working in radio], I was starting to feel like this was much more me.

Lisa Leong and Jonathan Lucraft might host Radio Adelaide's brekkie show on different mornings, but that doesn't mean they can't share a post-show breakfast Photo courtesy of



Ms Leong applied for and was accepted into the full-time radio course at the Australian Film, Television and Radio School in Sydney. She quit her job in London and moved back to Australia.

Before she had even finished the course, Ms Leong landed a job with commercial radio station Hot Tomato on the Gold Coast. A year later, she moved to Adelaide to become a latenight and weekend announcer for

and it was really useful... but there was an element missing. I often

it definitely was to do an interviewbased show," she said.

That means the Radio Adelaide job was perfectly suited to her, she said.

"It's an interview-based breakfast show, and I'm a morning lover, I'm not a late-night person at all.

"On Radio Adelaide you get to do seven interviews a morning, it's very challenging... but also I think my ideals are very similar to community radio ideals, which is to give people a voice who wouldn't otherwise have a voice in mainstream media, to always challenge yourself, to be innovative, and also to train people."

Ms Leong's appointment was a key one for Radio Adelaide.

"Audiences need to develop a relationship with someone, and our ever-changing, volunteer-based presentation in breakfast meant that the audience never quite got that connection. With Lisa in the role, and Jonathan, who's already quite well known to our audience, we can now build that relationship," Ms Welch said.

get a taste of the new breakfast show on Radio Adelaide, tune in on 101.5FM, or listen online at: www.radio.adelaide.edu.au

commercial station SA-FM. "All this time I was in commercial radio, I was picking up a lot of skills

101.5fm

radio.adelaide.edu.au



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