

Lumen

WINTER 2010

Big impact
on a small
island

LIFE IMPACT — THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

The *Lumen* masthead is derived from the University of Adelaide motto “Sub Cruce Lumen” — the light (of learning) under the (Southern) Cross.

Studying at the University of Adelaide means being part of a rich tradition of excellence in education and research, with world-class academics and a vibrant student life.

Our graduates make an impact on the world. **Life Impact.**



www.adelaide.edu.au/lumen

Message from the Vice-Chancellor

Each year, thousands of students graduate from the University of Adelaide and embark on careers that help shape their lives in a significant way. Some of these graduates go on to be world leaders in their fields, making an impact that spans the globe. The vast majority, however, work under the radar.

This month our cover story looks at the contribution that our graduates make at a local and community level. Most of the time they do not attract media headlines, but their impact is a lasting one. We're talking about accountants, health professionals, people who work on the land, in offices, laboratories, and with animals. They're our neighbours, children, friends and siblings, and their skills and knowledge directly benefit our lives.

We have used Kangaroo Island to illustrate the impact of a university degree, showcasing six of our graduates working on the island in different capacities. This example is being duplicated across dozens of small towns and communities in Australia and around the world.

Some of our graduates are spreading their wings further and risking their lives in the pursuit of their careers. Horticulturist Stuart Pettigrew left behind a comfortable existence in Sweden to help Afghani farmers become more profitable; and engineer Craig Stevens has battled life-threatening conditions in the Antarctic, all in the name of research. Both appear in this edition.

Other alumni profiled in this winter issue include a 32-year-old physical anthropologist who is working in the world's largest forensic laboratory; a diplomat who has just been posted to one of the globe's hot spots — Israel; and an inspiring young scientist who is helping to improve the health of Aboriginal women.

These graduates embody the qualities we seek in our students — outstanding, motivated individuals who are hungry to learn and contribute to society.

In order to meet national priorities for a more skilled and educated country, we are embarking on an ambitious campaign for more students. This translates to additional demands for space and resources, putting more pressure on our existing infrastructure.

Lack of space is one of the most critical issues facing the University today and as past students, you will appreciate the importance of a modern research and teaching environment to help students achieve their full potential.

Next month we will farewell our Chancellor of six years, the Hon. John von Doussa, who has done an outstanding job in this role, helping to cement the University's reputation worldwide. He will step down on July 25 to be replaced by the Hon. Robert Hill, a former federal Senator, Australian representative to the United Nations and also a graduate of the University of Adelaide.

We look forward to welcoming Mr Hill in the next two months and working with him to address the challenges that lie ahead.

JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

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Kangaroo Island animal health
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BIG IMPACT ON A SMALL ISLAND



For more than 130 years, University of Adelaide graduates have made an impact not only across the world, but, just as importantly, at a local and community level.

For this edition, *Lumen* looks at the contribution the University's graduates continue to make on such a community: Kangaroo Island. There are approximately 100 graduates currently living or working on the Island: from dentists and accountants through to environmentalists and those working on the land.

There are those who grew up on Kangaroo Island and returned after their studies; there are others who have recently moved there from a life on the mainland.

Together, their collective skills, knowledge and experience help to improve the Island's productivity, wellbeing and natural resources.

"University of Adelaide graduates have assisted in the development of KI in many areas, including health, tourism, agriculture, environmental science and education, to name a few," said Ms Carmel Noon, Kangaroo Island Council Chief Executive Officer — and also a former employee of the University of Adelaide.

"These graduates have brought a high level of skills and knowledge to the Island, assisting both private enterprise and government agencies, often exceeding expectations.

"The KI 'experience' exposes graduates to challenges that they may not experience on the mainland, which will hold them in good stead both personally and professionally with their future endeavours." ►

Left: Emu Bay, Kangaroo Island
PHOTO SEAN MCGOWAN



FROM THE CHAIR TO THE AIR

If Kangaroo Island's air charter services offered frequent flyer points, Dr Ashley White could have seen the world countless times over.

In the past 24 years the University of Adelaide-trained dentist has flown to KI on more than 1200 occasions to service the Island's residents.

Along with business partner David Leane, another University of Adelaide graduate, the pair run the Kangaroo Island Dental Surgery, the only private dental practice on the island.

"At one time or another we would have seen virtually every one of KI's 4000 or so residents," Dr White said.

The practice was started in the early 1970s when the Kangaroo Island Council enticed a University of Adelaide graduate, Dr Joe Ceravolo, to work out of a room in the council chambers.

"There have been some changes over the years but the practice has provided unbroken service in that time.

"I fly over to KI every week, spending two days there. It is very different from most people's daily work schedule and

you are away from family and friends, but there are many rewards.

"We deal with all aspects of dental work, including severe traumatic injuries, serious and rare conditions — all in one week in some cases. There is no specialist backup either, which people take for granted in the city.

"The Kangaroo Island residents are a resilient lot and tend to put up with far more pain than their city cousins before seeking help, so consequently we tend to see people with a lot more advanced state of disease than in the city. Also, the dental caries rate is higher due to the lack of fluoridated water.

"Despite these issues the residents are very appreciative of the help we can provide them and it's very rewarding work.

"There is no anonymity in a small community like KI so you rest on your reputation. I'm still there after 24 years so I must be doing something right." ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON
Above: Ashley White
PHOTO SEAN MCGOWAN



TO SUM IT UP, ISLAND

Living and working on Kangaroo Island adds up for accountant Leah Couchman.

After moving to KI with her family in 1994, Leah completed a Bachelor of Commerce (2000) and Bachelor of Laws (2003) at the University of Adelaide before returning home in 2005 where she is now a partner at Whitham and Couchman accountants in Kingscote.

Together with husband Ryan, she also helps run the family farming business located in KI's western districts — and in what little spare time she has left, enjoys being involved in local sport, playing netball and acting as treasurer for the Western Districts Netball Club.

"We run a sheep and cattle farm, and I handle all the accounts and do the physical work (when I can) on the weekends," she said. "I love living on our farm, although farming comes with its own set of challenges and rewards."

Leah said life as an accountant in a community like KI is vastly different to working for a big firm in Adelaide.

"The major difference is the characteristics of our client base — on



LIFE IS TOPS

Kangaroo Island, I know many of our clients socially," she said.

"On rare occasions this can be challenging, but usually it makes the work more rewarding, and there is always something new to learn.

"I enjoy living on KI because of the community spirit and the friendliness of the people.

"Some people might consider it isolating to live on an island, and in some ways it can be, due to the time, cost and organisation required to get to the mainland. However, if you are surrounded by great family and friends, what more can you ask for?" ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Above: Leah Couchman
PHOTO SEAN MCGOWAN



RURAL LIFE SUITS THIS ISLANDER

From managing properties with thousands of sheep, to helping fight the devastating 2007 bushfires, Agriculture graduate Tim Buck's life revolves around the land.

A fourth-generation 'Islander' from a family with a long farming history, Tim manages the family farm and a share farming property located approximately 20 kilometres and 60 kilometres respectively west of Pardana. Across the two properties, he is responsible for running about 5500 sheep and 90 cattle.

Tim graduated with a Bachelor of Agriculture from the University of Adelaide in 2005, having spent three years living on the University's Roseworthy Campus.

"The biggest things I got out of uni were the ability to source information, and the networking and friendships I made," he said.

"My university course was structured to make me learn how to find information for myself, who to ask and where to look — this is very valuable because time on a farm is precious and we need

to know the most effective ways to source information in the quickest possible time.

"I now have mates all over the country and it's not just the friendship which is important, but depending on what field they are now working in, they can be valuable sources of information."

Tim has been a member of his local Country Fire Service (CFS) for many years, with both his parents also being CFS members for a combined total of 50 years.

"I had a leadership role for the December '07 bushfires. It was a massive fortnight of organised chaos," he said.

"We had two to three weeks of 15–18 hour days of controlling and blackening out the four major fires across the Island.

"With both my parents being in the CFS it's always been a part of my life, and it gives me a great sense of achievement." ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Tim Buck with his wife Kate
PHOTO MIRANDA KENNY courtesy of the *Stock Journal*

KEEPING TABS ON KI'S KOALAS



Keeping tabs on KI's koala population is all in a day's work for Wildlife Management Officer Dr Robyn Molsher.

After completing a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Zoology at the University of Adelaide in 1991, Dr Molsher obtained a PhD through the University of Sydney and the Pest Animal Control Cooperative Research Centre.

She has spent much of her career working for the environment departments of South Australian and NSW governments, as well as a four-year stint as a research officer at the University of Adelaide under renowned environmental scientist Dr David Paton.

She arrived on Kangaroo Island in 2008 to manage the KI Koala Management Program, which commenced in 1997 in a bid to minimise vegetation destruction caused by high numbers of koalas.

Under the scheme, koalas are not culled but sterilised and/or relocated to the mainland while tree populations are stabilised. For example, in 2008–09, some 450 koalas were sterilised (with 192 relocated to the State's south-east)

and 2000 trees planted. The most recent survey has estimated the Island's koala population at 16,000, down from 27,000 in 2001.

"The program has been successful in reducing koala densities and improving tree condition in some areas," Dr Molsher said.

"I am also fortunate to work with a great group of people who are passionate about their work and conserving the unique Kangaroo Island landscape.

"Working on KI is different to previous places I have worked in, as it has a strong community presence and is also such a beautiful place in which to work and live.

"I enjoy the lifestyle here and the strong 'arty' presence as well — I now have a house full of paintings, most of which I have completed in the last two years since moving here!" ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Above: Robyn Molsher
PHOTO MICHELE WALTER,
Department of Environment and Heritage



A MARINE SCIENTIST'S

The seeds for Heidi Alleway's future career were sown early on in Kangaroo Island, where she spent her childhood in and around the sea.

It was a natural step for her to study the marine environment and in 2006, after graduating with a Bachelor of Science (Marine Biology) degree with First Class Honours from the University of Adelaide, Heidi secured work as a scientist with Primary Industries SA.

She was previously employed part-time by the Kangaroo Island Natural Resources Board as the Coastcare Facilitator, helping to establish a marine and coastal natural resource management program for KI.

"My aim was to raise the profile of Kangaroo Island's marine environment, provide information to the community, undertake field work and put in place rehabilitation projects," Heidi said.

"This was the first dedicated position focused on the Island's marine and coastal environment and it was the initial step in what has gone on to become a very successful program.



PARADISE

"This type of foundation is hard to replace and is at the core of small rural communities, which rely heavily on people who have a range of skills.

"Being a professional person within the community in which I grew up was incredibly satisfying as I could see the on-ground application of my studies and the value I was bringing to Kangaroo Island."

The lifestyle wasn't hard to take either — kayaking before work and being surrounded by one of Australia's and the world's unique marine areas.

"I've always been fascinated by the marine environment and have been very fortunate to see some amazing places and work in a rewarding field," she said. ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON

Above: Heidi Alleway
PHOTO SEAN CONNELL



WORKING ON KI IS THE BEE'S KNEES

Thanks to his Agricultural Science degree from the University of Adelaide, Andrew Ewers has assisted Kangaroo Island's primary producers on many fronts.

His qualifications have helped control the spread of both Johnne's disease and footrot among sheep; given him the confidence to form new groups for lamb producers and potato growers on the Island; and helped promote local products to the mainland.

Andrew's current role as KI's Animal Health Adviser involves working collaboratively with a small and isolated rural community to control livestock diseases and ensure animals are healthy.

But large animals are not his only domain — the thriving bee industry is also under his jurisdiction and part of his role is to inspect local apiaries on a regular basis to ensure they are free of disease.

Since graduating from the University's Waite Campus in 1986, Andrew has held a number of key jobs on Kangaroo Island, all focused on ensuring either the health of its livestock, or the profitability of local growers.

As KI's former Industry Development Officer, Andrew consulted with potato and olive tree growers, egg producers, marron farmers, crop growers as well as sheep and cattle producers on the Island.

"During the last 20 years I have been able to apply my degree across many agricultural industries on Kangaroo Island and taken on a wide range of challenges," he said.

"I know almost all of the primary producers and agribusiness personnel here. Being a small community it's really important to have my finger on the pulse. While resources are not as readily available as they are in the city, people use their initiative here and look outside the square to solve problems." ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON

Above: Andrew Ewers
PHOTO SEAN MCGOWAN





Bringing closure to a lifetime of grief

Some 36,000 Americans are believed to have lost their lives in the Korean War. Today, 8000 are still unaccounted for and an Australian is doing his bit to help bring them home.

Each day Dr Carl Stephan pores over dozens of chest radiographs in his Honolulu office on Hickam Air Force Base. The work is often monotonous and involves long hours of meticulous attention to detail.

But there is a flip side. The painstaking work can help bring closure to a lifetime of grief for hundreds of American families.

The 32-year-old physical anthropologist has enjoyed an impressive career since graduating from the University of Adelaide in 2003 with a PhD in Anatomical Sciences before accepting a lectureship at his *alma mater*.

In those days he worked on anatomical techniques to help identify murder victims from their skulls. Today he is a team member of the largest forensic anthropology laboratory in the world, tasked with helping to search, recover and identify fallen US personnel from the Vietnam, Korean, Cold and Second World Wars.

He works at the Joint Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Command's Central Identification Laboratory, known simply as JPAC-CIL, where he holds an ORISE Research Participant Fellowship.

"Part of my job is to develop and validate methods that will help identify individuals from the Korean War, using chest radiographs that were taken of the soldiers before they were deployed," Dr Stephan said.

At the moment, his focus is on approximately 850 individuals buried as 'unknowns' in the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (NMCP) in Hawaii.

Chest radiographs are being used because other, more popular biological

identification methods are not suitable.

For example, dental radiographs do not exist for the soldiers who fought in the Korean War and most of these individuals were too young to have any restorative dental work that would help in the identification process.

Also, some time before their burial in the NMCP, the human remains were treated with a formalin-based product, which cross-linked with the DNA. This makes it impossible to use DNA to identify these individuals, at least so far as current technology permits.

Chest radiographs therefore represent one of the last viable biological modalities for identification — and this is where Dr Stephan's skill comes to the fore.

"My goal is to match the anatomical morphology of the collar bones (claviculae) and neck vertebrae (C3-T2) of single skeletons to the chest radiographs. When I find some free time, I also help piece together the typical biological data that anthropologists usually determine from the skeleton — including sex, age, ancestry and stature, as well as any injuries that the person may have sustained," he said.

Dr Stephan is just one cog in the wheel of JPAC, which employs about 380 people, including approximately 30 other physical anthropologists. However, he is one of only four foreigners who have secured work in the scientific laboratory since its permanent establishment in 1973. ►

Left: Human remains arriving at Hickam Air Force Base prior to their transfer to the JPAC-CIL.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JPAC
Above: Dr Carl Stephan





Top: Analytical benches at the JPAC-CIL.
PHOTO DR GREG BERG, JPAC

Above: The headstone marking one Korean War 'Unknown' at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, Hawaii.
PHOTO DR CARL STEPHAN, JPAC

"US citizens are of course favoured, so as a foreigner you have to show that you have something to offer over and above other US candidates. In my case it took more than six years of hard work and lobbying for a job here before my persistence paid off," he said.

"In my experience, most of the hard work relates to CV building to show what you are capable of."

In the lead-up to securing work at JPAC, he published 30 scientific research papers, attended and presented at multiple international conferences, worked in a war zone to document skeletons from mass graves, and attained a variety of other lecturing experiences. These included a lecturing appointment at the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Queensland from 2006–2008, along with guest lectures at the Australian National University and Griffith University.

From the start of his PhD, Dr Stephan quickly established a research and publication track record which has paid dividends in securing these research and academic jobs in the intervening years.

"I would encourage any PhD student to publish their research in renowned journals and build a network of contacts through conferences and scientific meetings as soon as possible. Presenting your research to international audiences gives you an opportunity to show what you're made of and having your research published demonstrates that you're a finisher," he said.

JPAC deploys up to 72 recovery teams each year to some of the most remote locations in the world. In the past 12

months they have sent teams to such places as Vietnam, Cambodia, India, Korea and Germany.

Recovery-to-identification is a multistep process that involves historians, anthropologists, explosive experts, medics and photographers, among others.

Human remains are transported to the United States, and a complex identification process is undertaken in the scientific laboratories at JPAC's headquarters in Hawaii.

In 2009, JPAC-CIL positively identified 95 individuals, including 22 from the Korean War, 18 from the Vietnam War and 55 from the Second World War.

In the short term, Dr Stephan's goal is to refine and pin down the radiographic matching technique so that it can be routinely used to assist the JPAC mission.

"While we are still developing this method, early signs are promising," he said.

The first validation study of this procedure has just been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Forensic Sciences* and shows that radiographs from a correctly matching individual can be visually distinguished from radiographs of other (non-matching) individuals in samples as large as 1000 people and even when the size of the identification universe is not known to the analyst.

"This is a great windfall. The ability of radiographic comparison methods to obtain correct matches under such challenging conditions has never before been demonstrated," he said.

"From a personal viewpoint it's really satisfying to know what you are doing will soon be helping individuals and families in a truly meaningful way. From a professional standpoint, it is also great to see typographical human anatomy achieving results above DNA and other molecular techniques that are often portrayed as 'silver bullets' in the popular press.

"This just goes to show that human gross anatomy still possesses immense research potential and new practical applications."

Dr Stephan paid tribute to several of his lecturers at the University of Adelaide for invaluable training that led to his career trajectory, singling out Professor Maciej Henneberg and Dr Jeff Trahair from the Discipline of Anatomy and Pathology. ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON

HOT SPOT for new posting



Andrea Faulkner is Australia's new Ambassador to Israel. Just three weeks into the post, the University of Adelaide graduate spoke to *Lumen* about her time in Adelaide, her diplomatic career and her new role.

Lumen: Were you South Australian born and bred?

Andrea Faulkner: Yes, I was born and grew up in Adelaide and went to Cabra College. Most of my family is still in Adelaide.

Lumen: You graduated with a Bachelor of Music (Performing Arts) in 1987 followed by a BA (Honours) in 1989 and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1990. Was there a logical path to a diplomatic career or did it happen more by chance?

AF: It was probably a bit of both. My studies in French and Italian were useful. It is a long time ago now, but after several years at university I do remember being keen to try something completely different, in an

international context. To be honest, I don't think I actually expected to be accepted into DFAT (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), but I've certainly always been glad that I was.

Lumen: You are a Music graduate; are you still involved with music?

AF: Not nearly as much as I would like to be, but I'm always pleased to come into contact with music and musicians. Israel has a very rich music scene and I'm looking forward to experiencing as much of it as possible.

Lumen: Did you enjoy your time at the University of Adelaide and are there any particular memories?

AF: The thing I remember the most is the high quality of the teaching at the University of Adelaide. I will always be grateful to those teachers who took the time to open our minds and to share their considerable intellectual experience and strengths with us. It was a lifelong gift.

Lumen: How has your career progressed with DFAT and what have been the highlights?

AF: I've been very fortunate to have a diverse and mobile career in DFAT. Over the years I've worked in Canberra and overseas on a wide range of bilateral and multilateral policy areas, including on strategic and arms control issues, the environment, regional security, trade advocacy, consular work, and most recently on enhanced engagement with Africa. I've had three great overseas postings — in Hanoi, Paris and Tel Aviv — and now I'm very lucky to be back in Israel.

Lumen: What are the benefits and attractions — and difficulties — of a diplomatic career?

AF: One of the most rewarding aspects of a job in DFAT is the breadth of the issues we deal with on a daily basis, both in Canberra and overseas. Another is a first-hand appreciation of the strategic and security complexities many countries face. In promoting Australian interests globally, we get to engage on key foreign and trade policy issues, and in doing so meet some incredibly interesting people. It's also a good feeling to be able to help Australians wherever they are in the world.

Naturally there are challenges to uprooting yourself every few years and starting over — it can be daunting. But we have a strong and supportive network and these days it's so much easier to keep in contact with family and friends.

Lumen: You've previously served overseas in Israel — that must be of benefit in this role?

AF: Tel Aviv was a terrific first posting. I was Third Secretary so I did a bit of everything, with a particular focus on foreign policy issues. I learned many things which are helping me now, not least of which how to really appreciate the diversity and energy of Israeli society, and the robustness of democracy and debate in Israel.

Lumen: What does the job of Ambassador to Israel involve?

AF: My role will be to represent Australian policies and interests and to broaden and deepen what is a longstanding, strong and important bilateral relationship. That will range from developing current cooperation, to identifying areas where we could do more together, to working towards global and regional security objectives, and to promoting Australian trade and economic interests.

Consular support for Australians will always be a priority. I will also promote the strong linkages between our two countries, including the substantial and significant contribution made by Australia's Jewish community. My challenge will be to find enough hours in the day to do the job well!

Lumen: You became Ambassador in March 2010. How have you settled into the role?

AF: I arrived in Tel Aviv on 4 March and started work that day. Beginning in a new position is always a very busy time. It's been great getting to meet and talk with as many people as possible, to get a feel on the ground for the diversity and depth of the relationship, and what more could be done. I've been really touched by the warmth of the welcome extended to me. But there's still a lot to do and learn, and I'll be working as hard as I can over the coming few months. ■

STORY ROBYN MILLS

Closing the health gap

Despite improvements in recent decades, Aboriginal women are still suffering serious problems when it comes to their reproductive health, according to South Australia's Young Tall Poppy of the Year, Dr Alice Rumbold.



As a teenager growing up in Adelaide, Alice Rumbold's two loves were science and music.

An accomplished cellist and pianist, the former Marryatville High School student had to make the choice between the two when it came to her university studies. Science won and set her on a different path altogether.

"I have always been interested in science but I have applied it to a health perspective from day one," she said.

Now a senior research fellow in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the Robinson Institute at the University of Adelaide, Dr Rumbold's undergraduate science degree has led to a career in health research.

A desire to address inequalities in health has, not surprisingly, resulted in the 31-year-old working in Australia's most disadvantaged sector — remote Aboriginal communities.

"Indigenous people face health setbacks on a day-to-day basis," she said. "Sexually transmitted infections such as gonorrhoea and chlamydia are unacceptably high in Aboriginal communities, compounded by other health problems such as diabetes, polycystic ovary syndrome and obesity.

"These are all having a marked impact on the reproductive health of Aboriginal women, particularly in pregnancy outcomes.

"Infertility, pelvic inflammatory disease and ongoing pelvic pain are the end result of these health issues and the tragedy is that most of these conditions are largely preventable."

Dr Rumbold has spent the past five years working with Aboriginal communities since graduating from the University of Adelaide in 2005 with her PhD.

She worked at the Menzies School of Health Research in Darwin for several years, spending weeks at a time in remote Aboriginal communities, gradually building trust and respect among Aboriginal women.

"An enormous amount of effort and time is needed to establish a good understanding of Aboriginal culture and to break down the long-term distrust that some of these communities have of researchers," she said.

"You have to put in the time to establish good relationships and sometimes this aspect is not recognised by funding bodies, which are keen to see results as quickly as possible."

The upside is that Aboriginal health is a key priority of both sides of politics in Australia and there is a bipartisan commitment to address the appalling inequity.

In 2005 the *Close the Gap* campaign was born, calling on federal, state and territory governments to commit to closing the life expectancy gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a generation.

Dr Rumbold is tackling the problem on several fronts. Her research is helping to pinpoint why there is such a high incidence of reproductive cancers in Indigenous communities and how to better detect and manage sexually transmitted infections in these remote areas.

She still holds a joint appointment with the Menzies School of Health Research where she is also involved in developing resources for pregnant Aboriginal women. These include routine antenatal screening tests to detect Down Syndrome and neural tube defects.

"We are making headway but it is very slow. In the Northern Territory, the incidence of cervical cancer among Aboriginal women has decreased in the past decade, but it is still markedly higher than in the overall Australian population," she said.

"Despite a range of public health initiatives that have been introduced, sexually transmitted infections are also unacceptably high."

In 2009, Dr Rumbold was named South Australia's Young Tall Poppy Scientist of the Year for her groundbreaking work in reproductive health.

She hopes the honour will put the spotlight on Indigenous health and encourage more researchers — and Aboriginal people — to pursue a similar career.

"It is important to engage Aboriginal people in leadership roles in the health sector, particularly in research. However, to do this, we need to address the lack of educational opportunities that Aboriginal people face," she said.

"I'm also keen to convince young people that studying science provides them with a lot of scope for many exciting careers. You can travel the world, mix fieldwork with research and laboratory work and get the opportunity to make a real difference to individuals and communities.

"It's a journey of discovery." ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON



“An enormous amount of effort and time is needed to establish a good understanding of Aboriginal culture and to break down the long-term distrust that some of these communities have of researchers”

MAIN PHOTO ISTOCK
Above: Dr Alice Rumbold

GROWING PAINS in Afghanistan

Risking his life in one of the world's most dangerous countries, Stuart Pettigrew has used his horticultural expertise to help reshape an industry and the lives of thousands in Afghanistan.

Stuart spent 12 months based in the Afghan capital Kabul, away from his wife and two daughters, helping Afghan farmers — including women and even former members of the Taliban — produce crops more efficiently.

Stuart, who grew up in Adelaide, studied at the University's Roseworthy Campus and graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Natural Resource Management) in 1992. He began his career in the citrus industry, and after working for 10 years in Adelaide, Stuart and his Swedish-born wife decided the time was right to make the move to Europe.

"My parents ran a landscaping business, so I grew up around plants and outdoor work, and have always had a passion for growing things. It seemed natural that I would move into something to do with nature and the environment," he said.

“I think that life does not get any easier than being a white, educated male in Australia. I wanted to give something back after having a pretty easy run for so many years in my career.”

Stuart was reading *The Economist* one day in Sweden and noticed an advertisement for a horticultural specialist in Afghanistan. Three months after applying, he was living in Kabul, while his wife and children stayed behind in Sweden.

“That was without a doubt the hardest part. Seeing my family only every eight to 10 weeks was pretty tough, but Afghanistan is a country in great need of help,” he said.

Employed by German development organisation GTZ International Services, Stuart worked on a project funded by the World Bank, which was spread over 44 districts in 11 provinces through the central and northern parts of Afghanistan.

“My work involved increasing the ability of farmers to produce horticultural crops more profitably,” Stuart said.

“It was very much an economic development project, but starting from a very low level.

“We established around 2200 hectares of almond, grape, apricot and pomegranate plantings, assisted around 6000 farmers, and also involved a workforce of around 230 local staff who we were training in improved practices and modern growing techniques.

“There were also several smaller components of the project that involved building better marketplaces to allow farmers to sell their goods at better prices.”

Stuart said one of the most memorable outcomes was a program to assist female farmers — many of them widows — with orchards, training and inputs.

“We were told by lots of people it would fail, but despite some challenges, we planted several hundred orchards for women, and had 125 female farmer groups meeting regularly,” he said.

“Women in Afghanistan have few opportunities to socialise outside the family, but meeting to discuss horticultural and farming practices gives women in remote villages the opportunity to interact in ways they could not previously manage.”

Another highlight was convincing a local Taliban commander — who was

also the father of a young boy — to grow grapevines in a nursery.

“Setting this example for his son holds a lot of significance for our project. If he and his generation can grow up without violence and war, and get an education and basic services of health, food and security, then that is the key to a successful future for Afghanistan,” he said.

And, of course, with such a hazardous project there were also huge drawbacks. The poverty and pollution, as well as dealing with political corruption, were some of the challenges Stuart faced, not to mention risking his life on an almost daily basis.

“It is amazing how quickly you get used to seeing guns everywhere. However, the worst experience I recall was having our window shot out by a US convoy — a warning shot apparently, but still incredibly scary,” he said.

Agriculture in Afghanistan is a booming industry, contributing to approximately half of the country’s revenue and employing around two-thirds of the workforce.

“A thriving agricultural sector is essential to reducing poverty and hunger, increasing food security and driving economic growth.

“It is not an exaggeration to say that the long-term peace and even survival of Afghanistan relies heavily on a successful agricultural economy.”

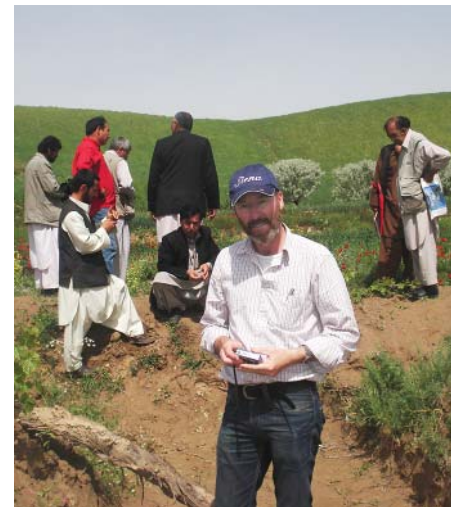
Stuart is now settling back into family life with his wife and two daughters in the Republic of Kosovo, where he is employed by Swiss agency Intercooperation to help improve the overall professionalism of the horticultural sector and its markets.

While Kosovo is much more ‘family-friendly’, Stuart said he misses working in Afghanistan, a place that has seen 30 years of “almost uninterrupted war and devastation”.

“The results were real, and the people appreciated the help immensely,” Stuart said.

“And the fact is that 95% or more of the population welcomed the international presence there. Almost everybody I met there wanted peace and security, and was working hard to achieve it.

“The international community has to stay the course, as the local population and the future generations need and deserve that.” ■



“I think that life does not get any easier than being a white, educated male in Australia. I wanted to give something back after having a pretty easy run for so many years in my career.”

Main image: North East Afghanistan between Kunduz and Faizabad.

PHOTO ISTOCK

Above: Stuart Pettigrew working with Afghan farmers.

STORY CONNIE DUTTON

Hitting the right note in Hong Kong

Oboe player Leanne Nicholls is turning her passion into a career, defying the odds at every step.



Forming an orchestra in a country that was regarded by some as a 'cultural desert' perhaps isn't a typical career path for an Elder Conservatorium graduate.

But for Leanne Nicholls, founding and then consolidating the City Chamber Orchestra of Hong Kong (CCOHK) has been both a passion and a career.

Leanne studied oboe at the Elder Conservatorium under the late Jiri Tancibudek, regarded as one of the world's great oboe players, graduating in 1988 with a First Class Honours degree in Music Performance.

"I chose the University of Adelaide because I wanted to study with Jiri Tancibudek — he remains my greatest mentor," she said. "He was special because he was both a world-class performer and a dedicated teacher.

"He always insisted on aiming for the highest standards. Music for him was a true calling, not just something that earns you a living. He had charisma, a strong sense of purpose and — most importantly — a human side."

Just two weeks after marrying fellow University of Adelaide graduate Dr John Nicholls (MBBS, 1983), the pair moved to Hong Kong in 1989 so John could take up a position at the University of Hong Kong.

(John has gone on to a highly successful medical career, including being part of the team that discovered the virus that caused the global outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome (or SARS) in 2003, and was profiled in the Winter 2004 edition of Lumen.)

For Leanne, the professional music scene in Hong Kong — or lack thereof — came as a shock.

"In the first few years I was simply embarrassed to tell people that I was pursuing a music career in Hong Kong," she said.

"It would have been easier for me to turn my back on my music degree and years of wonderful musical experience in Adelaide and go into classroom teaching or even a completely different career, but I was not prepared to do so.

"I had a choice to sit and complain and wait for the phone to ring — or to get out and do something about it. I chose the latter and have not looked back."

After playing in another developing orchestra, the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, from 1992 to 1999, Leanne formed a smaller chamber orchestra to fill a niche that she

had identified in the Hong Kong classical music market.

She is the first to admit that turning the idea of a new orchestra into reality has often been a financial, cultural and, at times, even a health battle.

"It has been overwhelmingly stressful on many occasions," she said.

"Some days I have had to get up and start work at 5am in order to achieve everything that needs to be done. I was working up until one hour before my first son was born, and after the birth I suffered Bells Palsy (facial paralysis on one side of the face caused by stress and lack of sleep) and that threatened to end my oboe-playing career.

"That was a wake-up call for me — not a give-up call — and it made me confront my greatest weakness: the art of delegation!"

That said, the lack of arts funding and the resulting lack of manpower and arts expertise in Hong Kong was a constant frustration for Leanne and the CCOHK, particularly in the orchestra's early days.

But now in its 11th year, and with Leanne at the helm as artistic director, the orchestra receives both government and private sponsorship and is concluding a successful 10th anniversary season featuring many internationally acclaimed artists.

Leanne's achievements were also recently recognised by the Hong Kong SAR Government, with the Secretary for Home Affairs in December 2009 awarding her a commendation certificate in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the development of arts and cultural activities.

Ultimately, it is the human side of music — first fully experienced by Leanne through her legendary teacher at the Elder Conservatorium, Jiri Tancibudek — that has helped her turn a fledging organisation into a thriving one.

"Keeping an arts organisation afloat is not just about audience figures, budgets, reports, sponsorship packages and so on," she said.

"To lead an organisation effectively you have to empathise with employees and colleagues and make sure they know what you expect of them.

"The orchestra comprises 10 different nationalities, all with different musical backgrounds and values. My background and experience as a performer equips me with the necessary empathy to work

with the players, while also ensuring the orchestra's overall goals are still met.

"Maintaining an open mind and curious spirit is also essential to leadership — without it you are less willing to take artistic risks and be innovative.

"Development is all about improvement and innovation. Some of my most memorable and successful artistic ventures have been those which started from scratch: a world premiere or a revised interpretation of an existing work.

"Stepping out into the unknown has produced so many career rewards." ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

“I had a choice to sit and complain and wait for the phone to ring — or to get out and do something about it. I chose the latter and have not looked back.”

Left: Leanne Nicholls

SKATING ON THIN ICE



His job title is 'physical oceanographer' but the description fails to capture the reality of Craig Stevens' extraordinary world.

In the past year he's visited Antarctica twice, battled six-metre seas and endured -45°C temperatures in the process.

He has sat above internal waves 80 metres high off Norfolk Island, used giant kelp to work out how to extract electricity from ocean currents, and stood within a few metres of a floating melting glacier.

If you put him in front of a classroom of high school students still undecided about their career path in life, there's no doubt he would change their perceptions of science — in a very positive way.

"I'm constantly discovering that science is behind the solution to so many of the world's pressing problems, such as climate change, population pressure and food security," Craig said.

For the past decade he's been a leading figure in the New Zealand marine science scene, involved in five projects supported by the Marsden Fund, the premier source of investigator-driven, blue-sky research in that country.

Based at the National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research (NIWA) in Wellington, Craig's research is centred on small scale ocean physics, or "environmental fluid mechanics".

"We are all familiar with large scale processes in the ocean — things like tides and solar warming of the surface — but all this energy needs to be dissipated somewhere and this happens in a smaller space and time scale, he said."

The 44-year-old physicist works across disciplines as diverse as marine ecology, climate, aquaculture, oceanography and energy.

His work informs our knowledge in unusual ways: the purpose of "that green slimy stuff" called seaweed, which actually plays a vital role in the marine ecosystem; how giant kelp manage to hold fast under crashing waves and what this tells us about extracting energy from the ocean; and how ice sheets actually melt, helping us to map future climate models.

Craig graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1987 with a Bachelor of

Engineering (Honours) before completing his PhD in environmental fluid mechanics at the University of Western Australia.

He undertook his postdoctoral research at the University of British Columbia in Canada and then migrated back to the southern hemisphere in 1996, accepting a job with the Marine Physics Group at NIWA.

"Although my undergraduate degree was in engineering, I have crossed over into applied science, marrying my interest in technical things with my love of the ocean," he said.

"I spend time on ships, boats, Antarctic field camps and in the process get to work with a range of really interesting people."

In November 2009, he was part of a crew conducting under-ice turbulence measurements in Antarctica, tackling some extreme physical and mental challenges. The data collected were some of the first looking at the turbulence within a few metres of the face of (and underneath) a melting glacier.

His team also researches the ocean-to-atmosphere exchange of carbon dioxide and how ice platelets form beneath the sea ice. In ecosystem programs he looks at how plants, animals and humans are transported along in ocean currents, and how waves influence the behaviour of objects such as baby seaweed.

"My research crosses over from physics to chemistry, biology and all the inter-related processes," he said.

"Arguably, the greatest challenge facing the human species is population pressure," Craig said. "Our group at NIWA works on understanding, predicting and mitigating climate variability, feeding the population and powering the planet. They all feed into this challenge.

"There's nothing quite like being in the field, retracing the steps of Scott's first Antarctic voyage (albeit using skidoos). It beats sitting in front of a plasma screen in the lounge, that's for sure." ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON



"I'm constantly discovering that science is behind the solution to so many of the world's pressing problems, such as climate change, population pressure and food security."

Left: Walking at the base of the Ferrar Glacier in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. This glacier was one of the pathways explored by Scott's first expedition. Griffith Taylor subsequently explored the region and discovered the dry valleys.

Above: Only half of the drill bit used to get through the six-metre thick ice in Antarctica. This gives access to the ocean below, enabling Craig's team to profile water properties and determine ocean currents and their variability.

PHOTOS S. POPINET

A ton of sporting achievements

The University of Adelaide is celebrating a 100-year milestone in sport and recreation.

On 11 July 1910, the then Governor of South Australia, Sir Day Bosanquet, officially opened the University Oval, the pavilion (known by many as the grandstand) and boat shed.

Today, the University's key sports facilities and grounds continue to play a major role in the physical health of students, staff and graduates, and in creating a sense of collegiality.

"Back in July 1910, the governor of the day said that sport was a powerful incentive to the formation of character, self respect, smartness of bearing and grace of manner," says Mike Daws, Executive Officer of the Adelaide University Sports Association.

"This philosophy has served students, staff and graduates of the University well over the decades, and this year we have an extra reason to celebrate the importance of sport to University life, thanks to the centenary of our grounds and facilities," Mr Daws says.

In July, the Sports Association will hold an event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the opening of the oval, pavilion, boat shed and other grounds. The Association will also launch its Sports Facility Plan — a major blueprint for the future of university sports grounds and facilities for the next 10 years.

Like most major developments in the University's history, these facilities would not have been possible without the generosity of others.

Thirteen benefactors, including some of the great names in the University's history, each donated £100 to pay for the new pavilion, while a generous contribution of £750 from Mr Robert Barr Smith led to the construction of the boat shed. The Adelaide City Council leased the grounds to the University (this arrangement continues today) and many, including

students themselves, volunteered their labour to prepare the sporting grounds.

For its time, the pavilion featured some modern conveniences such as electric lighting, as well as one dressing room dedicated to women.

The University Oval and pavilion are home to the University of Adelaide cricket and football clubs. Soccer is also played on those grounds. The football club is Australia's largest amateur senior Australian Rules football club and is one of the most decorated in the University's history. The cricket club also has an impressive and proud history and is one of the longest established clubs in South Australia. The University of Adelaide Boat Club, which has benefited from the use of the boat shed, has produced world champion rowers and Olympians in that time.

The University Oval now features state-of-the-art watering systems aimed at reducing water use, while the pavilion has undergone a major \$750,000 renovation over the past year.

"The pavilion — or grandstand, as we know it — has been completely repainted in its original heritage colours," Mr Daws says. "The changerooms have been fully renovated, with new electrical wiring and systems, new washrooms and lockers. It's like a brand new facility."

Like the original facilities before it, the renovation of the pavilion has been made possible thanks to many individual benefactors as well as significant funding from the University itself.

Some work still needs to be done, such as a redevelopment of the "long room", the main clubroom overlooking the oval that was added onto the pavilion some years after its 1910 construction. The boat shed is also undergoing renovation. ■

STORY DAVID ELLIS



1. Adelaide University all rounder Ben Reichstein has his stumps rattled by Northern Districts opening bowler Trent Pascoe at University Oval.
2. The Adelaide University Football Club is one of the most decorated clubs in the University's history.
3. The grandstand as it is today, following a \$750,000 renovation.



2010 Barr Smith Library Appeal

Highly regarded young author and University of Adelaide graduate Patrick Allington is the public face of the 2010 Barr Smith Library Appeal.

Dr Allington's widely-praised first novel, *Figurehead*, was published in July 2009 through Black Inc., and selected for the long list of Australia's premier literary prize, the Miles Franklin Literary Award.

Figurehead — and the writing process behind it — also formed a significant component of his PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Adelaide, which he completed in 2005.

He also has a Master of Arts (Politics) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) from the University, and in March was awarded the \$15,000 Barbara Hanrahan Fellowship as part of the Adelaide Festival Awards.

After spending many undergraduate and postgraduate hours in the Barr Smith Library, Dr Allington knows the impact it can have on a student's learning and subsequent career path.

"I must have borrowed hundreds of books from the Barr Smith Library in my time, so I'm delighted that *Figurehead* is now on the shelves," Dr Allington said.

"In the digital age, the Barr Smith Library remains a vital part of the student experience at the University of Adelaide. I have really appreciated the diversity of resources and the support I have received from the Library over the years."

University Librarian Ray Choate said the Barr Smith Library was committed to helping students and staff achieve outstanding results.

"Our goal is to provide the best possible resources in the best possible environment," he said.

To donate, or to find out more about the 2010 Barr Smith Library Appeal, please visit: www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bsl



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- 4. The original pavilion as it was in 1910.
- 5. The boat shed as it was in 1910.
- 6. University of Adelaide rowers on the River Torrens.

GLOBAL

— I M P A C T —

From London's bustling metropolis to the vineyards of the Napa Valley and the hospital corridors of Oman, you'll find an Adelaide alumnus in almost every corner of the world. Lumen profiles four outstanding alumni who cross the boundaries of culture, country and comfort in the quest to make a meaningful contribution to the world around them.



With so many alumni working in diverse fields around the world, we want to know whom you'd like to see profiled for Global Impact. Tell us by emailing ben.osborne@adelaide.edu.au



Jane Monk and Justin Payne

Aussies with designs on British icons

Jane Monk

Bachelor of Architecture
(First Class Honours), 2001
Bachelor of Design Studies, 1998

Justin Payne

Bachelor of Architecture, 2000
Bachelor of Design Studies, 1998

Architects Jane Monk and her partner Justin Payne moved to London in 2007 and are working on two of the most political and interesting building projects in the UK today — a new “low-visibility” visitor centre for Stonehenge and a new terminal for one of the world's busiest airports, Heathrow.

Since graduating from the University of Adelaide, Justin Payne has worked on a wide variety of projects, from high-end private housing, residential developments, schools and offices, through to hospitals, manufacturing plants, and retail and transport infrastructure projects.

“At Grimshaw Architects in London I have been responsible for the investigation, feasibility and design phase of the new terminal building at Heathrow Airport,” Justin said.

“I have a team of up to 45 people at times — predominantly architects — working under my guidance and producing the many thousands of drawings and documents needed for the design and construction of such a project.”

The new terminal, scheduled to open in 2014, will be six storeys tall with three other storeys underground. The project incorporates a Tracked Transit system, a localised baggage facility, security and transfer centre, retail outlets and airline accommodation, as well as lounge facilities for the expected 11.7 million passengers a year.

Jane Monk joined the London office of Denton Corker Marshall in May 2009 and has been working on a new visitor centre for Stonehenge, one of the world's best-known prehistoric monuments.

“This has proven to be one of the most complicated and interesting projects I've encountered, due to its political nature and level of broad public interest, as well as the complexities of the site,” Jane said.

“The current visitor centre is outdated and cannot cater to the great numbers of visitors who flock to visit the site each year. However, the new building is located within the boundaries of the World Heritage Site, so there are many restrictions on what is considered an acceptable intervention.”

Low impact is the key. “The design intent is to have a very light touch. It's contemporary, but also restrained and subtle, to keep the focus firmly on the stones and their surrounds.”

Living in London has not only given Jane and Justin the opportunity to work on projects of this magnitude and status, but it's also fostered their interest in urban design and sustainable living.

“We're living in a dense urban situation without a car, relying on public transport and walking and sourcing organic groceries and products,” said Jane. “It's certainly been a great learning experience but not permanent as we miss the weather, family and friends.”

STORY ROBYN MILLS



East meets West for cancer researcher

Dr Adhra Al Malawi

PhD in Medicine, 2009

Dr Adhra Al Mawali experienced a culture shock first-hand when she followed her husband, a thoracic medicine specialist, to his new job in Adelaide from her home country of Oman.

Despite the huge adjustment in lifestyle, Dr Al Malawi used it as an opportunity to continue her higher education, completing her PhD in Medicine at the University of Adelaide in association with the Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science and the Hanson Institute.

Coupling her PhD with a Diploma in Management from the Australian Institute of Management (which she also completed during her stay in Adelaide), Dr Al Mawali and her family have since returned to Oman where she has been promoted to Chief of Medical Laboratory Science (Haematology) at the Royal Hospital, Muscat.

She is in charge of the Flow Cytometry Core Facility in the hospital's Department of Haematology and Blood Transfusion.

Dr Al Mawali is using her Adelaide experience to raise the standards, and, ultimately, the outcomes for her patients receiving treatment at the Royal Hospital.

"At the moment I am running a new lab and I aim to attain a very high standard, comparable to that which I experienced in the Western world. We have already started running external quality control testing

and our results so far have been fantastic," she said.

Dr Al Mawali's PhD research proved that malignant leukaemic stem cells remaining in the body after chemotherapy can be separated from normal stem cells. This small number of malignant stem cells, known as minimal residual disease, causes relapses in leukaemia patients as the cells start to regenerate, with many patients seeing a recurrence of the disease in two to three years.

"We have already proven we can separate malignant stem cells from normal ones and that there is a receptor on the leukemic stem cells and not on the normal ones," Dr Al Mawali said. "The next step is to target that receptor to eradicate the leukaemia stem cells and hopefully cure the disease."

As a result of her research, Dr Al Mawali received an award from the Australian Society for Medical Research for the most outstanding presentation of clinical research. Her paper has been published globally in several major medical journals.

"I love research and I would really like to establish my own lab here in Oman for stem cells and flow cytometry, complete with highly-qualified staff and the best available technology. I have already submitted a new proposal to the Research Council in Oman, and hopefully before the end of 2010 we will be able to start."

STORY CONNIE DUTTON



A taste of the good life

Michael Zitzlaff

Bachelor of Applied Science (Oenology), 1989

If you think most winemakers are kept busy each vintage looking after 30 to 40 different wines for their companies — try Michael Zitzlaff's 1200 to 1300 wines!

As chief winemaker for "do-it-yourself" US winemaker Crushpad, he oversees the production of wine for more than 3000 individual clients who hail from as far away as the Philippines and Estonia.

Mr Zitzlaff has won numerous awards for his winemaking in Australia, primarily in his time as CEO and chief winemaker for his family's Oakridge Estate vineyard in Victoria's Yarra Valley.

These include the Warren Winiarski Stag's Leap Trophy for Best Cabernet Sauvignon of Show, the Wolf Blass Trophy for Best Australian Red Wine of Show at London's International Wine and Spirit Competition, and the award for Best New World Pinot Noir at the International Wine Challenge in London.

After successfully taking Oakridge Estate public as an unlisted company in 1996, he started spending more and more time behind a desk and less time plying his original trade.

"I needed to shed the suit, get back into jeans and *Blundstones*, and get my hands dirty again," he said.

"I had been in touch with the people at Crushpad for a while, and when the opportunity arose in 2006, I was

keen to go over and see what it was like."

Crushpad, now headquartered in the Napa Valley after starting in San Francisco, allows customers to be involved in virtually all aspects of production of their own wine, from choosing the grapes, method of winemaking, ageing, through to designing the label and packaging.

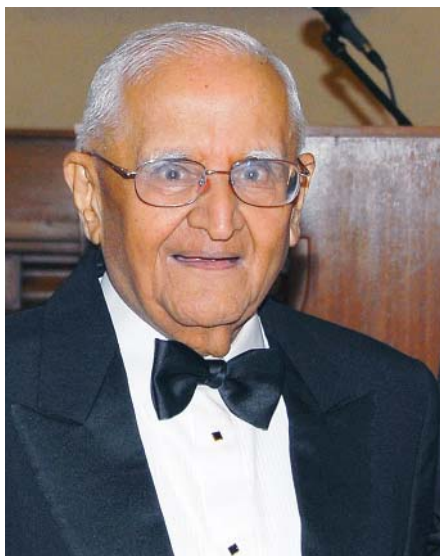
The company also uses the Zork closure, which was partly developed at the University of Adelaide.

"Over half of our customers are full service, commercial clients, who use us to produce the wine that they then sell," Mr Zitzlaff said. "The balance is made up of enthusiasts who just love to make their own wine."

"When I started out, the focus was really on how to scale so many wines as we were growing at 100% per annum. Since then my role has morphed further into providing a total educational service to our customers, helping them learn about all the things that go into making good wine.

"What's really nice about that is that the customers get a 'graduation present' at the end of the process: 25 cases of wine, delivered to their door, which symbolises everything they've learned."

STORY BEN OSBORNE



lumen PIONEER

Datuk Dr Gopal Sreenevasan was a trailblazer in the true sense: he was one of Australia’s first Colombo Plan Scholars and also pioneered urology in Malaysia.

Even as early as his student days, Dr Sreenevasan was a global pioneer for the University of Adelaide.

‘Sreeny’, as he was affectionately known, died earlier this year aged 87 and was regarded as Malaysia’s ‘Father of Urology’.

He graduated from the University of Adelaide in Medicine in 1952, and was believed to be one of the first Colombo Plan scholars to graduate from an Australian university.

Developed in the years immediately after World War Two, the Colombo Plan gave thousands of students like Sreeny from less-developed countries such as Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Singapore, the opportunity to study in countries with more developed education systems such as Australia, Canada and the UK.

These students were then able to return to their home countries, which benefited from their new-found skills and knowledge, while also helping Australia engage better with its Asian neighbours.

Sreeny’s medical career was nearly over before it began.

His time as a student in Australia began in 1947, under financing from his father. He travelled by boat to Perth to complete his first year of a Science degree at the University of Western Australia, and then, in 1948, he entered second-year Medicine at the University of Adelaide, residing at St Mark’s College.

Just prior to undertaking fifth-year exams in October 1951, he received word that his father had unexpectedly died in Malaysia, necessitating an immediate trip home.

“I remember, I got the news on a Sunday — I didn’t know what to do,” he told Australian Education International in 2008.

“I went to see the Master of St Mark’s, Bob Lewis, who was incredibly kind. He went to the house of the immigration officer to sort out my visa. Meanwhile, his wife packed my bags for me and I flew home.”

Due to financial difficulties associated with settling his father’s estate, Sreeny had to remain in Malaysia and faced the prospect of being unable to return in time to properly complete his studies.

He applied — and was accepted — for re-entry at the University of Adelaide under the new Colombo Plan Scholarship, and was allowed to take his fifth-year examinations in February 1952.

After completing his internship at the Royal Perth Hospital and a stint with the Malayan Medical Service, Sreeny developed a professional interest in urology, studying further at Liverpool, Manchester and in the United States.

He returned to Australia in the 1960s to obtain his Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in Urology.

His daughter, highly regarded Malaysian lawyer Dato Ambiga Sreenevasan, told a Malaysian website that setting up the Institute of Urology and Nephrology at Kuala Lumpur Hospital meant “long days and nights” for Sreeny.

From its inception in 1968 with just two male and two female beds in the third-class ward, the Institute has grown in size

and stature, with more than 650 kidney transplants performed since 1975.

Sreeny retired from government service in 1974, but remained professionally active right up until his death. He held many positions of authority within Malaysia’s health sector, including President of the Malaysian Medical Association and Chairman of the National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia.

Among his many honours are a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Adelaide in 1994, becoming a Foundation Fellow of the Academy of Sciences in Malaysia in 1995, and fellowship of the College of Surgeons in England, Scotland, Ireland, the US and Australia.

The current president of the University’s Alumni Malaysia Chapter Bhd, Dr Ajeet Kaur Gill, described Sreeny as a “jovial man, full of laughter”, who was devoted to his family and his work.

“He was very ethical. He wouldn’t operate unless it was absolutely necessary and he did a lot of charity work, often providing free treatment for poorer people who couldn’t afford to pay,” she said.

“To set up a speciality in a country where previously there had been none, takes an enormous amount of hard work and perseverance. We were very fortunate in Malaysia to have him and to benefit from his expertise.” ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Above left: Datuk Dr Gopal Sreenevasan pictured in 2008 after being made an Honorary Fellow of St Mark’s College.

125 years

of medical excellence

An impressive list of ground-breaking medical discoveries and achievements over 125 years are being celebrated at the University of Adelaide in 2010.

This year marks a series of milestones for the University's health programs, including the 125th anniversary of the Medical School, the 90th birthday of the Dental School and 15 years of teaching within the Discipline of Nursing.

The Executive Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Professor Justin Beilby, said the University's medical graduates and staff had made an enormous contribution to society at large.

"None more so than Lord Howard Florey, a 1921 medical graduate and 1945 Nobel Laureate whose role in the development of penicillin as the world's first antibiotic has saved an estimated 80 million lives," Professor Beilby said.

Another prominent medical alumnus internationally recognised in his field is Dr J. Robin Warren, who shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 2005 for helping to identify the role of bacterium in peptic and gastric ulcers.

Helen Mayo (a pioneer in women's and children's health in Australia), Dr Basil Hetzel (renowned for his work in iodine deficiency) and Sir Hugh Cairns (world class neurosurgeon and instigator of the motorcycle helmet) are all outstanding examples of the University's medical alumni.

"We are very proud of the contribution that our 5800 graduates have made over the past 125 years in the clinical, teaching and research fields," Professor Beilby said.

"Our graduates practise widely across Australia, South East Asia and the rest of the world, and I have no doubt that the vast majority of South Australians have, at some time in their lives, received medical care from someone who has studied or worked at the University of Adelaide."

The Faculty of Health Sciences is hosting a series of events throughout 2010

to mark the 125th anniversary, culminating with a week-long program of activities from 1–4 September. These include:

CELEBRATING 125 years of medicine at the University of Adelaide at a Gala Dinner held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Saturday 1 September 2010. University and College staff and their families will be invited to attend;

EXPERIENCING the unique history of the University's medical programs by attending the Medicine 125th Historical Exhibition in the Barr Smith Library (26 May–4 September 2010);

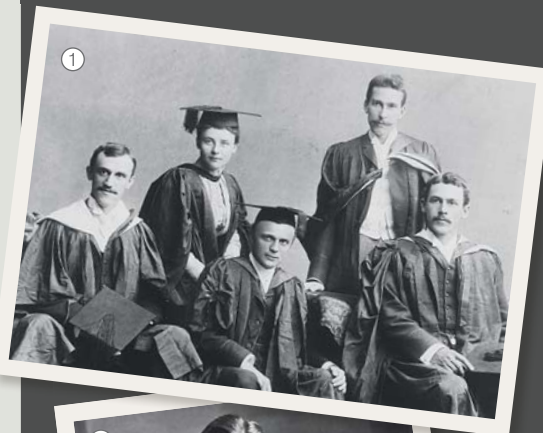
APPRECIATING 'A Day In The Life Of Medicine', a specially commissioned art show exhibiting significant South Australian medical professionals, brought to life by artists in residence Ms Avril Thomas and Ms Meg Brassil. (30 August–2 September 2010);

DISCOVERING today's up and coming medical researchers at the 1 September Faculty Postgraduate Research Expo, which will showcase the breadth of academic expertise and the cutting edge research taking place in the Medical School;

PLAYING a friendly round of golf with medical alumni on 2 September, followed by dinner and drinks at the Grange Golf Course with celebrity Chef Andrew Fielke and Master of Ceremonies Kerry O'Keefe;

LEARNING from local and international keynote speakers during three health lectures to be held in Bonython Hall and the National Wine Centre, which will be open to the public.

Among the special guests attending the September celebrations will be Baroness Susan Greenfield, a prominent British scientist who was Adelaide's Thinker in Residence in 2004 and 2005; and Professor Ian Gilmore, an internationally renowned liver disease specialist. ■



1. Laura Fowler (2nd from left) was the first woman to graduate from the Medical School (in 1891) and was Australia's first female surgeon.
2. The University of Adelaide's greatest medical graduate, Nobel Prize-winner Lord Howard Florey.
3. Medical students in 1896 with Professor of Anatomy Archibald Watson.
4. The first graduates of the University of Adelaide's Medical School in 1889.

To find out more, visit:
www.health.adelaide.edu.au/medicine125

Alumni

PRIVILEGES



Adelaide alumni have access to a range of benefits, special offers and opportunities — from networking to exclusive discounts. The Alumni Privilege Package brings together an ever-expanding range of benefits available to all Alumni Membership Card holders.

SPECIAL OFFER: Mutual Community

Take the pain out of choosing the right health cover with Mutual Community/HBA!

One of Australia's largest health funds, Mutual Community/ HBA is pleased to offer alumni the University of Adelaide Health Plan, including a special 'no excess' offer. If you go into hospital, you won't have to pay your excess — the Health Plan will pay it for you!

Whether you're already a member, looking at cover for the first time or wanting to compare your current plan, experienced consultants are on hand to assist. Join now to take advantage of this unique plan available only to University of Adelaide alumni!

To check out this offer and the full Alumni Privileges Package, log on to www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/privileges



ALUMNI

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Formed in October 2007, the University of Adelaide's Alumni Advisory Committee (AAC) is the peak body providing advice to the University on its alumni relations.

The AAC meets quarterly and features prominent alumni from Australian and international networks, recent graduates, senior University staff, and students.

"The AAC is a very important body; it gives strategic advice to the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council about our alumni and their relationship with their *alma mater*," said Robyn Brown, Director of the University's Development and Alumni Office.

"It's a diverse group of alumni, students and staff who represent our entire alumni body, and who act as its eyes and ears so that the University can best respond to their needs."

A prominent alumna who has been an AAC member since its inception is former Senator, Natasha Stott Despoja.

Natasha said one of the AAC's major accomplishments had been to foster a closer relationship between alumni and the

University, and to help guide its strategic direction.

"I think the AAC has achieved a significant amount in the past three years. It's really a foot in the door for alumni, allowing them to engage with the University so the latter can understand what is important to its alumni," she said.

"It gives us the opportunity to help shape the University's priorities and to keep the University in touch with the community."

Other members of the AAC include South Australian Lieutenant Governor Hieu Van Le and Chief Executive Officer of Members Equity Bank Jamie McPhee. ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

AAC members (back) Andrés Muñoz-Lamilla, John Taplin, Jamie McPhee, Michael O'Callaghan, John Hancock, Christopher Schwarz, Magdalena Hadji, (front) Robyn Brown, Hieu Van Le, James McWha, Natasha Stott Despoja, Robina Weir and Bob Hill.

PHOTO KIM HARVEY



Singapore farewells Chancellor

Thirty of the University of Adelaide's most prominent Singaporean and Malaysian alumni gathered at the Ngee Ann City Tower in Singapore for a private, intimate dinner on Saturday, 20 March.

The dinner also served as a farewell for outgoing Chancellor, the Hon. John von Doussa QC, who was making his final South-East Asian trip in the role. After serving as Chancellor for six years, Mr von Doussa will be succeeded by

former Federal Senator and Permanent Representative to the United Nations for Australia, the Hon. Robert Hill, from 25 July 2010.

Also present at the dinner were Singapore Alumni Network Committee members, and senior University officials including Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) Professor Fred McDougall, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) Professor John Taplin, and Director of Development and Alumni, Ms Robyn Brown.

1. Erinna Chng Hui Yen and Louis Lim Poh Hock.
 2. Lim Siong Guan, Jennifer Lim and Dr Lim Kee Ming.
 3. Louis Wong and Angelina Teoh.
 4. Tan Sri Datuk Yong Poh Kon and Fumiyo Yong.
 5. Dr Tony Tan.
 6. David Sim and Fred McDougall.
- Main image: Hon. John von Doussa QC.

PHOTOS BY DOMINIC PHUA



ALUMNI

◀ ON THE MOVE ▶

What's new with you?

If you've recently changed jobs, been promoted, moved interstate or overseas, got married, we want to hear about it! Share your good news with your fellow alumni by emailing us 50 words or less, including your name, degree and graduation year.

Send it to alumni@adelaide.edu.au or call +61 8 8303 5800. High quality photos are also welcome (300dpi).



Andrew Kelly



Catherine Stubberfield



Stuart Miller

2000s - current

Professor Corey Bradshaw

[staff] The Director of Ecological Modelling at the University of Adelaide's Environment Institute has won an inaugural Scopus Young Researcher of the Year Award, taking out the Life Sciences and Biological Sciences category. Professor Bradshaw, who also holds a joint position with SARDI, received the award for his work in conservation biology using mathematical modelling to understand the complex interactions between plant and animal species within an ecosystem. The awards aim to recognise and encourage Australia's best researchers aged 40 and under.

Professor Valerie Linton

[staff] has been named the inaugural CEO of the Energy Pipelines Co-operative Research Centre, which will investigate the transmission of natural gas and other energy-related products in Australia. Professor Linton, who is currently Professor of Welded Structures at the University of Adelaide, has built an international profile in high pressure energy transmission over her 20-year career in industry and academia.

Dr George Brown

[PhD (Ed) 2007] has been appointed to the Australian Learning and Teaching Council as a Board member for the next four years. Based in Sydney, Dr Brown is currently Group Academic Director of Think: Education Group, an institution which provides over 80 industry-leading qualifications to more than 4000 students across campuses in NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

Catherine Stubberfield

[BA, LLB (Hons)(Flinders), BA (Hons) 2006 (Adelaide)] has been awarded a prestigious General Sir John Monash Award to study for a Masters of Science in Forced Migration at Oxford. Catherine, who works for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ethiopia, plans to use her study to explore opportunities for Australian regional leadership, and particularly bilateral relations with Indonesia. Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and Patron in Chief of The General Sir John Monash Foundation, presented the awards at a special ceremony at Government House, Canberra.

Phuntsho Wangdi

[M Comp Law, 2005] has been appointed as Bhutan's Attorney General. Phuntsho worked most recently as the Chief Prosecutor and Head of the Prosecution and Litigation Division at the Office of the Attorney General. One of the main aims of the Attorney General is to work with the police and affiliated agencies to help minimise corruption in the country during a five-year term.

John Gardner MP

[BA 2000] The University of Adelaide Arts graduate and former president of the Young Liberals has been elected as a Member of Parliament to the seat of Morialta in the 2010 South Australian election. During his term, John plans to work on issues such as stormwater harvesting, better hospital services at Modbury, more resources for CFS volunteers and mains water connections for Skye residents. Since graduating, he has worked in policy areas of health, particularly illicit drug prevention and rehabilitation, and education.

If you are a member of Adelaide onLion visit:
www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/classnotes
to spread the word.



Deep Saini



Valerie Linton



George Brown



Karen Jones



Sam Leach



John Gardner

1990s

Associate Professor Karen Jones [*PhD (Med) 1998*], a clinical researcher and nuclear medicine technologist, has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to medical research by Australia's leading health funding body. The University of Adelaide researcher is one of nine people across the country to receive a 2010 National Health and Medical Research Foundation (NHMRC) Achievement Award for Career Development. Over the past 18 years Assoc. Prof. Jones has made significant inroads into the pivotal role of the stomach in low blood pressure (particularly among the elderly) and the management of diabetes. She was the first nuclear medicine technologist in Australia to gain a PhD and to date has published 89 peer-reviewed papers, 19 editorials and four book chapters.

Evan Arnold [*B Com (Economics) 1995*] has been appointed Manager of Corporate Partners and Capability with South Australian AFL team Port Adelaide Power. Evan oversees the areas of Corporate Sales and Accounts, looking after relationships with the club's corporate partners. Evan joins Port Adelaide after having held leadership roles with Lion Nathan and Fosters in both Victoria and South Australia.

Andrew Kelly [*B Com 1995*] has become the sixth Australian to join the elite 'Q Grade' international coffee club. Certification involves taking 22 sensory tests over five 12-hour days, distinguishing brewed coffees by taste and smell from each major coffee-producing region, and grading coffee using established criteria. Andrew is also co-owner of Auction Rooms, a contemporary café and coffee roastery in North Melbourne.

Professor Prash Sanders [*MBBS 1994, staff*] has won an inaugural Scopus Young Researcher of the Year Award, taking out the Medicine and Medical Sciences category. Professor Sanders holds several esteemed positions including Knapman-National Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiology Research at the University of Adelaide and Clinical Director of Cardiac Electrophysiology at the Royal Adelaide Hospital. Professor Sanders established South Australia's first dedicated clinical and experimental electrophysiology laboratories and group, attracting clinicians and researchers from around the world.

Sam Leach [*B Ec 1994*] has won the 2010 Archibald Prize for his portrait of comic musician Tim Minchin. The Economics graduate-turned-painter became only the third person to win both the Archibald Prize for portraiture and the Wynne Prize for landscape painting in the same year. Born in Adelaide and raised in Melbourne, Sam completed his Economics degree at the University of Adelaide. After working briefly for the Australian Taxation Office, Sam returned to Melbourne where he commenced art training at RMIT. Sam is the first University of Adelaide graduate to be awarded the Archibald Prize.

Dr Derek Rogers [*B E (Elec) 1991, B Sc (Ma & Comp Sc) 1992, PhD (E) 1995, M Sc & Tech Comm, 2003*] has been appointed to the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property (ACIP), a key advisory panel on Australia's intellectual property system. Dr Rogers, a Senior Systems Engineer with SAAB Systems, has expertise in research and development, technology commercialisation, product management and engineering.

He has published over 30 papers and was the inaugural winner of the prestigious IREE Neville Thiele award in 2004. The previous year he was the first non-US student to win a leadership award from the University of Texas in Austin.

1980s

Professor Hargurdeep (Deep) Saini [*PhD (Ag Nat Res Sc) 1983*] has been appointed the new Vice President and Principal of the University of Toronto Mississauga. Professor Saini will join the University after four years as Dean of the Faculty of Environment at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Professor Saini's strong leadership during his time at Waterloo has resulted in a substantial growth in enrolments, as well as attracting millions of dollars in infrastructure and operating funding from the federal government, private sector and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

Paul Boyce [*B Arch (Hons) 1987, former staff*] has been elected to the Architects Board of South Australia and has also been appointed Examination Convenor. Paul has held several positions during his career, tutored at the University of Adelaide, and has spent time working for practices in Adelaide, Melbourne and London. Paul has also been involved in the arts and is the immediate past chair of Cirkidz Circus School. He has worked on award-winning projects, heritage and historically significant buildings as well as large institutional projects. Paul currently lives in Adelaide and is a Director of Tridente Architects; a medium size Adelaide based multidisciplinary design practice with comprehensive experience in architecture, interior design, master planning and urban design.

Dr Stuart Miller [*MBBS 1986, FRACS*] has been elected as the new President of the Australian Society of Otolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery. Currently living in Perth, Western Australia, Dr Miller works as a consultant ear, nose and throat surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital and also in private ENT surgical practice. Dr Miller spent several years in the USA after beginning as an intern at the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1977.

1970s

Professor Jenny Hamilton [*LLB 1978 (University of Adelaide), LLM (University of Waterloo), Ontario*] has been appointed Director of the Undergraduate Laws Programme for the University of London External System. Professor Hamilton, who began her career working as a barrister and solicitor in Australia, went on to gain an LLM from the University of Aberdeen, Scotland. Professor Hamilton also holds a number of teaching qualifications and has since obtained almost 20 years of university teaching experience in the United Kingdom. Professor Hamilton is widely published and has also served on several influential panels including the Consumer Panel of the UK Financial Services Authority and the Scottish Consumer Council.

Associate Professor David Paton AM [*B Sc 1974, B Sc (Hons) 1975, staff*] launched his new book titled *At the End of the River, The Coorong and Lower Lakes* at the Adelaide Festival Writers Week earlier this year. In the book, ecologist David Paton examines the changes that have occurred in the Coorong and Lower Lakes since European settlement.



MAKE AN IMPACT

The University of Adelaide has established five new research institutes to tackle some of the most serious research challenges facing Australia and the world. These institutes bring together world-leading researchers supported by modern infrastructure and an innovative culture, uniting a community of more than 1000 scientists and students guided by passionate directors and academics:

The Robinson Institute — Reproductive health, stem cell research and health across generations;

The Environment Institute — Management of natural resources under changing climate and economic conditions;

Institute for Mineral & Energy Resources (IMER) — Petroleum engineering, mining engineering, petroleum and minerals, geoscience and geothermal energy;

The Waite Research Institute — Plant and animal sciences, viticulture and oenology, agronomy, soil science and agricultural economics;

Institute for Photonics & Advanced Sensing (IPAS) — optical fibres, lasers, luminescence, surface chemistry, proteomics and virology.

Great research universities teach the best students, and their graduate programs educate the next generation of researchers, teachers and leaders. Recognising this, the University is increasing the emphasis placed on postgraduate research and postgraduate coursework, and we are seeking donors to provide more student scholarships, including scholarships for Indigenous students.

For more information about providing scholarships at the University of Adelaide, please contact Paul Finn via email at paul.finn@adelaide.edu.au or phone +61 8 8303 4275.

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- Barr Smith Library Annual Appeal
- Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Fund
- Florey Foundation
- Research Institute / Centre: _____
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Business Card Holder – leather



Pen – satin silver (boxed)



Compact Mirror



Coffee Mug – large red



Photo Frame – metallic silver



Umbrella – golf



Coaster Set (6) – stainless steel



University Ties – Striped, Blue Logo, Cubed



University Graduate Tie



Rugby Top – Navy



Hoodie – Ladies and Mens



Polo Shirt – Navy with white piping trim

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/merchandise

ITEM	QTY	TOTAL PRICE Overseas Price	TOTAL PRICE* Within Australia	TOTAL COST
Business Card Holder – metallic silver		\$13.65	\$15.00	
Business Card Holder – leather		\$16.20	\$18.00	
Bookmark – metallic silver		\$2.75	\$3.00	
Car Sticker <input type="checkbox"/> Solid white <input type="checkbox"/> Clear		\$2.00	\$2.00	
Coaster Set (6) – stainless steel		\$30.00	\$33.00	
Coffee Mug – large red (only for orders within Australia)			\$12.00	
Coffee Mug – navy (only for orders within Australia)			\$10.00	
Compact Mirror – silver		\$13.65	\$15.00	
Compendium		\$38.20	\$42.00	
Cuff Links		\$22.70	\$25.00	
Graduation Bear (degree colour ribbon and lapel pin)		\$27.30	\$30.00	
Key Ring – silver		\$10.90	\$12.00	
Lapel Pin		\$3.65	\$4.00	
Lanyard – University of Adelaide		\$2.30	\$2.50	
Laptop Bag		\$36.35	\$40.00	
Pen – satin silver (boxed)		\$18.20	\$20.00	
Photo Frame – metallic silver		\$10.80	\$12.00	
Stubby Holder		\$6.80	\$7.50	
Umbrella – compact		\$33.60	\$36.95	
Umbrella – golf		\$27.25	\$30.00	
Hoodie – Ladies <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 14		\$50.00	\$55.00	
Hoodie – Mens <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		\$50.00	\$55.00	
Polo Shirt - Ladies (white piping trim) <input type="checkbox"/> 8 <input type="checkbox"/> 10 <input type="checkbox"/> 12 <input type="checkbox"/> 14 <input type="checkbox"/> 16		\$31.80	\$35.00	
Polo Shirt - Men (white piping trim) <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		\$31.80	\$35.00	
Rugby Top <input type="checkbox"/> XS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> XXL		\$45.45	\$50.00	
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University Ties <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Logo <input type="checkbox"/> Striped <input type="checkbox"/> Cubed		\$31.80	\$35.00	
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* Prices include GST as applies in Australia			Sub Total	
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Orders between \$15.05 & \$40.00			\$14.00	
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For the amount of \$AUD	(ALL cheques to be made payable to the University of Adelaide)																				
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You can make a difference

The Cowan family's connection to the University of Adelaide spans more than just three generations: it also includes providing assistance to hundreds of students faced with the oft-daunting task of moving from regional areas to the city.

Bill Cowan was Barr Smith Librarian from 1936 to 1964: his son Bob graduated in Science (Forestry) in 1960, and Bob's son Leigh graduated in Engineering in 1990. All three benefited from receiving valuable grants and scholarships and this was a major driver for Bill's widow Marnie, and Bob, to establish a Trust Fund in 1994 to help regional students.

Since then the family's philanthropic company Cowan Grant Pty Ltd, currently chaired by Bob in Mt. Gambier, has given more than \$1.7 million to some 700 university students hailing from regional areas, the majority being University of Adelaide students.

"We have found first-hand that not only do the students receive a financial boost, but also an immeasurable boost of confidence", Bob said. "It can show the student that someone believes in them, and that can be a very powerful motivator."

Left: Bob and Gayle Cowan (front) with recent Cowan Grant recipients (from left) Jared Emery, Thomas Baird, Jordan Puckridge, Samuel Baird and Clara Stockigt.

For more information about giving to the University of Adelaide, contact:

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