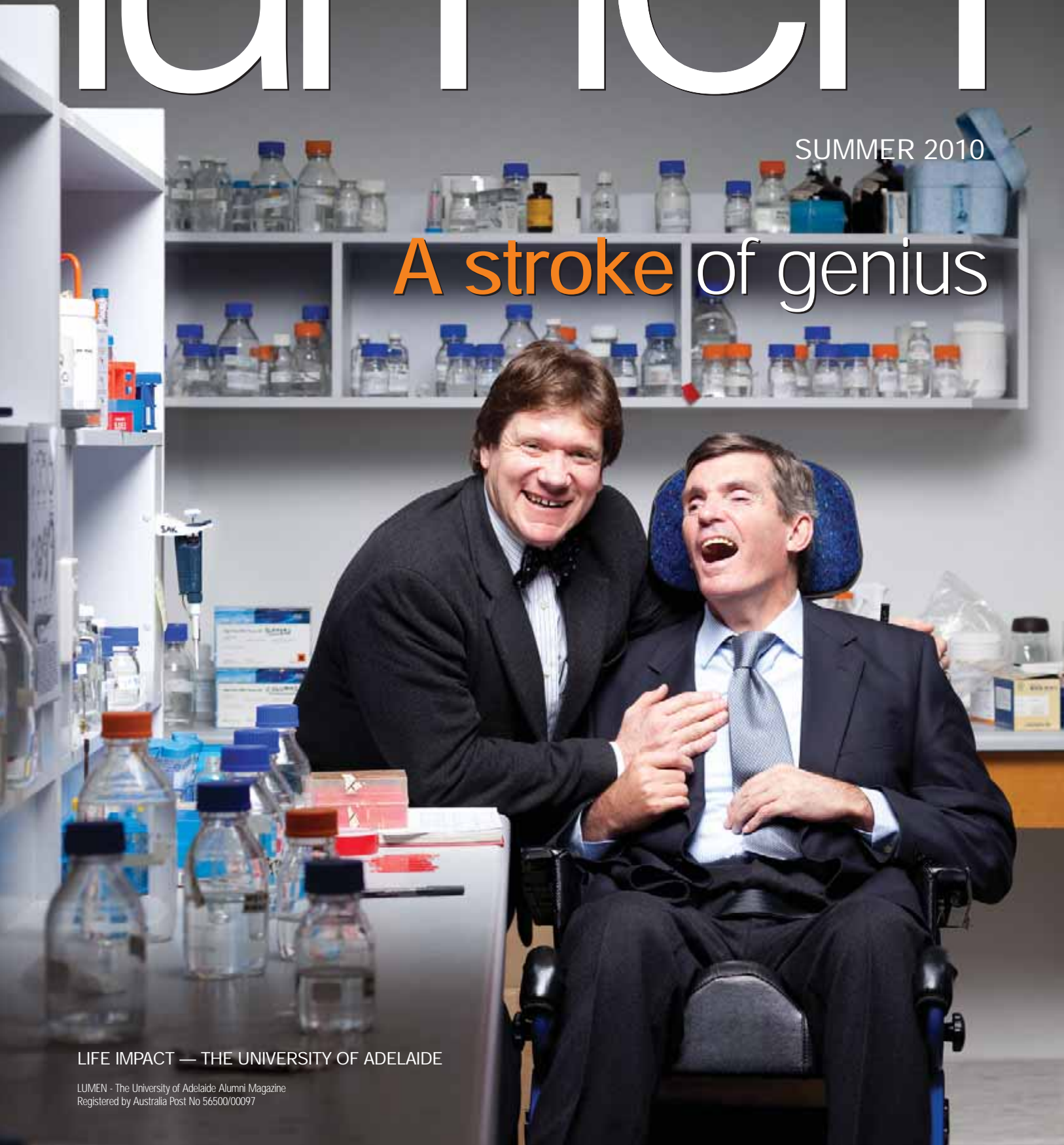


# Lumen

SUMMER 2010

A stroke of genius



LIFE IMPACT — THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

LUMEN - The University of Adelaide Alumni Magazine  
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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](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/lumen)

## Message from the Vice-Chancellor

**T**he University of Adelaide is recognised as one of Australia’s most research-intensive institutions. When the impact of our research literally helps to save lives — or vastly improves them — it reinforces the value of a first-class education.

This month’s cover story provides no better example. Millions of people will benefit from the University’s cutting-edge research into stem cells, which have the potential to repair stroke-damaged brains. As strokes are Australia’s second greatest killer, and the leading cause of disability, this research will be watched closely around the world.

But the impact of our alumni is spread far wider than health, as this summer edition of *Lumen* demonstrates. Dr Mara Warwick (page 7) is using her engineering knowledge to help rebuild provinces in China shattered by the 2008 earthquake; robotics expert Zoz Brooks (page 9) is drawing on his computer science degree to close the gap between humans and machines; and anthropology graduate Christie Lam (page 22) is using her education to transform the lives of a small Nepalese village community.

The message coming through from each of these graduates is consistent: your degree can be used to make a significant, positive and lasting impact, regardless of the field of study you pursue.

This fact is recognised by the Federal Government, which has endorsed a new program to recruit the country’s best university graduates to teach in Australia’s most disadvantaged schools (story page 19). One of our own alumni, Matthew White, has been headhunted to help drive this initiative, which has two goals: to improve the quality and status of teaching in Australia and to provide children from low socioeconomic backgrounds with the best opportunities to reach their potential. Graduates interested in finding out more details about this program are urged to visit [www.teachforaustralia.org](http://www.teachforaustralia.org)

Also featured in this issue are profiles of this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award recipients (page 24) and a pictorial spread of our inaugural Alumni Forum held in September (page 30), which gave our staff, students and graduates an opportunity to network and learn more about the strategic direction we are following as a world-class university. We hope to build on this relationship at the next forum, scheduled for 2011.

My best wishes to our alumni for the coming festive season and I hope that 2010 is a prosperous year for all.

**JAMES A. McWha**  
Vice-Chancellor and President

## Summer 2010

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**Front cover image:**  
Associate Professor  
Simon Koblar and  
Peter Couche  
Photo: Randy Larcombe







# NEW HOPE for stroke repair

Stroke is the leading cause of disability in Australia with more than 250,000 people estimated to be living with the aftermath of strokes, but research at the University of Adelaide's Robinson Institute is providing new hope.

Research into the potential regenerative benefits of stem cells is advancing at an incredible pace around the world.

At the University of Adelaide, Associate Professor Simon Koblar is leading research on the use of stem cells from teeth to repair stroke-damaged brains.

"In Australia there are 60,000 strokes a year, 5000 in South Australia — one every 10 minutes," says Assoc. Prof. Koblar.

"After one year, one-third of those people will have died, one-third will improve, and the other third are left with a disability.

"The challenge to improve function after a stroke is enormous but there are huge potential benefits, not just to the individuals, but for the whole Australian community."

The research is being carried out in collaboration with Associate Professor Stan Gronthos from SA Pathology, who was one of the first to isolate stem cells from the dental pulp of adult teeth. Assoc. Prof. Gronthos is Co-Director and Assoc. Prof. Koblar is Clinical Advisor of the University's Centre for Stem Cell Research at the Robinson Institute.

A pilot study last year, funded by the Catholic Archdiocese of Sydney, investigated transplanting dental pulp stem cells into stroke-affected rats. ►

Preliminary data show promising results with improvement in mobility of the stroke-affected rats with stem cell transplants over the rats without the application of stem cells. The results are encouraging but more research needs to be done to prove the benefit in animal models before it can be trialled in humans.

Much has been heard about the use of embryonic and umbilical stem cells but this work is using adult stem cells. Stem cells can be found in various parts of the body including bone marrow, skin and teeth, and they have the ability to regenerate tissue of specific organs.

Research to date has shown that dental pulp stem cells, extracted from teeth, may prove more beneficial for brain repair than other types of stem cells.

“Stan Gronthos and I have been collaborating on this work over the past eight years and we’ve published several research papers showing that adult dental pulp stem cells have an intrinsic ability to produce neurones (brain cells) and to make a range of growth factors important in neural repair,” says Assoc. Prof. Koblar. “Recent research showed that the nervous system of chicken embryos may even be rewired with the use of these stem cells.”

Apart from this ability to naturally grow into neurones, whereas other stem cells naturally produce other tissue, there are other important potential benefits of dental pulp stem cells. Because they are in teeth, they are easily accessible and they can also be taken from the patient needing treatment, which potentially removes tissue rejection issues.

Depending on funding, the next steps in the research are another study with rats, due to start next year, and a two-to-three year project using sheep.

“We’ll transplant sheep dental pulp stem cell into stroke-damaged sheep brains and may even do autologous (same animal) transplants,” says Assoc. Prof. Koblar.

“If we can see benefit from a functional point of view in both rats and sheep, I think it could then be appropriate to proceed with Phase One clinical studies to ensure the safety of injecting stem cells into humans.”

Simon Koblar is one of Australia’s leading stroke physicians. He is Director of the University’s Stroke Research Program, a Senior Consultant Neurologist and Patron for Stroke SA, a community-based service for stroke victims.

He trained at the Royal Adelaide Hospital as a physician and followed up with neurology training at Guy’s Hospital in London. He did his PhD in neurobiology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne.

Ten years ago he returned to Adelaide, setting up the Stroke Research Program at the University of Adelaide, in collaboration with The Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

He maintains a clinical practice, teaches undergraduate and postgraduate medical and science students, trains physicians in neurology and heads a research group of 14 PhD and Honours students and postdoctoral researchers.

Over the past 10 years, Assoc. Prof. Koblar has been instrumental in setting up South Australia’s stroke services. The state only has five stroke physicians and they have all been trained by him.

Assoc. Prof. Koblar believes the stem cell research has great potential to help stroke patients: “Even if all we can do is to get someone’s hand function to improve, that would be a magnificent advance.”

But, like all research, what can be achieved depends on funds raised.

The Robinson Institute is currently establishing a Foundation to raise awareness of and support its life-giving research programs. The Institute is currently working with University of Adelaide graduate and stroke victim, Peter Couche, to set up a fund in his name to help raise money for stem cell stroke research.

“Peter contacted me several years ago and we’ve become friends and meet regularly,” says Assoc. Prof. Koblar. “He recognises the potential from stem cells and the great need for more research, and he wants to help.”

Peter Couche graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Economics in 1971. At just 41 and a highly successful stockbroker, he suffered a brain-stem stroke in 1992 which left him a quadriplegic with ‘Locked-In Syndrome’ — he can’t speak and has little muscle control.

Mr Couche lives in Adelaide with his wife Simona and, despite his massive disabilities, lives a full life and has until recently carried on a business practice.

His book *Lifelines* tells his inspiring story. *Lifelines* took 13 years to produce; writing and editing on a computer with his one-finger movement and with the help of readers.



“The challenge to improve function after a stroke is enormous but there are huge potential benefits, not just to the individuals, but for the whole Australian community.”

In 2005, Mr Couche received stem cell treatment from a clinic in the Netherlands and he says he has benefited with regained muscle strength and flexibility, and swallowing ability.

“I have so much to look forward to, so many things still to achieve and I am growing stronger every day,” says Mr Couche in his book.

“Of all the qualities with which I have had to arm myself, patience, persistence and a positive attitude have been the most important. And so is the life-giving power of laughter.” ■

STORY ROBYN MILLS

For information regarding supporting the stroke research or other Robinson Institute research, please contact Alissa Nightingale (08) 8313 1334 or [alissa.nightingale@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:alissa.nightingale@adelaide.edu.au)

For more details about Associate Professor Simon Koblar research into stem cells and stroke repair visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/researchtuesdays/)

Previous page and above: Associate Professor Simon Koblar

PHOTOS RANDY LARCOMBE



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## Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Recipients:

### Minh Bui

*Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce (Corporate Finance)*

Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce (Corporate Finance) student Minh Bui is gaining the full University of Adelaide experience.

Minh has chosen to pursue a career in law due to a desire to uphold justice. He has also acquired a special interest in politics and finance.

Minh chose to study at Adelaide for a variety of reasons.

"Other than it being one of the prestigious Group of Eight Universities, I chose it for its great reputation, fantastic study facilities, experienced and enthusiastic educators and highly recognised law and commerce degrees," Minh said.

"I have enjoyed being able to develop strong networks of friends, attending social events, participating in competitions and gaining valuable knowledge from the stimulating law and commerce programs."

The Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship has helped Minh to devote more time to his studies and extra-curricular activities, like student politics and volunteer work, without the financial pressure of supporting himself.

### Jie Gao

*Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Design*

As a young girl growing up in Mount Gambier, Jie Gao always knew that design was something she would pursue, but it wasn't until she visited a course information night that she also discovered the great benefits of a law degree.

"I realised that a law degree could show me how to view problems from a different perspective and find new ways of solving them," Jie said.

Leaving her family home and relocating to Adelaide would have been a real struggle without the financial assistance of the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship.

"Although I chose Adelaide because of the convenience and affordability, living costs are still quite high."

Jie, who is studying a double degree in Law and Design, is enjoying her experience at the University of Adelaide and likes the way university "allows you to discover yourself".

Jie's positive approach is a testament to some wise words from her father who told her that "her education is in her hands. It doesn't matter if you attend the most prestigious school, it's about how you apply yourself and having the right attitude".

More than 650 people have given to the University of Adelaide's annual appeals over the last 12 months, supporting Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship recipients and raising funds for the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library. If you were among these generous donors, please take a moment to look for your name on our acknowledgement web page at [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/donors](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/donors)

To find out more about the 2009 Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Appeal, or to make a donation, please contact Development and Alumni on (08) 8303 5800, visit: [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/vcs\\_appeal](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/vcs_appeal) or complete the form on page 25 of this issue.



PHOTO JOHN HEMMINGS

# A Helping Hand FOR OUR BRIGHT SPARKS

The students of today are the movers, shakers and decision-makers of tomorrow. Receiving a Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship might just be the step-up a talented student needs to reach their full potential.

For many promising students, attending University is simply out of reach due to circumstances beyond their control. The financial pressure of relocation, and balancing paid employment with a rigorous study timetable in order to finance tuition fees and study materials, means that tertiary education is not something they could even consider.

Entirely funded by generous donations from alumni and the University community through the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Appeal, the scholarships support outstanding students who experience financial and/or geographical disadvantage.

From 2010, up to 10 students will receive assistance thanks to the fund's donations.

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

dream of attending university, regardless of their financial circumstances," said Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

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

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

STORY CONNIE DUTTON

Above: Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha with scholarship recipients: Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce (Corporate Finance) student Minh Bui and Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Design student Jie Gao.







# It took just 80 seconds

Adelaide alumnus Dr Mara Warwick has been tasked with managing the largest emergency loan in the World Bank's history — US\$710 million.

**A**t 2.28pm on 12 May, 2008, the world moved for China, literally.

An earthquake measuring 8.0 on the Richter scale rocked the Sichuan Province, an area roughly the size of Spain, levelling more than four million homes, killing 90,000 people and injuring another 374,000.

It took just 80 seconds to leave a damage bill estimated at US\$123 billion.

The tremor was felt some 1500 kilometres away in Beijing, where Dr Mara Warwick was working in her World Bank office at the time.

It was a pivotal moment for the University of Adelaide civil and environmental engineering graduate, marking the start of her biggest career challenge to date.

The senior urban environment specialist has been tasked with managing the World Bank's US\$710 million emergency recovery loan to China for a reconstruction program of the affected regions.

As project manager of the largest emergency loan in the bank's history, Dr Warwick is co-ordinating teams of experts — including engineers, technicians, planners, environmental specialists and financiers — who are all involved in the reconstruction effort.

The scale of this disaster in China is unprecedented in terms of the damage it has caused.

"You can drive for 20 hours non-stop and still find town after town completely obliterated," Dr Warwick said. "People around the world just don't understand the extent of the devastation because it is impossible for the international media to convey it in a few news stories."

The magnitude of the China earthquake was similar to others around the world in recent decades but what was unique about this one was its duration, the time of day, and the fact that it occurred in one of the most densely populated and poorest areas of the country. ▶





“The Chinese people are very disciplined, calm and will tolerate a lot, particularly in the poorer areas, where expectations are not high. People in these regions are not asking for any more than basic needs — food, warmth and shelter.”

“The time of the earthquake was significant. Workers were in office buildings and children were in school, so casualties were very high. The extent of the area affected was enormous, covering 600 square kilometres,” Dr Warwick said.

Loss of biodiversity, chemical contamination and deforestation have also triggered a change of climate in the region, compounding the tragedy.

Almost everyone living in the Sichuan Province — 32 million people — has been affected. People have lost children, spouses, siblings, friends, grandparents, jobs, homes and their livelihood.

But they are starting to rebuild, both in spirit and in their day-to-day lives.

Dr Warwick’s team is responsible for not merely replacing those buildings crushed under mountains of debris and associated landslides, but providing new, modern infrastructure to cope with future population growth.

“This earthquake occurred in a developing country that was already undergoing rapid change. Prior to the quake the Chinese Government was implementing a policy to train people for non-farm work because the traditional agricultural pursuits were inefficient and producing very little food. Now that the earthquake has triggered landslides, floods and flattened the only productive land, this policy is even more important to pursue.”

The world can take a valuable lesson from the Chinese Government’s response to the disaster, Dr Warwick said.

“They have done an extraordinary job, mobilising the military and resources very quickly. Within weeks the affected counties had running water, electricity and mobile phone services were restored. Temporary schools have been built and dormitory-style housing provided for the children so they can attend school.”

A provincial twinning program has also been established in China where the richer provinces on the east coast are partnering with quake-affected counties to provide both technical expertise and financial assistance.

The loss of thousands of government officials in the disaster has placed additional pressure on the reconstruction effort but the complaints are few and far between.

“The Chinese people are very disciplined, calm and will tolerate a lot, particularly in the poorer areas, where

expectations are not high. People in these regions are not asking for any more than basic needs — food, warmth and shelter.”

It was a point of difference raised by Italian officials when Dr Warwick visited L’Aquila on a knowledge exchange mission in April, after a powerful earthquake ripped through Italy’s mountainous region.

“Italian people are much more demanding of the government when something goes wrong. In Italy, the maximum number of people they could put in a tent camp and still keep the peace was about 200 families. In China they housed thousands of families in tents without any complaints.

“The Italians said there was no way they could have managed an earthquake of the scale that happened in China. It tells you something about the capacity of the Chinese to handle things on a massive scale,” Dr Warwick said.

The 2008 earthquake was a defining event for China, in many respects. The population of 1.3 billion people had not witnessed horror on that scale in their lifetime and it has galvanised ordinary men and women to contribute to their country in a way they have never done before.

“For the first time, Chinese people have donated to a cause, which is just not in their culture. But this event has had a massive impact across the country and people are passionate about making a contribution to help rebuild these provinces,” Dr Warwick said.

“This is certainly my big contribution to China and I know a lot of other people feel the same way.” ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON

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Dr Mara Warwick graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1992 with a Bachelor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and was also awarded the University’s inaugural Honours Alumni University Medal.

After graduating, Dr Warwick worked in Adelaide for Kinhill Engineers before moving to China for work in 1993.

She was awarded a dual Fulbright and George Murray Scholarship in 1998, and completed her Masters and PhD from Stanford University in the United States, where she combined an engineering and political science postgraduate degree, specialising in environmental policy implementation in China.

Dr Warwick joined the World Bank in 2003 and was initially based in Washington before moving back to Beijing, China with her family in 2006.

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Previous page: Two Chinese women weep in front of a collapsed building in Duijiangyan, in the Sichuan Province.

PHOTO: AFP PHOTO/TEH ENG KOON

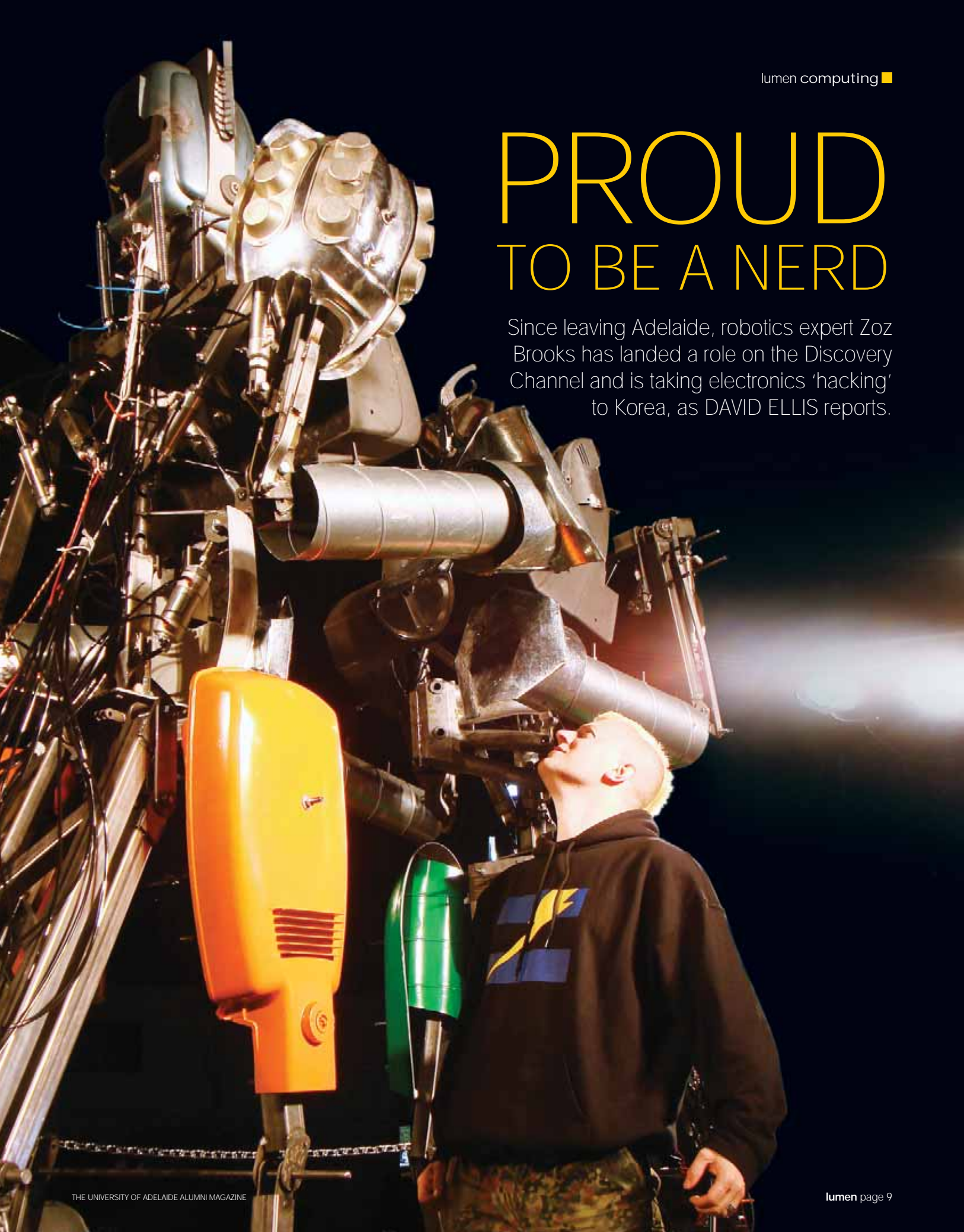
Above: Dr Mara Warwick

PHOTO: CANDY GIBSON



# PROUD TO BE A NERD

Since leaving Adelaide, robotics expert Zoz Brooks has landed a role on the Discovery Channel and is taking electronics 'hacking' to Korea, as DAVID ELLIS reports.



“I’m a nerd and I’m completely proud of it,” declares Dr Andrew ‘Zoz’ Brooks.

A robotics, computer science and engineering expert, Zoz, as he’s commonly known, is making a name for himself in more ways than one.

Recently he was one of the hosts of the television reality show *Prototype This!* which aired around the world on the Discovery Channel in 2008 and 2009.

The program, made by Australian company Beyond Productions — the same company that made *MythBusters* and *Beyond 2000* — followed a team of inventors whose job was to build a range of engineering prototypes that could have future applications.

With ideas seemingly inspired by science-fiction film and television, these prototypes included a mind-controlled car, a truck that lifted up over traffic to avoid congestion and a robot that would carry firefighting equipment into high-rise buildings.

Zoz (his name is the result of a pseudonym that has stuck over the years) says getting involved in television has helped to raise awareness of science and technology in a fun way.

“Engineering outreach is really a key issue for me,” he says. “It’s about helping people to feel the same way I do about science and engineering — that it’s cool, it’s fun. It doesn’t have to be a grind, it’s not just sitting in a cubicle doing a lot of maths all the time. You can create art with it, you can build things, it pervades every aspect of your life, if you let it.”

Zoz is a three-time graduate of the University of Adelaide. He received his Bachelor of Science degree with majors in Organic Chemistry and Computer Science in 1993, followed by First Class Honours in Computer Science in 1994 and a Graduate Diploma in Education in 1995.

From there he studied for a Masters at the Australian National University’s newly established robotics laboratory, before moving to Boston to do a PhD at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). In the Robotic Life group at MIT’s Media Laboratory he conducted research into human-robot communication on a range of projects, such as contributing to NASA’s ‘Robonaut’, a humanoid robot designed for space walks.

“It’s been fantastic,” he says of his 11-year stay in the United States. “MIT is an amazing place; it’s full of people that are proud to be nerds.”

Zoz has worked on a range of creative projects including a video game called *War Face* that uses computer imaging to recognise movements in the game player’s face. This work was presented at a conference as an example of tele-rehabilitation for sufferers of cerebral palsy and also went on display in an art exhibition in Thailand.

Some of his other creations that cross over from engineering into the world of art are the *Funkenschnorkel* — a backpack device that allows the wearer to broadcast music — and the *Schallfaust* and *Luftwerfer* — two large “toy weapons for adults” that use Coke bottles and compressed and liquefied gases to create harmless (but very loud) pyrotechnic-style explosions. The *Schallfaust* was inspired by a conversation Zoz had with famous Chinese pyrotechnic artist Cai Guo-Qiang.

“One of the most interesting and rewarding projects I’ve been involved in over the last few years was working on developing improved tools for humanitarian land mine clearance,” he says.

“This work has, in many ways, a greater real-world impact than TV, art or robots. There are spheres like this that all university graduates, regardless of their field, can make a difference in if they’re made aware of them.”

Having moved on from MIT and *Prototype This!*, Zoz has made some appearances on another Discovery Channel show, *Time Warp*, and is involved in a number of new projects that combine engineering and art. He also has links with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and has taught a course there mysteriously called “Ubiquitous Hacking”.

“The ‘hacking’ side of it isn’t malicious computer hacking — it’s about taking everyday electronic objects and making them do things that they were never explicitly designed to do, adding sensors, micro-controllers and other electronic elements to them,” he says.

“One of my students, for example, turned a laser printer into a music machine — it would print patterns of black-and-white squares, and as that page came out of the printer, an array of photo-detectors would read the patterns and play tunes.

“It’s all about having fun but also learning from what you do, which is the key to just about everything I’m involved in.”







“Science and engineering... doesn't have to be a grind, it's not just sitting in a cubicle doing a lot of maths all the time. You can create art with it, you can build things, it pervades every aspect of your life, if you let it.”

Left: Zoz wearing a personal 'airbag' designed to protect construction workers in case they fall from high-rise structures.

Previous page: Zoz with giant boxing robots from the Discovery Channel TV show *ProTOTYPE This!*

PHOTOS MICHAEL 'BOJ' FLORIDO



## Impact of an Adelaide education

Zoz Brooks says his interest in science and academia began at a very young age.

“My parents both had PhDs and both worked for the University of Adelaide — my mother (Dr Rosemary Brooks) lectures in architecture and my dad (Dr David Brooks) worked at the Waite Campus,” he says.

“By sheer chance I was born in the US, but my parents were from Adelaide and I grew up there. It didn't even occur to me not to go to the University of Adelaide — this great university was just down the road, so that's where I was going to go. I didn't even think of it as being a choice.

“I was also very lucky because my mother was the principal of St Ann's College, and I had that residential college experience. Being immersed constantly in the university life since high school, and in the academic life through my parents, was immensely valuable.”

Zoz's first love was chemistry but he also discovered a love of computer science at the University of Adelaide.

“I became immersed in that scene in the Computer Science department — there was a social scene as well as an academic scene going on there, and I found myself spending a lot more time in the computer lab than I was in the chem lab.”

He says his Honours year gave him focus as a student. “That's when I really decided what I wanted to do. There was a lot of interaction with the faculty. You'd even — and this is very uncommon in the States — go out and have some beers with some of the lecturers, with whom I had a lot of fun at Adelaide. That's one area where I think the system here (in the US) doesn't quite work right,” he says.

# *From Adelaide* *to the* **Roman Empire**

Her parents advised her to keep studying Law but Adelaide graduate and University Medalist Dr Meaghan McEvoy decided to follow her passion for Classical Studies and is now forging her career around the imperial politics of the late Roman Empire.



By the time Dr Meaghan McEvoy completes her recently-won postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Oxford, she will have been granted over \$500,000 worth of awards and fellowships since her graduation in 2002.

It's an impressive success story for any young researcher, but especially so for someone in the highly specialist field of Classical Studies.

Meaghan grew up near Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills and went to Loreto College where she first "stumbled across" Classics in Year 12, later deciding it was actually the perfect blend of earlier interests in history and ancient literature.

As a Law / Arts undergraduate at the University of Adelaide, her interests soon shifted away from Law towards Classical Studies. She picked up Ancient Greek and Latin as an undergraduate — vital for her later research.

"It was hard work to start the languages at university but it was well taught here at Adelaide. It's an important skill to have; it means you can read the original sources yourself and not have to rely on others' translations." A classical language was also necessary for her Oxford entry.

During her Honours year in 2002 under the "enthusiastic and inspiring" teaching of her supervisor, Dr Paul Tuffin, she became 'hooked' on the history of the late Roman Empire and she still researches in this area.

Meaghan finished her Honours year with a University Medal and the award of the national John Crampton Travelling Scholarships, which covered her fees and living costs for five years, to complete her MPhil and PhD at Oxford, accomplished in January 2009.

Her PhD thesis looked at the reign of four consecutive child emperors in the late Roman Empire and the surrounding imperial politics, from eight-year-old Gratian through to six-year-old Valentinian III.

"I was specifically interested in how these child emperors were presented as plausible rulers of such a vast empire, particularly when the function of most emperors of the time was to lead an army," Meaghan said. She is now turning her



thesis into a book with Oxford University Press, to be published in 2010.

Studying at Oxford was "pretty demanding" but a wonderful experience.

"I studied at New College which was built in 1379. It was a beautiful place to live," said Meaghan. "It was very hard work but I learned a tremendous amount. There were amazing people to learn from and to be taught by."

Following her PhD, Meaghan was awarded a one-year fellowship to the British School in Rome, funded by the British Academy, which she finished in June this year, and she is now completing a one-semester fellowship to Dumbarton Oaks, the specialist Byzantine Studies Centre at Harvard University.

Recently Meaghan heard she had won one of the highly prestigious and sought-after British Academy Postdoctoral Fellowship awards for a three-year research project at an institution of her choice. She will return to Oxford to Corpus Christi College.

This time Meaghan will move 100 years on from her PhD study, taking her to around 450–550AD, looking at the emperors who followed the boys of her previous study.

"Christianity had just been adopted as the state religion of the Roman Empire and there was a push to increasingly 'Christianise' the emperors' role," said Meaghan. "The emperors that followed

after the child emperors no longer had the powers they might have once had. Christianising their role was one way of making the emperor still look adequate."

Meaghan says the late antiquity is a growing field.

"Traditionally it was regarded as a period of destruction and degeneracy and so tended to be ignored," she said. "But interest is growing and there is still a lot of original research to be done."

Back in Adelaide recently to visit her family, Meaghan also caught up with Classics staff at the University.

"While I was studying here at one stage it was hard to see what direction I might follow with Classics, but I had a lot of encouragement from the department to continue with further study. They were very supportive."

No doubt her parents have long forgiven her for not continuing with Law. ■

STORY ROBYN MILLS

Dr Meaghan McEvoy in Italy over the past year: (left) in Rome viewing an inscription in the Roman Forum which relates to three of the emperors she is researching; (above left) in front of the Doge's Palace, Venice; and (above right) in Rome with the Colossus of Constantine the Great.



# HOW SWEET IT IS to be healthy

A \$140,000 project co-ordinated by a University of Adelaide researcher is reaping enormous health benefits for villagers in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.







It's sweet, starchy and orange and could hold the key to abolishing some of the developing world's most serious diseases.

If Dr Graham Lyons has his way, the orange-fleshed sweet potato will become the staple food crop in Melanesia within the next decade, providing much needed Vitamin A to boost immunity and curb major nutritional deficiencies.

The University of Adelaide Research Fellow has spent the last two and a half years in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, working on a project to encourage villagers to eat orange-fleshed sweet potatoes and other coloured local produce in preference to imported foods.

Funded by HarvestPlus and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the \$140,000 project has been an outstanding success, restoring pride in locally-grown foods and reducing the spread of malaria and eye problems.

The orange-fleshed sweet potato contains plenty of beta-carotene, a key factor in Vitamin A which plays a major role in boosting immunity, improving eye health and helping to protect against anaemia, diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers.

"The sweet potato is far and away the most important food crop in Melanesia," Dr Lyons said. "When we started the project almost three years ago we found that Solomon Island villagers grew a small amount of the orange-fleshed sweet potato because they liked the colour and flavour, but had no idea it delivered such important health benefits."

Dr Lyons and his team have been working with a local seed garden association to deliver more than 30 workshops in the region promoting the value of growing coloured fruits and vegetables rich in beta-carotene.

"We have collaborated with the Custom Garden Association in Honiara to find the most superior varieties of sweet potato, as well as yellow bananas, legumes and other green, leafy vegetables which deliver fantastic nutrients," he said.

Food posters, community plantings and nutrition workshops hosted by Dr Lyons and renowned nutritionists and anthropologists Dr Lois Englberger (Micronesia) and Dr Wendy Foley (Queensland) have got the message across.

As a result, many villagers in parts of the Solomon Islands and PNG are now growing more colourful vegetables and fruits than before, including orange-fleshed sweet potatoes, pawpaw and yellow "toraka" bananas. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the incidence of malaria and night blindness has declined in these areas.

Sweet potatoes are now more commonly grown than taros, yams and cassava in much of the Solomons and PNG as they produce more per hectare than other crops, especially on poor soils.

Raising pride in local produce is also helping to counter the reliance on imported processed food, such as polished rice, white flour and white sugar — all linked to increasing levels of diabetes and heart disease in the Pacific region.

Much of the success of the Harvest Plus and ACIAR program is due to the fact that Dr Lyons works with villagers at a grassroots level, funding them directly and ensuring the money is distributed properly to reap the maximum benefits.

"ACIAR is very happy with the results we have achieved. For a small project — \$140,000 in total — the health and cultural benefits to the Solomon Islands and PNG have been outstanding," Dr Lyons said.

Dr Lyons has a Bachelor of Agricultural Science, Masters of Public Health and a PhD in Micronutrients, all from the University of Adelaide. He will finish the project in early 2010. ■

STORY CANDY GIBSON

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Vitamin A deficiency affects up to 400 million people around the world, including around 150 million children. It often occurs in conjunction with protein, iron and zinc deficiencies and is manifested in blindness, impaired bone growth, susceptibility to malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, influenza, pneumonia and measles.

Just 100 grams of orange-fleshed sweet potato a day can provide sufficient levels of Vitamin A to prevent deficiencies.

Recent research has shown that improving the Vitamin A status of young children in deficient populations leads to a 23% reduction in child mortality.

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Left: Local food markets in the Solomon Islands, featuring coloured fruits and vegetables.

Inset: Dr Graham Lyons.

# GLOBAL

— I M P A C T —

*From the Czech Republic to the jungles of PNG and the bustling streets of Tokyo, you'll find an Adelaide alumnus in almost every corner of the world. Ben Osborne profiles three 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](mailto:ben.osborne@adelaide.edu.au)



Debra-Jayne Kimlin with Pavel Krška, Director of the Czech National Wine Centre.

## Tasting success in the Czech Republic

Debra-Jayne Kimlin  
Bachelor of Wine Marketing, 2004

Debra Kimlin lectures in wine marketing and tourism at the National Wine Centre — but half a world away from Adelaide in Valtice, in the Czech Republic.

Debra toured many of Europe's wine regions after graduating and was smitten by the South Moravian region of the Czech Republic, discovering that old world wine and castle ruins make for great surroundings. After a wine education job in Shanghai, China didn't turn out as planned, Debra decided to return to the region, initially to teach Business English.

"I found a country starving for training not just in English, but in basic business skills, and started delivering my own style of content-language integrated learning," she said.

"It only took a few months to find that my wine business experience and knowledge was also in great demand.

"Now, along with my business skills, teaching, and writing articles for the national wine industry magazine, I edit public relations material and lecture in wine marketing and tourism to wine students, producers and industry-related businesses at the Valtice Chateau, which is the home of the Czech National Wine Centre."

The Czech wine industry is nowhere near as advanced as Australia's, which provides a challenging — but ultimately satisfying — work environment.

"The industry is highly segmented, highly regulated, and highly disorganised," she said.

"Most of the wine producers here are very small operators: in Moravia alone, there are 19,364 growers among only 16,980 hectares of registered vineyards.

"However, amidst the chaos and scars of former regimes, a new era of wine production and marketing is emerging that is realising the need for market research, innovation and improvement in wine quality. There are some world-class ice wines and flavoursome white wines being produced here — Sauvignon Blanc takes on a whole new persona in this climate.

"Nevertheless, I think the future profitability of this region will come more from wine tourism than from wine production, and the infrastructure for this is already coming together. They have a great story to tell, dating back to the days of the Roman Empire, and hopefully they will find the right sort of people to listen.

"It's challenging work in a challenging environment, especially when you're trying to absorb a Slavic language at the same time, but I love it and I'm pleased to be playing a small part in helping the Czech wine industry begin to grow."





Photo by Muse Opiang  
of the Papua New  
Guinea Institute of  
Biological Research

## Discovering new species in PNG

Dr Kristofer Helgen

PhD in Biological Science, 2007

It's a mix of the new and the old for Dr Kristofer Helgen as he helps oversee the world's largest scientific collection of mammal specimens at the prestigious Smithsonian Institution.

The biologist returned to his US homeland in 2006 after completing a Fulbright Fellowship and PhD at the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Museum, under the guidance of former museum director Professor Tim Flannery and the late Professor Russell Baudinette.

Already in his career Dr Helgen has found 100 new species of mammals — including a giant rat and 16 new frog species — earlier this year in Papua New Guinea, which attracted worldwide media and public attention.

"These moments of basic discovery are fundamentally exciting for me," Dr Helgen said. "And my feeling is that these discoveries grab hold of people's attention because it is such a powerful illustration of how little we know about our own planet, even in an age of Google Earth and Wikipedia, where so much knowledge of every kind seems to be literally at our fingertips.

"There are many areas of the world, especially forested regions in the tropics, that have never been explored biologically in any detail.

"At the same time, many of those areas are rapidly changing or even disappearing as a result of many

kinds of impacts and exploitations, such as logging, forest clearance for agriculture, and many other forces.

"There is a sense of both wonder and urgency in being a biological explorer."

While the discoveries capture headlines, there is much more to his role as Research Zoologist and Curator of Mammals at the Smithsonian, particularly his research into those mammals already found or which are even extinct.

"My principal interests as a biologist are filling in major gaps in our understanding of basic biology for all 5000–6000 species of mammals on the planet," he said.

"This includes: identifying all species taxonomically, documenting their distributions, figuring out what they 'do for a living' — where do they sleep? how do they move? what do they eat? — and identifying which ones might be of greatest concern for conservation attention or of greatest interest to other scientists studying other sorts of biological questions.

"Another focus for me at the moment is studying past disease epidemics by examining preserved museum specimens collected over the past 200 years. These collections are likely to be some of science's best tools for understanding the dynamics of diseases important to both human and animal health in the recent past."



## Changing the face of Japan

Riccardo Tossani

Bachelor of Architecture (Hons), 1980

Designing one of Italian fashion icon Giorgio Armani's newest Tokyo stores is the perfect global blend for architect Riccardo Tossani.

Since graduating from Adelaide with a Bachelor of Architecture (Honours) in 1980, Riccardo has lived and worked in Italy, the United States (including obtaining his Master of Architecture at Harvard), and since 1997 — and perhaps most importantly — Japan.

It's a world view which has been ingrained into Riccardo from an early age, growing up in a multicultural environment in Adelaide with a strong focus on Italian history, culture and language.

At age 26, and after three years of running his own practice, he decided to expand his intellectual horizons beyond Australia by embarking on a "journey without itinerary to discover both the world and a deeper ideological purpose."

After practising in Florence, Italy, Riccardo studied at Harvard and then spent nine years working up to being a senior member of renowned Los Angeles firm Johnson Fain Pereira (now known as Johnson Fain), including a stint opening their Guam office in the South Pacific.

Riccardo worked on a diverse range of projects during that time, including a Superconducting Supercollider in Texas, a new CBD for Bangkok, a new town plan for near Sacramento, California, as well as resorts in Micronesia.

While studying at the University of Adelaide, Riccardo developed a fascination for Japan after seeing images of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic pavilions by famed Japanese architect Kenzo Tange.

"I was fortunate enough to have visited the country for business purposes, but I realised that more time needed to be spent there if I were to understand anything beyond the superficial," he said.

"I thought six months or so should do it. More than 12 years later, I have barely scratched the surface."

Riccardo began what was initially a sabbatical in Tokyo, but which developed into starting a new practice with his Japanese-born wife, fellow architect Atsuko Itoda, whom he had met while working in California.

His firm's work has subsequently won numerous Japanese awards, expanding his multicultural operating environment and global professional reach.

"All this for me has meant an exciting and productive career, where in just 12 years my firm has completed a body of work that would have taken at least twice as long in most other places, and where my design principles and ideologies continue to be exercised by an ever-broadening world view," he said.

[www.tossani.com](http://www.tossani.com)



# Sarah's in the right **headspace**

Sarah Alliston has relished the opportunity to apply her studies in any way she can for the benefit of others.

Less than 12 months after completing her degree in Social Sciences, Sarah Alliston has received a 2009 Dr Margaret Tobin Award for Excellence in Mental Health.

Named after the late Dr Tobin, former Head of Mental Health Services in South Australia, the awards recognise excellence by mental health practitioners, educators, volunteers and others.

Ms Alliston won the Consumer/Carer/Volunteer Award "for a person who has made an outstanding contribution to improvements for people with, or at risk of developing, a mental illness".

The 23-year-old — whose Social Sciences degree included a double major in Psychology and Gender, Work and Social Inquiry — has played a key role as a volunteer for 'headspace', a national organisation that provides mental and health wellbeing support, information and services to young people and their families.

Since 2007, Ms Alliston has been an active member of the Youth National Reference Group for 'headspace', helping to contribute to policy, marketing and community awareness activities.

"Sarah has been invaluable to the Youth National Reference Group. She's always

willing to put her hand up and participate above and beyond what would normally be required," said Health Promotion Officer with 'headspace', Sarah Shiell.

"She has contributed to our national campaigns and the development of fact sheets, she's had a fair amount of input into policy, and she initiated a major project called Expressions. She put a lot of work into that project and it has been extremely successful, with great feedback from around Australia," Ms Shiell said.

The Expressions project gathered stories, artwork and poems created by young people, giving them a chance to express themselves about mental health issues. As well as some of these items being available on the 'headspace' website, an Expressions publication has been produced and distributed nationally.

"It has provided an end resource for young people to access so they can learn about other people's experiences and not feel as alone in what they are going through," Ms Alliston said.

"One in four young people will experience mental health problems in any 12-month period, so it's really important for us to show them that there is help and support available."



“One in four young people will experience mental health problems in any 12-month period, so it’s really important for us to show them that there is help and support available.”

Ms Alliston said her studies at the University of Adelaide had been useful to her roles outside of the University.

“I really enjoyed the health focus of my studies, which came through in Health Psychology, and I really enjoyed the focus on young people that came through in the Social Sciences subjects.

“Because of what I’d learned, it helped me with my volunteering roles and put them into a better context.”

Ms Alliston is now helping to shape the future of young people’s participation in mental health policy and promotion for ‘headspace’.

“The experience with ‘headspace’ taught me that young people and organisations really can work together. It was an excellent example of how the target audience of the service could be involved in the development of that service,” she said.

“Headspace was also really keen to build our skills so that it wasn’t just about them utilising us, it was a two-way exchange. They were building us for future roles.”

To learn more about ‘headspace’, visit: [www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)

STORY AND PHOTO DAVID ELLIS  
ART WORK COURTESY OF HEADSPACE

## Boost for teacher training

A new program to encourage outstanding university graduates to teach in Australia’s most disadvantaged schools will be launched in 2010.

Teach For Australia is an innovative, non-profit organisation that combines the expertise of corporate and public sectors and the backing of Federal Education Minister Julia Gillard to recruit graduates to work in the most challenging school environments.

Among those at the helm of the new teacher education course is University of Adelaide alumnus Dr Mathew White, who completed all his postgraduate studies within the School of Education.

Dr White has been headhunted from the prestigious Geelong Grammar School to take up his new appointment as Director of Teaching and Leadership at Teach For Australia. He is also a Fellow in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education.

Teach For Australia’s mission is to find university graduates who have the qualities, skills and motivation to help children from low socio-economic backgrounds to reach their potential.

Dr White said he would bring a lot of his knowledge and experiences from the University of Adelaide to his new role.

“Some key people within the School of Education at Adelaide helped mould significant parts of my educational thinking,” Dr White said.

While completing a Graduate Diploma of Education (1995), a Master of Educational Studies (1998) and his PhD (2004) at the University of Adelaide, Dr White was heavily influenced by three academics.

“The late Professor George Smolicz AM, Professor Kevin Marjoribanks and Dr Margaret Secombe inspired me, guided me and opened my eyes to the possibilities that empirical research can play in bringing about change in our schools,” he said.

“Their intellectual leadership, insight and vision were awe-inspiring and I hope to pass on some of the love of learning they shared with me.”

Teach For Australia is a partner in the global education network Teach For All, which offers pathway programs for the world’s top graduates in all disciplines. Its programs in the United States (Teach



for America) and the United Kingdom (Teach First) have delivered some outstanding student results and helped raise the status of teaching as a profession.

The Australian arm was founded in January 2009 and will place its first cohort of graduates in a two-year leadership and teaching course starting in January 2010.

“These teachers will need to adjust to different cultural environments, understand the particular demands and strengths of individual communities and develop the expertise and empathy required to instigate change.”

Dr White said the program would employ many of the concepts of ‘positive psychology’ in the training of a new generation of hand-picked graduates.

“This classroom approach helps students from disadvantaged backgrounds become more efficient and resilient, improving their grades and reaching their potential.”

Outstanding university graduates who are accepted into the two-year leadership program will qualify with a Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching.

“While academic ability is important, candidates also need to have some unique qualities, such as the ability to persevere in the face of obstacles, and demonstrated leadership skills. These are all crucial when developing outstanding teachers,” Dr White said. ■

For more information about the program, go to [www.teachforaustralia.org](http://www.teachforaustralia.org)

Above: Dr Mathew White





# JO BITES THE BIG APPLE

Twelve months after releasing her debut CD *I Want To Be Happy*, jazz vocalist Jo Lawry is indeed happier than she's ever been.

Fresh from performing with childhood hero Sting, Jo is still in the process of carving out a career as a vocalist based in the epicentre of world jazz, New York.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Music (Jazz) in 2000 and First Class Honours in Jazz Performance in 2001, Jo left for New York in 2003 as one of the most promising jazz graduates from the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

Since then she has coupled a slowly burgeoning performing career with the demands of further postgraduate study.

Armed with twin prestigious scholarships — a Fulbright Scholarship awarded by the Australian-American Fulbright Commission, and the University of Adelaide's highly coveted George Murray Scholarship — Jo completed a Masters degree in Music at Purchase College, a campus of the State University of New York.

She is currently studying for a Doctor of Musical Arts at the New England Conservatory.

In itself, this would be a challenging workload, but Jo has also found time to perform and record with many notable performers, including Fred Hersch, Kate McGarry, Donny McCaslin and Bobby McFerrin.

Add writing and recording her first CD, *I Want To Be Happy*, released in 2008 (and available through iTunes or CD Baby), and it adds up to an ever-growing resume.

And, of course, there's Sting.

"Working with Sting has been my number one fantasy gig since I was about 15," Jo said.

"Just being in New York was an important start. He was looking for NY-based singers for his new project, and a friend had auditioned, got the gig and recommended me for the remaining slot. I did a couple of auditions and made the cut. I was overjoyed.

"The experience was everything I could have hoped for, and more. He is such a spectacular musician, a tremendous bandleader and the consummate professional — I can honestly say that every moment working with him is a joy."

Jo worked with Sting for his latest project, *If On A Winter's Night*, including performing songs from the CD for a live DVD recording at Durham Cathedral in England, and live performances on US late-night staples, *The Today Show* and the *Late Show with David Letterman*.

For her own CD, a recent 4.5-star review in *Downbeat*, the highly respected jazz magazine, meant sales have started to pick up more than 12 months after being released.

"I had taken so long to finally put a record out, that it felt more like a relief than anything!" she said.

"I did almost nothing to promote it at the time, as it was a bit of a crazy time to do it. I was right in the middle of taking the mammoth qualifying exams for my doctorate, and putting together my final doctoral recital.

"So I just 'set it free', as it were and let it do its thing. So 12 months later I hadn't sold many, but getting 4.5 stars in *Downbeat* is fairly rare, and that's meant some more sales and more interest in what I'm doing, which is gratifying.

"I'm currently more focused on putting out the next one — I got a lot of things out of my system musically with *I Want To Be Happy* and I'm excited about making an album for which I haven't got any prerequisites."

For Jo, carving out a successful career in New York has required sacrifice and plenty of hard work while never losing sight of why she wanted to be there.

"New York is a tough town for anyone to exist in as an artist," she said. "I think you need to love what you do, and you need to make sure that just trying to survive doesn't eclipse the reason you came here in the first place.

"That can be really hard; the times when I've allowed paying the rent to come before making the music have been the times I've come closest to leaving New York.

"Recently I've made some tough decisions, such as reducing my teaching hours in order to devote more time to creating music. The result is that, though I still live in a tiny basement studio, I'm happier than I've ever been.

"I'm certainly far from a big industry success in the conventional sense of the word, but I'm extremely satisfied with and excited by the path I'm on — and tomorrow morning my goal will be to get up and work at making sure it stays that way." ■

[www.jolawry.com](http://www.jolawry.com)

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Left: Jo Lawry

PHOTO ICHIRO OKADA

# BRIGHT FUTURE for Nepali village

A 2001 holiday in Nepal has turned into a passion for helping its people for Anthropology graduate Christie Lam.





Starting with just US\$400, she has overseen the development of a volunteer-run program known as 'Future Village', which provides education, health and agricultural assistance to the 700 residents of Katunge Village, 100km north of the capital Kathmandu.

"I did some trekking in Nepal in 2001 before I came to Adelaide to study, and fell in love with the country and its people," said Christie, who is originally from Hong Kong.

"I met a lot of tourists and also locals, and I started to think whether the introduction of tourism and also stricter conservation policies had helped improve the locals' livelihood.

"The answer I got from locals was 'no'. I became very curious and used my studies at Adelaide University to see what impact these conservation policies were having in Nepal.

"I based my thesis on 15 months of fieldwork I did among a group of displaced residents known as Rana Tharu who had long lived in the Royal Shuklaphanta Wildlife Reserve and had been forced by authorities to leave their homeland due to changes in conservation policies.

"What I showed in my thesis was how this displacement and other social changes have gradually and unexpectedly diminished the Rana Tharu's economic livelihoods."

Somewhere in the middle of her time in Nepal, Christie decided that she wanted to do more than just study: she wanted to give back.

It was a life-changing decision which she describes as centering around 'translating knowledge into action'.

"I knew very well the completion of my PhD would give me a qualification, but how would it help the Nepali people?" she said.

"I started Future Village with just US\$400, enough to buy a small piece of land in another part of Nepal that I had visited in my holidays in 2001. With support from my friends, we collected enough in donations to build a two-storey house, which we used to attract more volunteers.

"In the beginning, everything was difficult — just getting donated materials like books and furniture into the village was challenging in itself.

"But the response we had from volunteers far exceeded my expectations, and now the program has made a big difference in the life of the village.



"We've helped teach village children English and provided basic health services while listening to what the locals want — we've always considered it a partnership, rather than a one-way street of us telling them what to do.

"As a result the livelihood of these village people has significantly improved. All the kids are able to go to school, which we've helped upgrade from a primary school to a junior high school, and more than half the population can access drinking water."

After graduating with her PhD in August 2009, Christie is back in Adelaide and teaching at her *alma mater* while hoping to pursue a career in teaching, research or working in non-government organisations (NGOs).

There is still much to be done with Future Village, but Christie said she hopes the project has been developed in such a way that the villagers themselves shape its subsequent direction.

"I think the future of Future Village is in the hands of the villagers," she said.

"Because we encouraged them to express their views in the early stages of the project and did our best to incorporate what they said would be best for them, they now have an important role in managing it today and also where it goes from here.

"For me, the biggest thing I've learned is how important it is to have a dream, and to take action to make the dream come true.

"I feel that nowadays, we give ourselves too many excuses not to try and achieve our dreams.

"We don't need to worry about difficulties if something is meaningful and worthy." ■



"I feel that nowadays, we give ourselves too many excuses not to try and achieve our dreams... We don't need to worry about difficulties if something is meaningful and worthy."

[www.future-village-nepal.org/en/index.html](http://www.future-village-nepal.org/en/index.html)

Left: Christie Lam pictured at Katunge Village, in the foreground of the two-storey house built from her fund-raising efforts. Above: Christie pictured with Nepali students in their classroom.

STORY BEN OSBORNE

# Recognising Excellence

A lifetime of outstanding achievement has seen three University of Adelaide graduates receive a prestigious Distinguished Alumni Award from the University.

**A**warded annually, the Distinguished Alumni Awards recognise alumni who have enhanced the reputation of the University of Adelaide and have given outstanding service to the community or made a significant contribution in their chosen fields.

## Do you know somebody worthy of consideration for a Distinguished Alumni Award?

Development and Alumni is now accepting nominations for the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Nominations are open to any person who meets the definition of an alumnus: a graduate, present or former student, or past or present staff member of the University of Adelaide.

The purpose of the award is to recognise alumni who have enhanced the reputation of the University of Adelaide and one of the following:

- have given outstanding service to the community; or
- have made an outstanding contribution in their chosen field.

For more information and nomination forms, phone 08 8303 6356 or visit [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/daa](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/daa)

Nominations should be forwarded in writing by 30 April 2010 to:

Gaynor Tyerman

Alumni Relations Officer  
(Domestic and Awards)

Level 1, 230 North Terrace  
UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE SA 5005

The 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients are:



**Dr Barbara Rosemary Hardy AO**  
(BSc 1947)

In recognition of her lifelong commitment and significant contribution to the advancement of Science Education, Science Awareness and Environmental Conservation.

Dr Hardy has worked tirelessly to promote the environment and science education.

She has served in various capacities in support of this goal, including: Commissioner of the Australian Heritage Commission; President of the National Parks Foundation of South Australia (now the Nature Foundation SA); and Chair of the South Australian Landcare Committee.

She also founded the Investigator Science and Technology Centre, received Life Membership of the Australian Science Communicators and recently had the Barbara Hardy Centre for Sustainable Urban Environments named after her by the University of South Australia.

She has been a vocal advocate for solar and sustainable energy and is an Officer of the Order of Australia.



**Mr John Laurence Menadue AO**  
(BEC (Hons) 1957, BEc 1956)

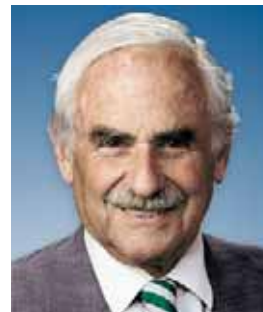
In recognition of his significant and lifelong contribution to Australian Society as a Public Servant, Diplomat, Critical Thinker, Board Director, Advisor and Public Commentator.

Mr Menadue has had a distinguished career both in the private sector and in the Public Service. His past positions include: General Manager, News Limited; Head of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, working for Prime Ministers Whitlam and Fraser; Australian Ambassador to Japan; Head, Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs; Head, Department of Trade; CEO of Qantas; a Director of Telstra; and a Director of the NSW State Rail Authority.

His awards include the Japanese Imperial Award, The Grand Cordon of the Order of the Sacred Treasure.

In 1983 he was awarded the Centenary Medal and in 1985 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Mr Menadue has maintained his connection with the University of Adelaide through being a lifelong supporter of Lincoln College.



**Dr Rex John Lipman AO**  
(BDS 1951)

In recognition of his significant contribution and leadership over many years in the areas of Dentistry, Business, Diplomacy and Education and his lifelong commitment to the Adelaide University Regiment.

Dr Lipman graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Dentistry in 1951, and in the early part of his career pioneered publicity for the fluoridation of water supplies.

He followed his dental practice involvement with a successful business career as a merchant banker and director of a number of South Australian companies. He has served as Executive Chairman of Harris Scarfe Ltd and Honorary Consul for France, and established Angas Travel (of which he is still Chairman) and the very successful International College of Hotel Management.

Dr Lipman's contributions have been recognised by high awards from both the Australian and French governments, including being made a French Officer of National Order of Merit in 1982, and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2008.





PHOTO BY JOHN HEMMINGS

# MAKE AN IMPACT

The University of Adelaide is one of Australia's most research-intensive institutions. As a member of the Group of Eight, we are a destination of choice for highly talented researchers and academics. The University has a distinguished track record spanning basic research to commercial outcomes. Relevance and quality are the ongoing drivers of the University's research initiatives, aimed at delivering real results which contribute to Australia's social, economic, cultural and environmental wellbeing.

We are expanding our research performance by investing in excellence and creating an outstanding research training environment to produce highly skilled graduates who will be future leaders in their chosen fields.

The University has recently established six world-class research institutes, a number of these in partnership with government and industry. These institutes, comprising a research community of approximately 1200 staff and students, bring together world-leading researchers, supported by modern infrastructure and an innovative culture to tackle state and national research priorities.

You can secure the future of these institutes and other University initiatives by supporting the University of Adelaide with your tax-deductible donation. Every contribution, no matter how small, will have a significant impact on our wellbeing for generations to come.

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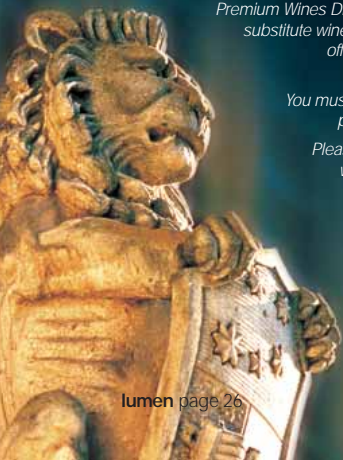
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# Adelaide onLION working for you

Are you looking for a new job, planning your career goals, entering the workforce, or wanting to assist other alumni with their career pathway?

You'll find all the resources, tools and guides you need in Adelaide onLION Career Centre. Adelaide onLION is the University's official alumni online community, and its Career Centre provides a safe and exclusive portal, maximising the benefits of being connected to a rapidly growing community of alumni located all over the world and in a diverse range of industries and professions.

If you are looking for employees, advertising in the Career Centre is quick and easy, and better yet, it's completely free. With more than 12,000 members across the globe, and more alumni joining every day, your ideal team member could be a click away!

In addition, Job Postings provide members with a place to share information about any employment or volunteers' opportunities that other onLION members might find to be of interest.

To post a job vacancy:

- Visit [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/submitjob](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/submitjob) to complete and post a job form; or
- Email a copy of your advertisement to [adelaide.onlion@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:adelaide.onlion@adelaide.edu.au); or

- Call Susanne Henry on +61 8 8303 4276.

Another feature of the Career Centre undergoing rapid growth is the mentoring feature.

If you're a skilled and experienced professional, you have the opportunity to make a positive impact on someone else's life by becoming a mentor.

It's not only a satisfying way to help others — it's a great chance to develop skills in teaching, management and communication, as the more than 500 alumni mentors who have already registered in onLION will attest.

And if you're beginning your career, being mentored gives you the opportunity to discover your strengths and potential, develop confidence and extend your professional and interpersonal skills while helping to define your career goals and build networks. ■

STORY KIM HARVEY

Job Postings and Mentoring are just two of the features available at Adelaide onLION's Career Centre. To learn more, visit [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/career\\_centre](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/career_centre)



# Graduates relive golden memories

Fifty years ago, a group of new University of Adelaide graduates left Bonython Hall with their fresh qualifications and the opportunity to make an impact on the world around them.

In October, about 100 people from this group returned for the University's Golden Jubilee celebrations with a lifetime of experiences and the opportunity to catch up with old friends and share memories of their student days.

Held annually, the Golden Jubilee reunion celebrates the 50th anniversary of the relevant year's graduation and features a commemoration ceremony in Bonython Hall, followed by a lunch — not to mention much reminiscing, story-telling and laughter.

Graduates from as far away as the United States and Kenya, as well as across Australia, made the special effort to attend.

Emeritus Professor Deane Terrell AO, who graduated with an Honours degree in Economics and was also the University's Rhodes Scholar in 1959, gave the Golden Jubilee address. After graduating, Professor Terrell went on to have a distinguished academic career, including being Vice-Chancellor at the Australian National University in Canberra.

"Today is a wonderful opportunity... to meet with fellow graduates of 1959 and to

recall the academic, social and sporting adventures and interactions that were such a rewarding part of those times," Professor Terrell said in his address.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha commended the Golden Jubilee graduates for the distinction and service they had brought to the University and the community over the last 50 years.

"This event also reaffirms that the reputations of universities are largely built on the quality of the graduates they produce — not only at the time of their graduation, but what they go on to achieve, and how they use their education to better the lives of others," Professor McWha said. ■

STORY BEN OSBORNE

Above right: 1959 graduate and Rhodes Scholar and former Australian National University Vice-Chancellor, Emeritus Professor Deane Terrell AO, gives the Golden Jubilee address.

Right: 1959 Arts (Hons) graduate Margaret Southwood receives her Golden Jubilee certificate from the Chancellor, the Hon. John von Doussa QC.

Below: The graduates of 1959.

PHOTOS JOHN HEMMINGS



# 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](mailto:alumni@adelaide.edu.au) or call +61 8 8303 5800. High quality photos are also welcome (300dpi).

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



Sean Williams



Kimberley Mann



Dr Celia Chen

### 2000s

**Sean Williams** [*MA (Creat Writ) 2005*] has been awarded the 2009 Peter McNamara Award for Excellence for achievement in creative writing. The prize was presented at the Ditmar Awards, a series of awards held annually since 1969 to recognise achievements in Australian Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror. A Creative Writing PhD candidate, Sean has achieved success overseas writing and publishing five very different books, one of which debuted at #1 on the New York Times bestseller list. Another was the novel he wrote for his MA in Creative Writing at university. He lives in Adelaide with his wife, Amanda Nettelbeck, who is an Associate Professor in the English Discipline at the University of Adelaide.

**Kimberley Mann** [*MA (Creat Writ) 2003*] currently works as a therapeutic counsellor and has enjoyed much success in her career as a published writer, reviewer and poet. Her poetry has won prizes and been published in journals, newspapers and in books. Kim has co-edited two books, co-written and produced two short plays and was commissioned to co-write a libretto performed by the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra. In 2006, Kim won a Longlines Prose Masterclass with Peter Bishop and in 2008, was selected for a second Fellowship at Varuna Writer's Centre in the Blue Mountains. Her first book, a collection of poetry titled *Awake During Anaesthetic*, was launched at The Sydney Writers' Festival in May and also at the Melbourne Poetry Festival OVERLOAD in September 2009.

**Patrick Clifford** [*MBA 2005*] has been elected to the South Australian Chamber of Mines & Energy (SACOME) Council. SACOME works with industry and government to help an exciting sector reach its full potential and maximise social and economic benefits while meeting environmental objectives. Following completion of his work with Oz Minerals on the Prominent Hill project, Patrick is also now Project Manager with Ironclad Mining Ltd, developing new iron ore mines on the Eyre Peninsula.

### 1990s

**Dr Celia Chen** [*MBBS 1998*] is currently working at Flinders Medical Centre. Dr Chen has received the NICS-MSRA Betty Cuthbert Fellowship to improve the management of optic neuritis in people with multiple sclerosis. The two-year program provides NICS Fellows with funding, new skills, networks and knowledge to help bridge an important gap in the delivery of health care. Dr Chen will develop information tools about the symptoms and treatment options for optic neuritis to help ensure people with MS make informed decisions about their care.

**Dr Tania Crotti** [*B Health Sc 1996, B Health Sc (Hons) 1997, PhD (Med) 2002*] After several successful years abroad, including five years at Harvard University, Dr Crotti has returned to Adelaide and taken up a position as a medical researcher in the Medical Faculty (Pathology Discipline) at the University of Adelaide.





Emilis Pregauskas

The Hon Shane Stone  
AC, QC

David Ellis

Dr Jeff Ellis  
Photo courtesy CSIRO

Dr Ian Shankland



Lorraine McLoughlin

**Dr Charles Mullighan** [*MBBS (Hons) 1993, MSc (University of London) 1997, MD 1998*] is an Assistant Member in the Pathology Department at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in the US and has been named a 2009 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. Selected by The Pew Charitable Trusts as one of 17 of the country's most promising early-career scientists, Dr Mullighan will receive \$240,000 over four years to support his research into leukaemia, the genetics of disease susceptibility and the genetic determinants.

**Melinda Dodson** [*B Arch St 1991, B Arch St (Hons) 1995*] is the youngest person ever to be appointed National President of the Australian Institute of Architects. Melinda is the 70th National President and only the second woman to hold the office in the Institute's 79-year history. Her career began in Adelaide and she recently joined GHD Architects in Canberra as its Principal Architect.

## 1980s

**The Hon Shane Stone AC, QC** [*Grad Dip Ed Admin (SACAE) 1980, LLB UniMelb, ANU 1980*] has enjoyed an illustrious career in politics and the legal profession, after originally training as a teacher. Before going to the Victorian Bar he served as Associate to Sir Edward Woodward AC OBE in the Federal Court of Australia. Shane is a former President of the Northern Territory Country Liberal Party (1986–89), member of the Northern Territory Parliament (1990–2000), Cabinet Minister and Chief Minister (1990–2000). On leaving the Chief Ministership

Shane was elected Federal President of the Liberal Party (1999) during the Howard Government. He chaired the successful 2001 federal election campaign and the historic fourth general election victory on 9 October 2004. In 2006 Shane was conferred a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of his service to politics.

## 1970s

**David Ellis** [*BE (Mech) (Hons) 1979*] Upon graduating from the University of Adelaide, David gained his first work experience with an Adelaide engineering company before moving to Canada, where he now resides with his wife and two sons. David harbours a keen interest in flying and planes and was President of the Adelaide University Gliding Club in 1979 and 1980. He is currently a flight instructor and president of the Toronto Soaring Club.

**Emilis Pregauskas** [*B Arch 1973*] Upon completing his degree from the University of Adelaide, Emilis gained experience in architectural practices and local government in Adelaide. Returning to the University in 1975 for postgraduate studies, he became a founding member of the Adelaide University Gliding Club (AUGC). His architectural thesis centred on a commercial-sized sport aviation development and he still maintains a keen interest in flying glider planes today, as well as running his own architecture firm.

**Professor Ronald Gregg** [*B Ag Sc (Hons) 1978, PhD(UQ)*] has been named Chair of Biochemistry at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. Professor Gregg joined

the University of Louisville in 1997 as an Assistant Professor and was soon named Director of the Center for Genetics and Molecular Medicine DNA Core facility. In 2007 he earned the rank of full professor. Dr Gregg is internationally recognised for his research into the synaptic development of the retina and its relationship with night blindness. Dr Gregg is the author of more than 80 scientific papers and serves as a journal and scientific grant reviewer.

**Dr Jeff Ellis** [*B Ag Sc 1975, B Ag Sc (Hons) 1977, PhD 1982*] has been elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, London. The honour was awarded mainly for Dr Ellis' work on a flax disease, called flax rust. After graduating, Dr Ellis received two postdoctoral scholarships and joined the staff of CSIRO in 1984 where he continued his studies on flax rust and succeeded in cloning both the resistance gene from flax and the corresponding gene from the rust fungus.

**Dr Ian Shankland** [*B Sc 1974, B Sc (Hons) 1975, Ph D 1980*] has been named Vice President and Chief Technology Officer at Honeywell Specialty Materials in Morristown, New Jersey and is responsible for the business group's technology organisation. In 2008 the Society of Chemical Industry awarded Dr Shankland the Perkin Medal, the most prestigious honour given in the chemical industry, recognising a scientist whose innovations have led to improvements in quality of life and the competitiveness of the US chemical industry. He is listed as an inventor on 50 US patents and has published numerous technical and scientific papers.

## 1960s

**Lorraine McLoughlin** (nee Penny) [*BA (1968), Grad Dip Ed Admin (1980) Grad Dip CW (2004)*] has written a book titled *Barbara Robertson: An Australian artist's life*. This significant biography gives recognition to Robertson, an 87-year-old South Australian artist who in the 1950s was twice hung in the Archibald and Sulman exhibitions. Lorraine has been an English teacher for 14 years and has written self study books on literature, journal articles on education and politics, policy documents, press releases and speeches. During a forum for the 2009 South Australian Living Artists (SALA) Festival, Lorraine was featured on a panel discussing the significance of Barbara Robertson's art.

## 1940s

**Dr Raymond Crosby** [*MBBS 1940*] recently celebrated his 100th birthday with about 50 family, friends and past patients at the Fullarton Community Centre. Dr Crosby was medical officer of health for the then Enfield Council from 1950–95. He practised medicine until 2001, retiring at the age of 92. During his career, he worked at the Royal Adelaide Hospital with the Army Reserves in Broken Hill and Tasmania, and ran his own practice at Blair Athol until 1988. Dr Crosby's special interest was in dermatology and he was a clinical assistant in the Dermatology Department at the Royal Adelaide Hospital for 15 years, and at the Women's and Children's Hospital for 10 years.



# alumniforum2009

Up to 100 alumni from as far afield as Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the United Kingdom attended the University's inaugural Alumni Forum in early September.

The participants included University staff, alumni network representatives and current students.

The Forum was opened by the Vice-Chancellor and President, Professor James McWha, and provided a unique opportunity to hear first-hand from senior managers about the strategic direction of the University and the role of alumni within this vision.

Other Forum topics included: online communities; event management; best practice; and how to engage students in alumni programming.

Distinguished alumnus Dr Cheong Choong Kong, Chairman of OCBC Singapore, shared his knowledge and

experience, as former CEO of Singapore Airlines, with staff and students from the Business School. During the Alumni Gala Dinner he also entertained guests with an amusing account of his acting career in Singapore including his role as a taxi driver in a sitcom.

The dinner was attended by over 170 alumni, including Dr Rex Lipman AC who was presented with his Distinguished Alumni Award by the Chancellor, the Hon John von Doussa QC.

The Alumni Forums are to be held biennially with the next Forum scheduled for September 2011. ■

STORY KIM HARVEY

1. Professor James McWha (Vice-Chancellor) and Mathew Thomas-Phillip (West Malaysia Alumni)
2. Recruitment and Marketing Panel: L-R Joanne Barker (Director, International Office), Kiri Hagenus (Acting Manager, Prospective Students Office), Paul Preiss (Director, Marketing and Strategic Communications)
3. Lunch in the cloisters
4. McLaren Vale Winery Tour, L-R: Luke van Trig (D&A Professions), Kelly Banwell (D&A Sciences), Dennis Muirhead (UK Alumni), Bug Tan (Singapore Alumni), Christina Tan (Singapore Alumni), Kim Harvey (D&A), Jen Clark (D&A), Lena Hadji (MBA Alumni), Hassan Bakos (Organising Committee), Ben Chan (Melbourne Alumni)
5. Ben Chan (Melbourne Alumni), Lena Hadji (MBA Alumni & Organising Committee), Hassan Bakos (Organising Committee), Jen Clark (D&A), Christina Tan and Leo Cheong (Singapore Alumni)
6. Dr Kaysorn Sumpowthong (Thailand Alumni) & Dr Deborah Turnbull (Head, School of Psychology)
7. Back L-R: Hon John von Doussa QC (Chancellor), Lindsay McWha, Robyn Brown (Director D&A), Anne Cheong, Dr Cheong Choong Kong, Professor James McWha (Vice-Chancellor and President)
8. Thea Sarris (Architecture Alumni), Luke van Trig (D&A Professions)
9. Jit Loh (Prospective Students Office), Chris Chong (West Malaysia Alumni), Jean Dong (Organising Committee & Golden Key), Erika Tan (Golden Key)





Pen – satin silver (boxed)



Luggage Tag – metallic silver



Coffee Mug – large red



Photo Frame – metallic silver



Compact mirror



Coaster Set (6) – stainless steel



University Ties – Striped, Blue Logo, Cubed



University Graduate Tie



Rugby Top – Navy



Polo Shirt – Navy with white piping trim



Business Card Holder – leather

# THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE OFFICIAL MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/merchandise

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Business Card Holder – leather		\$16.36	\$18.00	
Bookmark – metallic silver		\$2.75	\$3.00	
Car Sticker		\$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	
Luggage Tag – silver		\$10.90	\$12.00	
Pen – satin silver (boxed)		\$18.20	\$20.00	
Photo Frame – metallic silver		\$13.65	\$15.00	
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	
University Cap – navy brushed heavy cotton		\$10.90	\$12.00	
University Graduate Tie		\$22.70	\$25.00	
University Ties <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Logo <input type="checkbox"/> Striped <input type="checkbox"/> Cubed		\$31.80	\$35.00	
University Wrapping Paper <input type="checkbox"/> Red <input type="checkbox"/> Blue		\$2.50	\$2.50	
* Prices include GST as applies in Australia			<b>Sub Total</b>	
<b>ADD AIR MAIL POSTAGE AND HANDLING COSTS (AUSTRALIA ONLY)</b> Orders up to \$15.00			\$6.60	
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Name on Card:	Signature:



For current University of Adelaide teaching students Jonathon Pisaniello (right) and Deanna Ceravolo (left), pictured with South Australian Education Minister Dr Jane Lomax-Smith, a rewarding country placement could lead to a new career path in rural or remote South Australia.

From 2010, a new scholarship scheme — made possible from a generous bequest by University of Adelaide graduate Esther Burns and the assistance of the State Government — will help teacher education students like Jonathon and Deanna make decisions about their career paths as they experience life at a country school.

Esther, who graduated in Education from the University of Adelaide in 1948, taught English at Port Augusta High School and the Quorn Area School in the 1960s and 1970s. She died in Quorn in 1994, leaving a bequest to the University of Adelaide.

The State Department of Education and Children's Services has matched the funds available from Esther's bequest dollar-for-dollar to create a scholarship scheme for current Adelaide students undertaking country teaching placements at public schools.

Under the scheme, each year six University of Adelaide teaching students specialising in mathematics and sciences will receive \$1000 to help them undertake a five-week country teaching placement in places such as Port Augusta or Quorn.

"The State Government recognises the benefits in providing financial support to students undertaking a country placement, and in particular in the hard-to-staff areas of mathematics and science," Dr Lomax-Smith said.

"Our ultimate aim is to increase the numbers of graduating students who return to work in the country based on this wonderful pre-service experience," said Professor Tania Aspland, Head of the University's School of Education.

For more information about leaving a bequest to the University of Adelaide, contact Sue Fox on (08) 8303 3234, email [susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:susan.fox@adelaide.edu.au), or visit [www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bequests](http://www.alumni.adelaide.edu.au/bequests)



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