

# lumen

SUMMER 2002

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GLOBAL RELATIONSHIPS - INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



**T**he six months since the last issue of *Lumen* have been dynamic for the University of Adelaide.

Our new Santos Petroleum Engineering Building was opened by the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, work began on an \$8 million upgrade of the Elder School of Music, a new international alumni chapter was launched in Sarawak, and we welcomed a host of international graduates back to Adelaide for our first alumni Homecoming event.

Innovations in education and research have continued apace. The University is introducing a new Space Science degree, Australia's first high-tech microchip testing facility was opened on the North Terrace campus, and one of our medical research teams was awarded \$8.3 million by the National Health and Medical Research Council to continue cutting-edge investigations into women's reproductive health.

It has been a stimulating start to my term as Vice-Chancellor.

I was especially pleased to participate in the Australian Universities' International Alumni Convention in Melbourne in September and the subsequent Homecoming celebrations in Adelaide.

The Homecoming (which features elsewhere in this issue) was a wonderful occasion. It provided an opportunity to welcome back some of our most distinguished international graduates, acquaint them with their alma mater and update them on the exciting developments that have been taking place here. Such events are important because they help to ensure that the relationship with our international graduates continues to flourish in mutually beneficial ways.

International alumni are more than ambassadors for a particular university. In my role as Secretary General of the International Association of University Presidents, I have a keen appreciation of the part universities can play in reducing the economic and social differences between countries and people. International alumni are a key element in this. By strengthening links with our graduates overseas we are also promoting global awareness and competence and making an increased contribution to international understanding.

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

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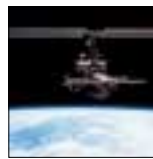
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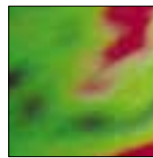
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The Lumen masthead is derived from the University of Adelaide motto "Sub Cruce Lumen" – the light (of learning) under the (Southern) Cross.

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# taking on the in flagship ca

**Building a state-of-the-art flagship solar car will require more than just the University of Adelaide's considerable engineering expertise – the entire University community can help.**



The race is already on for the University of Adelaide's entry in the 2005 World Solar Challenge—despite the finish line being almost three years away.

The University plans to enter its first solar car in this world-renowned event, and aims to finish high in the top 10.

The World Solar Challenge is a biennial race for solar cars from Darwin to Adelaide, a distance of 3000km. The cars' only source of energy is the sun's rays.

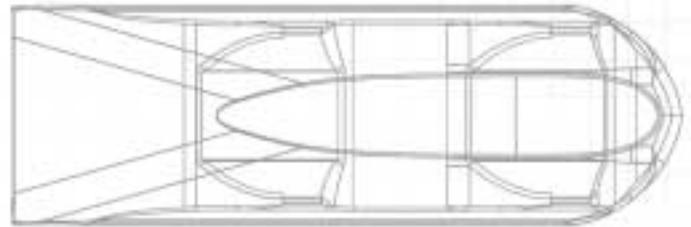
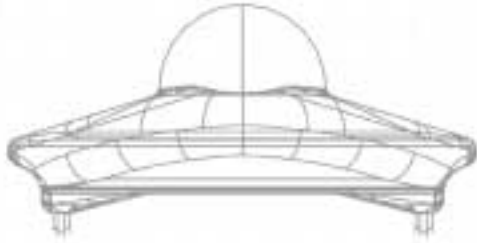
While the next race is in 2003, the University has set its sights on the 2005 event due to the time needed to mount a serious entry.

Lead organiser Associate Professor Gus Nathan from the School of Mechanical Engineering says Adelaide will break the tradition of such projects being the exclusive domain of engineering faculties.

"We are looking to make it a University-wide project, in reflection of the multi-disciplinary nature of the project," he says.



# world r



“Even within the engineering faculty multiple disciplines are required, spanning aerodynamics, materials, structural design, vibration, electrical drives, control and optimisation, but the project also requires expertise in many other areas.

“These include marketing and finance, project management, business planning, publicity, sponsorship, communication systems and environmental assessments.

“Since the entry will be a flagship for the University, it is necessary that we put in the best entry possible, and this requires drawing upon all the skills and expertise from across the University.

“However, we want the entry to be flagship not only because of a successful entry, but also because it demonstrates holistic and cross-

disciplinary learning experiences and has a strong environmental focus.”

Work is already underway on the car for 2005, with two Mechanical Engineering Honours students, Jimmy Yeoh and Yin (Kenne) Tsui, developing the concept design for the vehicle in their fourth year of studies.

This concept design draws upon experience gained in the development of an earlier design within the Engineering faculty in 1996.

The concept design will be used to plan a range of task-force and multi-disciplinary teams, which will begin work in 2004.

For more information about the University of Adelaide’s entry in the 2005 World Solar Challenge, contact Dr Gus Nathan at [gnathan@mecheng.adelaide.edu.au](mailto:gnathan@mecheng.adelaide.edu.au) ■

Story **Ben Osborne**



*Initial designs for the solar car are putting students’ learning into practice.*

*Images courtesy of Mechanical Engineering.*

# HARD WIFE

Heroin is the most destructive illicit drug hurting our society today. DAVID ELLIS reports on the University of Adelaide's role in helping users to kick the habit, and what challenges (and discoveries) lay ahead for treatment.

"It's true to say that if you look across illicit drugs, in terms of the total cost to the community and the individual, heroin has the greatest impact," says the University of Adelaide's Professor of Addiction Studies, Jason White.

Professor White, who is also the Head of the Drug & Alcohol Services Council's Maintenance Pharmacotherapies Unit, shares his work between the university and one of Adelaide's drug treatment clinics.

He and his colleagues in the Department of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology have spent years investigating illicit drugs and their treatment. The treatment clinics are the public face of their work, providing opportunities to conduct a range of research projects into heroin use, and opportunities to put the results of research into practice.

For someone who spends much of his time with people living on the edge, desperate for help, Professor White is calm and optimistic about improving the lives of hardcore heroin users and the wider community.

"There's a significant proportion of heroin users who become dependent—certainly not all of them, but a significant number—and dependent users tend to have very poor health and a high risk of engaging in criminal behaviour, and that produces a cost to the community," Professor White says.

"If you can address heroin problems you can have a very significant impact on an individual and a community in general—relatively easily and relatively inexpensively, if you compare it to a lot of other health areas. It's really not a huge amount of money that you spend per person involved, but the impact on that person, the people around them and the community is really huge," he says.

*Photos: Drew Lenman*



# RED

HOW OUR DRUG EXPERTS ARE HITTING THE HEROIN PROBLEM





*This is the fifth time this 30-year-old heroin addict (left) has sought help for his drug problem.*

While there are many success stories of users who have kicked the habit and blended back into the community, often the damage is already done. Heroin users suffer severe health problems, and by the time they have actively sought help and been successful they might have already contracted Hepatitis C or HIV. Another major side-effect of heroin use is an extreme sensitivity to pain—one of the many issues that the Department is currently researching, in collaboration with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).

The problem is that dependent heroin users often don't seek treatment until well into their heroin "career".

■ **\$200 dollars a day**

While the costs vary, a heroin user who is injecting three times a day can spend up to A\$200 a day on their habit.

"That is a lot of money—day in, day out," says Professor White. "It's not like you can take a day off.

"That's where crime comes into it, the pressure for money. There are many different scenarios, and some of them seem like a movie script. There are people who commit frauds and finance their habit in the same way that you read about people with poker machine addictions. Then you hear of another case where someone gets an inheritance and then blows it all on heroin, tens of thousands of dollars gone within a few months. These things happen, we see these people every other day."

The good news is that most dependent heroin users have given up the drug by their 40s. But if they started using in their 20s, that is a long and disastrous career path.

"A typical scenario is that people commence in their late teens, early 20s. If they do become dependent,

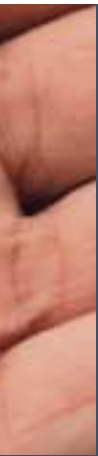
it may be an average of 10 years' dependent use, on and off. They try to give it up by themselves, fail, then try again, and fail again. They don't start to look at serious treatment options until they get to around age 30, and again they may have several attempts at doing that over a period of years before they settle down and things start to work out for them."

Getting to heroin users at an earlier age is one of the many difficulties faced by health professionals, Professor White says.

"People have made attempts, but none of them have been terribly successful. The problem is the same right around the world.

"Heroin users know that if they enter into long-term treatment it's going to be a period of years, there will be difficulties, there'll be negative aspects to the treatment as well as the positive aspects. They are no different to anyone else—they prefer a quick solution and so





*Professor Jason White (centre) and samples of drugs used for treatment and research.*

## Drugs for treatment

**Methadone** is a substitute for heroin, and is administered to help ween users off the more deadly drug. Itself a strong and addictive drug, methadone has been used for many years in treatment programs. Methadone users still run the risk of overdose.

**Buprenorphine**, a relatively newer development, has some key advantages over methadone. Trials of the drug have shown that it has less risk of overdose and creates less dependence in users than methadone. "We would anticipate that within a few years the majority of people seeking treatment in South Australia will be on buprenorphine rather than methadone," Professor White says.

**Naltrexone** is an antagonist, blocking the effects of heroin. The problem is that people relapse from naltrexone at a relatively high rate, much higher than buprenorphine. Research is currently underway around the world to find a better method of administering naltrexone, so that the drug is released slowly and has a longer-term effect.

they try to withdraw themselves, go cold turkey, and they might try that a few times over several years before deciding that 'no, I can't do it that way, I need help'.

"There is a sort of 'maturing out' aspect of this. People in their early 20s sometimes like the idea of identifying themselves as a heroin user—it gives you an immediate set of acquaintances, if not close friends, and you have this sense of belonging. It's also a means of getting out of responsibility—if you're a heroin junkie you're not

going to be a very responsible person. But when you get to 30 years old and you have a couple of kids, and when you wake up in the morning and you're trying to figure out how you're going to make \$200 a day so you've got enough heroin—that's just not exciting anymore. It's not what you want to do."

Those social factors are very difficult to influence, he says. "Trying to get a 22-year-old to take up treatment can be like hitting your head against a brick wall, as opposed to putting your resources

into people who are a little bit older and a bit more motivated, and are more likely to go through with it.

"However, it's very satisfying when you can help people at a relatively early stage of their heroin-using career, because you know what you've prevented. You know you're saving them from a lot of problems and a very difficult lifestyle that they will, in the end, deeply regret. Normally, by the time heroin users have wised up, they realise they've spent the last 10 years wasting their life and ruining the lives of the people around them.

"How early we get to them is certainly a very important issue, but it's one we haven't cracked yet."

## Heroin trials - pros and cons

Professor White was a speaker and delegate at this year's Drug Summit held by the State Government of South Australia. Positive about all the agreement at the summit, Professor White says those who have responsibility for putting its many recommendations into action have a tough job.

One of the issues discussed at the summit was the idea of an experimental heroin trial, where a small number of users are given access to prescribed heroin and facilities where they can take it under the supervision of health professionals.

There are pros and cons to this approach, Professor White says, but one of the important benefits is



*Above: 1000 files represent the extent of the problem at this one clinic.  
Right: Counselling is available to those who seek help.*



being able to provide treatment advice to users at an earlier stage than usual.

"It's really an experiment to say, if you do this, a) does it reduce crime and other costs to the community, including health costs, and b) one of the really big potential benefits is, does it lead to a greater number of people coming into treatment, potentially at the earlier stage?"

"It's about getting them in contact with health services. Heroin users often have poor health but limited contact with health services, and virtually no contact with people who are involved with drug treatment. But if it's seen to be non-threatening, and the transition into treatment is seen to be relatively straightforward as opposed to a big challenge, then I certainly think people are more likely to commit to treatment.

"One of the outcomes of the Swiss heroin trial was that a lot of people went over to standard treatment, they didn't necessarily stay with heroin all that long."

However, Professor White says a heroin trial "is something that I think is quite difficult to do, and requires significant will on the part of governments who have to provide money and other resources".

#### ■ Research - the future of treatment

Money is getting harder to come by in the research arena. To its credit, the Department of Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology has established a working relationship with UCLA.

Together they have received \$US1.6 million in funding from the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the United States, for a project looking at acute pain in former heroin users.

This project, which has spin-offs for other members of the community, especially back pain sufferers, is just one of the many required to drive treatment and even prevention of serious drug dependence in the future, Professor White says.

"We have looked at drugs that can be used as substitutes for heroin, like methadone, or partial substitutes, like buprenorphine, or antagonists like naltrexone, and we can probably push those a bit further in terms of technology of drug delivery, but I'm not sure we can improve on those drugs as such," he says.

"The area that I think is going to be our future—over the next 10 or 20 years—is the process of altering dependence itself.

"The scientific community is discovering more and more what mechanisms in the brain are underlying dependence. Once we do that, we can start to say, 'can we actually modify those? Could we alter the level of dependence in the individual?'"

Laboratory tests in animals have shown that by co-administering certain drugs with a drug of dependence, scientists can prevent that dependence occurring.

One of the drugs being looked at is found in common cough



*Left and above: Methadone dispensing to addicts. The drug is often sweetened with cordial to counter its bitter taste.*

## Travel grant supports drug researcher

PhD student Mark Hutchinson (Clinical & Experimental Pharmacology) is one of the many students at the University of Adelaide to benefit from a Postgraduate Travel Grant from private health fund Mutual Community.

The grants offer a much-needed helping hand to young researchers, enabling them to attend conferences and other important events within Australia and overseas.

Mark was able to present a paper at the annual conference of the College on Problems of Drug Dependence in Quebec City, Canada. His attendance also provided him with the opportunity to meet other researchers in his field from around the world. During the conference, he was invited to a dinner with the heads of a number of research groups involved in his field of research.

"This was a fantastic opportunity to meet a number of people who I would otherwise have not met by chance. Over dinner we discussed their research interests and dreams; the differences between the Australian and American research climates; the possibility that they could attend Australian conferences and present their work; and I attempted to explain the intricacy of Australian Rules Football," Mark says.

"All of these researchers are at the top of their fields and it was an honour to speak to them."

Following the conference he travelled to various departments on the east coast of America, and again presented some of his work and discussed future research goals.

"The trip was very eventful and extremely helpful in solidifying my research goals," says Mark.

medicines that inhibit coughing, a drug known as dextromethorphan, which blocks the action of a certain receptor in the body which is known to play a critical role in the development of drug dependence.

"If you give dextromethorphan with morphine to a laboratory animal, for example, you can prevent tolerance and dependence occurring in that animal," Professor White says.

This research has potential application for heroin users.

"Not only could we prevent dependence, but for people who are already dependent on an opiate drug like heroin, perhaps we can reduce their level of dependence by co-administering one of these other drugs. That could make coming off heroin easier for some people," he says.

While this technique has yet to

be tested in Adelaide, Professor White says he is keen to investigate it, particularly as that work crosses over with the US-funded research into pain.

"We think, that drugs that prevent dependence can possibly prevent and turn off the hyper-sensitivity to pain that we're looking at. And that could have some real benefits for many people in the community," he says. ■

# Long-running success for vegetation reserve...

No. of QU

...now it needs a 'decent dunny'

**For 75 years, Koonamore Station has been home to a unique environmental research project. After all this time, the researchers are now seeking help for a very basic necessity.**



Plate *Wellington tube*

Exposure *28* Aperture *11*

Koonamore Station is a long way from anywhere. Located 400km north-east of Adelaide, the property sits in saltbush country in South Australia's arid interior.

It's also the venue for one of the longest-running and most successful research projects of its type in the world.

Koonamore is home to the TGB Osborn Vegetation Reserve, named after Professor TGB Osborn, who set up the project in 1926 through the University of Adelaide's then Department of Botany.

Amid concerns about the impact overgrazing was having on the State's pastoral lands, Professor Osborn fenced off a 400-hectare section of the station to permanently exclude sheep. (Since the 1970s the reserve has also been kept largely rabbit-free.)

University of Adelaide staff and students have subsequently monitored the reserve regularly for vegetation change and regeneration.

Dr Russell Sinclair, now a visiting research fellow with the University's Department of Environmental

Biology, has headed the Koonamore project since 1975.

"It's one of the very few long-term monitoring projects of its type in the world," he said. "Many questions about vegetation and the impact of pastoralism remain unanswered, and can only be answered from long-term studies.

"The Reserve contains several permanent quadrats, on which we record the position, height and canopy dimensions of trees and shrubs. There are also many fixed photo-points. From these records we



Above: Kirrily Blaylock and Brian Webby, mapping plants, December 2001.



Left: Jarrod Eaton (left) and Des Coleman measuring the height of an *Eremophila longifolia* tree, December 2001.

Above far left: H.E. Ding's mail truck transporting students to the reserve from Yunta, June 1946.

Far left: Bindy-I cottage 1929.

Middle: Pegging out quadrat 10A, May 1926.

Middle right: Professor T.G.B. Osborne 1928.

can build up a detailed picture of changes in the vegetation, when plants regenerate and when they die.

“Over time these pictures and quadrat charts add up to be a very accurate record of the reserve’s vegetation patterns.”

The 75th anniversary of the Koonamore project was celebrated in 2001 with a party at the reserve headquarters cottage, known as Bindy-I.

“The anniversary was a chance for many people who have worked on the project over the years to

catch up and reminisce, and also to discuss its future,” Dr Sinclair said.

“While we hope work will be able to continue at the reserve indefinitely, support for such long-term projects is difficult to find. One thing we all agreed the project has lacked from Day One is a decent dunny!

“It may seem like a funny thing to have a fundraising appeal for, but as anyone who’s worked at Koonamore will tell you, it’s a very necessary thing for us—we’d love a functional, environmentally sound dunny that

won’t fall over like previous models!

“Beyond this immediate aim I hope to establish a fund which will support continuing work on the project.”

For more information about the Koonamore 75th Anniversary Dunny Appeal, contact Dr Sinclair on +61 8 8303 4730 or email: [russell.sinclair@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:russell.sinclair@adelaide.edu.au), or Alumni, Community Relations and Development on +61 8 8303 5800 or email: [lauran.huefner@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:lauran.huefner@adelaide.edu.au) ■

Story Ben Osborne



# International leaders

*Adelaide alumni played a key role at this year's Australian Universities International Alumni Convention.*



A Who's Who of Adelaide alumni took part in this year's Australian Universities International Alumni Convention (AUIAC).

Delegates to the convention included senior politicians from Malaysia and Cambodia, senior engineers, lawyers, doctors and environmentalists—and that was just the Adelaide graduates!

Close to 700 graduates of Australian universities met in Melbourne in September, representing 17 nations around the world. Prominent among them were Adelaide alumni from Malaysia, with a large contingent from Sarawak and Sabah, East Malaysia, and delegates from West Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Cambodia.

The biennial convention has become one of the biggest events on the alumni calendar, offering a unique opportunity for international alumni from Australian universities to network, share experiences, and renew their connections and links with Australia. The theme for 2002 was "Networking in the Knowledge Economy", with corporate, social and education issues on the agenda.

Among those driving the event is one of Adelaide's most distinguished alumni, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, who was one of the patrons of this



*His Excellency Uch Kim An, Cambodian Minister for Trade.*



*YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak.*



*Peter Mullins, CEO, Greenpeace Australia Pacific.*



*Dato Ir Lee Yee Cheong AO, President, World Federation of Engineering Organisations.*

year's convention. At the opening of the convention, the Chief Minister called for stronger links between Australia and Asia. He urged Australia to engage at the highest level with university alumni to build these links, and said this was the role not just of Australian universities to engage with their alumni, but also of Australian political and business leaders.

"The globalised world has not come with a common perception," he said. "We must grow together to become partners in a world that is changing."

Among the delegates were 14 Vice-Chancellors of Australian universities, including Adelaide's Professor James McWha, who chaired a session on "Communities

in the Asia Pacific". One of Adelaide's prominent alumni, His Excellency Uch Kim An, Cambodian Minister for Trade, was a speaker at the session. He spoke about his nation's past turmoil, its current challenges and future directions. "Cambodia wants to be a part of the global environment, even if it is a changing one," he said.

Other speakers included Dato Ir Lee Yee Cheong AO, President of the World Federation of Engineering Organisations, and Mr Peter Mullins, CEO of Greenpeace Australia Pacific, both University of Adelaide graduates.

At a session on "Challenges of the Global Community", Dato Lee dealt with the issue of the worldwide decline in engineering and

# come "home"



(Above far left) Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and his wife, Lindsay, at the University of Adelaide booth; (above left) a meeting of Adelaide's international alumni chapters; (above, from left) YABhg Datuk Amar Puan Sri (Dr) Hajjah Laila Taib, Lindsay McWha and Professor McWha; (above right) cultural performers from Sarawak, Malaysia.

mathematics enrolments, and the need for engineering bodies to assist in education. "The engineering profession must innovate itself to lead the way to sustainability," he said.

Speaking on "The Earth - Friends and Enemies", Mr Mullins discussed the difficulty of encouraging politicians and businesses to tackle global environmental issues, and the

problems associated with enforcing environmental constraints on local companies who ran global operations.

This year's AUIAC was the third such event, following the inaugural convention in Adelaide in 1998, and Kuching, Malaysia in 2000, both of which were highly successful. The host agency of this year's convention, IDP Education Australia,

estimates that 150,000 international students have been studying at Australian universities in 2002, which means there is great potential for the event to grow.

The next AUIAC will be held in 2004 in Hong Kong, and will be hosted by the Federation of Australian Alumni Associations Hong Kong Limited. ■

Story David Ellis

## Adelaide Homecoming

Prominent University of Adelaide graduates from Malaysia and Singapore were among the 60 international alumni and guests who returned to Adelaide for a Homecoming event immediately following the convention in Melbourne.

Leading figures from Adelaide alumni chapters in Sarawak and Singapore, the Chief Minister of Sarawak, YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Mahmud, and Mr Michael Khor Teik Hean, were honoured with Distinguished Alumni Awards during the Homecoming.

The Homecoming event was hosted by the University of Adelaide in conjunction with the Governor of South Australia, Her Excellency Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, the Premier of South Australia, Mr Mike Rann, and the Lord Mayor of Adelaide, Mr Alfred Huang.

The event gave the opportunity for many international graduates to return to Adelaide and see their University as it is today, and included campus tours and updates on leading-edge research at the University.



# ICE TRIP

It seems like a world away, but Antarctica and Adelaide are closer than you think, especially for a geology student and a member of staff.



By the time summer has well and truly settled over Adelaide, Geology student Kirsty Brown might be wishing for a slice of it.

Ms Brown has left Adelaide, Australia to spend three years in... Adelaide, Antarctica. Adelaide Island to be exact.

A PhD student, Ms Brown has been awarded a highly sought-after position working with the British Antarctic Survey. In Antarctica, she'll be working with a team of researchers looking at the impact of icebergs on animal and plant life at the sea floor.

The new position will put her scuba diving skills to good use. Ms Brown has been diving for the past seven years, including off the coast of Greenland.

Her diving also came in handy during her research at the University of Adelaide. For the past four years the British student has been studying sediment produced by

organisms that live on seagrasses along the South Australian coast.

"My main survey point was West Island near Victor Harbor —I spent about two months out of every year there," Ms Brown said.

"I've been diving right along the South Australian coast, from Streaky Bay down to Robe. I've done tropical, temperate, Arctic and now I'll be doing Antarctic diving, so I feel very lucky," she said. "I'll be down there scuba diving every day of the year, if I can."

Ms Brown's research has combined elements of marine geology and biology, and her new position will move her further into the marine biology field.

The research involves looking at the damage caused by icebergs as they scrape along the sea floor. This process, known as "grounding" or "berging", destroys flora and fauna on the sea floor.

"We'll be looking at how the

organisms down there survive in those conditions, and how fast they recover.

"The overall scope of that project is that with increases in global warming, the number of icebergs produced will increase. It's possible the animals and plant life may not be able to survive with increased rates of berging," she said.

Someone who has already seen those icebergs up close is University of Adelaide staff member John Edge.

Mr Edge, a maintenance plumbing foreman, realised a life-long dream when he spent five months on Antarctica's Davis base between November 2001 and March this year.

"It's something that I've wanted to do for a long time, and it ended up nothing short of being one of the best life experiences I've had," he said.

Mr Edge was employed as a maintenance plumber through the





*Mawson never had the benefit of a helicopter, but the landscape remains as spectacular as ever. Photos courtesy of John Edge and Brett Noye.*



*John Edge (left) and Kirsty Brown—the Antarctic spirit lives on at Adelaide.*

Australian Antarctic Division and spent most of his working hours outside.

“The coldest it got to was -10°C, and one day it got as warm as 6°C, so it wasn’t as bitterly cold as it gets in winter when apparently it gets down to -35°C or -40°C,” he said.

“While the weather was fine it wasn’t usually a problem—but if there was a wind, or cloud cover,

then it became a bit of a hassle. You tried to spend as little time as was necessary outside because conditions quickly became unpleasant for working.”

Apart from the obvious aspects of being in Antarctica, one of the highlights of Mr Edge’s trip was meeting and working with the more than 70 people stationed at Davis.

“I was amazed at the tolerance

and good-naturedness of everyone who was down there,” he said.

“There was a large number of people from all walks of life in a very confined space, but everyone got along really well and it was really easy to fit in and feel part of the group.” ■

Story **Ben Osborne**  
**David Ellis**

# Plant Genomics centre to cutting-edge research



**The University of Adelaide's proud tradition in the field of plant science has provided the perfect springboard for a new age of plant research.**

For nearly 80 years, plant scientists at the University of Adelaide's Waite campus have helped Australian farmers to grow healthier, higher-yielding varieties of cereal crops.

Now a new age in plant research at the Waite is about to begin. After

a keenly contested selection process, the University and partners have been awarded the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics, a facility that will attract \$55 million (cash and in-kind) from the Australian Research Council, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Federal and State Governments, and the University itself, over the next five years.

Work on a \$9.2 million new building at the Waite starts early in 2003. Initially, the building will accommodate 100 scientists

(including postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers) as well as spin-off bioscience companies.

"Our vision of the centre is that it will act as an international magnet for people who want to work in cereal genomics," says interim Director Professor Peter Langridge. "It will be one of the key centres in the world doing this kind of research."

In bidding for the centre, the University faced strong competition from other research institutions across Australia. The successful bid was developed in conjunction with

# cultivate



*Professor Peter Langridge.  
Photo by Brenton Edwards, courtesy  
of The Advertiser.*

*Conceptual design of the new centre.*

the University of Melbourne, the University of Queensland, and the Victorian Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Research at the new centre will focus on the range of stresses to which crop plants are exposed (eg, heat, drought, frost, waterlogging), as well as toxicities such as tolerance to saline and acid soils.

“Techniques developed from the human genome analysis now allow us to look at the entire genetic make-up of organisms in one series of experiments,” says Professor Langridge. “We can compare, on a

massive scale, the ways in which the genes of a plant respond to a variety of stresses.

“In the first instance, the information we gather will be used to support conventional breeding strategies. In the longer term, we would see the technology being applied through genetic engineering. Clearly there are still problems with community acceptance of genetically modified crops, and those issues will need to be addressed before we proceed in that direction. One important task for the centre, therefore, will be to

develop education programs that keep the community informed about what we’re doing.”

Professor Langridge says research staff will be encouraged also to participate in undergraduate teaching programs.

“When fully established, we will have a much greater capability for teaching plant molecular biology than we have at present. We want to attract more students and promote the message that plant science is a fascinating and exciting area of study and research.” ■

Story **John Drislane**



*Hughes and Elder—two icons of Adelaide.*

# A Tradition of Giving

The impressive buildings on the University's North Terrace campus are a compelling reminder of how fortunate we are that people such as Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder had a vision for building a prestigious university in the heart of Adelaide.

The University of Adelaide has grown to the prominent institution that it is today because of the foresight of many generous benefactors who have given their support so willingly over the past 130 years.

Much of that support has been by way of bequests to provide funds for building projects, research, artworks, books and equipment, or to endow academic chairs, travel grants, scholarships or prizes. Some of these valued benefactors are:

- Sir Thomas Elder, who in 1897 bequeathed the sum of £65,000 for Medicine, Music and general purposes of the University. The Elder Conservatorium of Music was established with these funds;
- Mr Peter Waite whose benefaction was largely responsible for the development of Agricultural Science at the University in 1922;

- more recently, the Benjamin Poulton Foundation was established in 1989 from the Cynthia and Frances Poulton estates.

Making a gift to the University by way of a bequest in your will is an intensely personal gesture and should be done in consultation with your legal adviser.

All bequests, no matter how modest, are beneficial to the University and have the power to make a lasting difference to the quality of research and education at the University of Adelaide.

Leaving a bequest in your will to the University of Adelaide requires special wording. This can be done at the time of preparing your will or can be added as a codicil to provide for your bequest.

Staff in the Alumni, Community Relations and Development Office of the University are happy to work with you and your adviser in strictest confidence to provide any information you require about making a bequest to the University of Adelaide.

Please phone +61 8 8303 5800 for more information. ■

**Elaine Baker**  
Senior Development Officer

## A Gift for the Future

"Acts of generosity from individuals can greatly assist the education and training of some of our brightest minds and best talent, leading to great benefits for the community in science, medicine, and many other fields."

Professor James McWha  
*Vice-Chancellor*

Our alumni and friends have supported a wide variety of projects, programs and facilities over the University's 128-year history. Most recently, the Honours Scholarships in Science Appeal, Barr Smith Library Annual Appeal and Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Annual Appeal have received generous donations.

To find out more about supporting the University you can visit our new development website. This is where you can read about the University's priority funding needs and the major appeals we are running as part of the University's fundraising program.

The new website has helpful information about how to make a gift to the University of Adelaide, tax advantages of making a gift, donating non-financial gifts, and making a bequest. There is also an easy-to-use online donation form.

If you are interested in ways to support the University, please visit our website: [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving/](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving/) ■

**Nicole Stones**  
Communications and Committees Officer

# VC's Scholarships

*"Education for the next generation is the most important task for the citizens of any nation."*

*Sir Mark Oliphant*

*"Education for the next generation is the most important task for the citizens of any nation."*

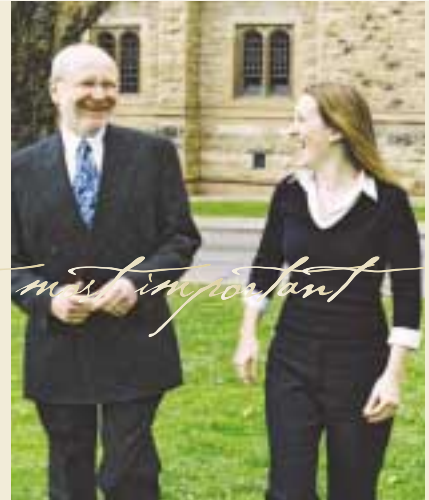
A university is often measured by the success of its graduates. Over the last 128 years, the University of Adelaide has had some very successful graduates indeed—names such as Bragg, Florey, Oliphant and Thomas all easily come to mind, all significant contributors to the 20th century.

Our current group of undergraduate students may, in turn, have the opportunity to make a significant contribution to the 21st century. However, many worthy students struggle to support themselves as they start their academic careers. New students face many financial pressures, from finding a place to live, to buying required books and materials. When coming to Adelaide from the country

or interstate, the challenges may be even greater.

Brooke Summers is just one example of the bright and talented students who will make a major difference to our future. Brooke, whose story is told on this page, is one of many young students who might never have achieved her academic goals without the support of an undergraduate scholarship. There are still others like her, who need the help of our privileged University of Adelaide community.

For these reasons I seek your support for the new Vice-Chancellor's Scholarships Fund, which will help students to gain a start at the University of Adelaide every year. Your generous donation will enhance not only the status of



Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha and student Brooke Summers.

our institution as an outstanding place of learning and research, but will serve to maintain the high regard in which graduates of the University of Adelaide are held around the world.

Your generous gift is tax-deductible and will be placed in an endowment fund to provide ongoing support for years to come. Don't miss this opportunity to help a young person make a mark in our community. ■

**Professor James McWha**  
Vice-Chancellor

## Brooke's Story



Brooke Summers.

Brooke Summers left Mount Gambier to study at the University of Adelaide because she knew exactly what she wanted to do.

"I felt my personality suited becoming a scientist, and the University of Adelaide was the best choice for studying science. The challenge of moving away from home and setting up a new life was a bit daunting at first, but I have found the experience very stimulating."

The 20-year-old, in the third year of her Biomedical Sciences degree, was able to secure residential college accommodation, and was the winner of an undergraduate support scholarship.

If the challenge of moving from the country to the city wasn't

enough, consider another factor—Brooke has been deaf since the age of seven, something which has never held her back. Brooke is keen to continue her studies at the completion of her undergraduate degree.

"I would really like to continue studying honours and for a PhD. I am keen to put something back into the community, to find a cure for something. I hope to find a research project about deafness, to

put my skills to use in an area with which I empathise.

"Winning the scholarship meant I didn't have to work to support myself. This helped me achieve a stronger balance in my university life between study and social activities. I believe this has really made a great difference to the good marks I have achieved. I feel I have been given a wonderful opportunity to make a strong start in the world, and I am looking forward to further challenges in my academic career."

By contributing to the Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship Fund, you can help more students like Brooke make their mark.

Phone the Alumni, Community Relations & Development office on +61 8 8303 5800. ■

# Adelaide sets sights on space

Is Adelaide becoming the "space university"?

Several major happenings around campus would make it seem so.

In 2003, the University of Adelaide is launching a brand new Bachelor of Science (Space Science and Astrophysics) degree, which aims to produce graduates well suited to careers in space and astrophysical research.

The new degree explores the fundamental processes of our universe, from the atmosphere of the earth and the other local planets to the most distant regions.

"The understanding of those processes underpins much of the world's research into astronomy, studies of the solar system and the practical use of space, such as space travel and observation," says Associate Professor Iain Reid from the Department of Physics & Mathematical Physics.

In 2004, Adelaide will also launch a new degree in aerospace engineering.

In the same year, the University is co-hosting one of the most prestigious space education events in the world, the Summer Session of the International Space University.

Headquartered in Strasbourg, France, the International Space

University is the world's leading space education institution. Each year the university's nine-week Summer Session program is held in a different part of the world.

Although called the Summer Session, it will be held in our winter (June to August 2004), attracting more than 250 of the world's top space professionals, researchers and academics to Adelaide.

“It is important for the community to prepare the next generation of leaders for the challenges of the 21st Century”

There's also been success for our students and graduates who show an interest in space.

Kimberley Clayfield, a PhD student in Mechanical Engineering, was chosen from among an international field to participate in this year's Space Generation Summit at Houston, Texas—the home of NASA.

Ms Clayfield, coordinator of the South Australian Space School, was the founding chairperson of the University's student branch of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and was Program

Director of the SpaceFutures 2000 conference in Canberra.

She was selected as one of 200 young people aged between 18-35 from around the world to attend the Space Generation Summit; she was one of only six Australians, one of only two Australian women, and the only South Australian delegate.

Meanwhile, the University of Adelaide's latest Rhodes Scholar, Dr Thomas Smith, is also doing his part to promote interest in space.

Dr Smith has been awarded a Churchill Fellowship to study aviation and space medicine at the Kennedy Space Centre, NASA, which he will do next year before heading to Oxford.

So what does our astronaut graduate, Dr Andy Thomas, think of all this?

"I am very pleased to see this interest," Dr Thomas says.

"It is important for the community to prepare the next generation of leaders for the challenges of the 21st Century. This means that they must be given the capability to understand the technical issues facing the modern world as well as the vision to see the benefits that embracing them can bring to Australia." ■

Story David Ellis





# Far-sighted

*Prime Minister John Howard takes a shine to the University of Adelaide's new School of Petroleum Engineering and Management.*

The University's new Santos Petroleum Engineering Building has been given a personal stamp of approval by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

Mr Howard officially opened the \$7.5 million building in August at a ceremony also attended by South Australian Premier Mr Mike Rann, and other senior staff from the University, industry and government.

The new building is home for staff and students from the School of Petroleum Engineering and Management, which began teaching this year.

Santos is contributing \$25 million over to 10 years to the University for the School. This includes funding for the new building, provision for scholarships, specialised teaching equipment, and a professorial position, held by the school's Head, Professor Peter Behrenbruch.

Mr Howard praised Santos for its "remarkable act of corporate philanthropy", and said the school was an impressive example of corporate Australia working with government and academia. He said the Santos gift of \$25 million to realise industry opportunities was both generous and far-sighted.

The Federal Government has also contributed \$1 million towards an additional professorial chair, the Reg Sprigg Chair, and further funding to the school.

Professor Behrenbruch said the opening of the building represented the next major stage for the school's staff and students.



*Prime Minister John Howard experiences 3D visualisation technology at the launch of the Santos Petroleum Engineering Building. Photo by Chris Crerar, courtesy of The Australian.*

"It is a purpose-designed home, a base from which we will provide an innovative curriculum with state-of-the-art facilities, and provide the best in research and consultancy to industry," he said.

"The school is focused on the practical needs of the international oil and gas industry, and already we have seen great support from other industry leaders such as BHP Billiton and Woodside Petroleum."

The University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor James McWha, said the new School of Petroleum Engineering and Management was destined to become the pre-eminent school for the South-East Asian region.

"The international focus of the

school has already been established in its first year, with staff recruited from Australia, North America and Europe, and students from South-East Asia and India already studying beside the first intake of Australian undergraduates," he said.

"The quality of the facilities in the new building, the level of teaching and research are all outstanding, and this is one example of where the University and industry are working closely together to produce real outcomes for the State and the nation."

During his visit to the University, Mr Howard was also shown around the stem cell research facilities in the Molecular Life Sciences building. ■

Story Ben Osborne

# Making their Mark

## Wayne Jackson – Commercial & Sports



Wayne Jackson (BEC 1968) is well known as the current CEO of the Australian Football League. His involvement with football also includes membership of the South Australian National Football League Commission from 1990-95, and life membership of Woodville West Torrens Football Club, with which he played 160 games. Wayne also coached the

club at seniors and reserves level. In addition to his football career, he was the Managing Director of the SA Brewing Company from 1993-96, and Thomas Hardy & Sons 1981-92, and following that was Business Development Manager for BRL Hardy.

Wayne is also a Fellow of the Australian Society of Certified Practising Accountants.

## Miriam Hyde, AO, OBE – Composer & Pianist

Miriam Hyde (B Mus 1931) was born in Adelaide in 1913. She studied at the Elder Conservatorium, achieved two diplomas at 15, graduated at 18, won the South Australian prize for the LAB in 1928, and won the Elder Scholarship to the Royal College of Music in London in 1931. In London she won three composition prizes and was soloist in her two piano concerti with major London orchestras including the BBC. She graduated in 1935 with the ARCM and LRAM and returned to Australia.

She has composed more than 50 songs, chamber music and



sonatas for viola, clarinet and flute, composed overtures and other orchestral works, recorded and broadcast many of her works, performed in a variety of high

profile venues with major orchestras and conductors, and written poems.

She has undertaken a variety of leadership roles including Patron of the Music Teachers' Associations of NSW and SA, and Patron of the Blue Mountains Eisteddfod and the Australian Musicians' Academy.

Miriam's awards and accolades include the OBE (1981), AO (1991), International Woman of the Year (1991-2) for Service to Music (bestowed by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge), Hon. F. Mus. A. (1995) and HonDLitt (1993).

## Stephen Gerlach – Legal & Commercial

Stephen Gerlach (LLB 1967) has made an indelible mark on South Australia's corporate climate, from his career at Finlaysons from 1969 to 1992, to his role today as Chairman of Santos, Australia's largest natural gas producer. Stephen is also Chairman of Elders Australia Ltd, Beston Pacific Vineyard Management Ltd, Challenger Beston Ltd and a former Chairman of Equatorial Mining Ltd and Amdel Ltd.

He is also a Director of Southcorp Holdings Ltd, Futuris Corporation Ltd, Riverland Water Group (Deputy Chairman), Elders Rural Bank Ltd, and the former Managing Director of Finlaysons law firm. Stephen's charitable contributions include the chairmanship of Foodbank SA and Trustee of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation.

Stephen is ranked 42nd in the *Business Review Weekly's* Top 50 Directors.





# Recognising Excellence

Each year the Alumni Association recognises the significant achievements and contributions of its alumni and friends through a variety of awards and prizes.

The Alumni University Medal and the Postgraduate Alumni University Medal (to be presented for the first time in December 2002) acknowledge outstanding academic excellence in students. Only one medal per award is granted each year. The winner of the Alumni University Medal for 2002 was Ms Najmeh Habili (Honours Degree of Bachelor of Laws).

The Adelaide Sarawak Alumni Scholarship is a new scholarship, established through the generosity of the Chief Minister of Sarawak, to promote international alumni relations by providing financial assistance to undergraduate students from Malaysia who have been accepted to study at the University of Adelaide.

The successful applicant will be chosen on outstanding academic ability as well as a demonstrated commitment to community service, and the first recipient will be announced in 2003.

Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants and the AUGU/RC



*Alumni Association chair Greg Crafter and Alumni University Medallist medallist Najmeh Habili.*

Hedde Award support research undertaken by doctoral candidates, providing funding for them to travel to a conference or research institution essential to the advancement of their research.

“ Many of these awards would not be possible without the generous donations and gifts made by our alumni ”

Graduates who have given outstanding service to the University and/or the Alumni Association, outstanding service to the community or made an outstanding contribution in their chosen fields

are recognised each year with a Distinguished Alumni Award.

Recipients in 2002 have included Mr Lance Dossor, Dr Richard Yung, Mr Michael Khor Teik Hean and YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr) Haji Abdul Taib Bin Mahmud, Chief Minister of Sarawak.

The various chapters of the Alumni Association also offer prizes and awards. Many of these awards would not be possible without the generous donations and gifts made by our alumni, and for this the Alumni Association is sincerely grateful. ■

**Kim McBride**  
Coordinator, Alumni & Community Relations

## New VC — takes on international role

Professor James McWha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, is also Secretary-General of the International Association of University Presidents (IAUP).

Founded in 1964 in Oxford, England, the IAUP is an association of university chief executives from higher education institutions around the world.

Its primary aim is to strengthen the international mission and quality of education of universities, to promote global awareness and competence, as well as peace and international understanding through education.

The University of Adelaide is one of 15 Australian universities counted among the association's members.

## Correction

The Winter 2002 edition of Lumen contained some factual errors in a story about the Australian Universities International Alumni Convention. The genesis of the convention began in 1995, not in 1998, and the convention was established by people from all three South Australian universities. There were 500 delegates at the first convention.

# Alumni Program January – December 2003

DATE	PROGRAM	ORGANISED BY
<b>January</b>		
<b>February</b>	Call for Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations	ACRD
	<b>Combined Alumni Association Board &amp; Chapters Meeting</b>	ACRD
<b>March</b>	Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants	ACRD
	AUGU/RC Heddle Award	ACRD
	<b>Offshore Graduation Ceremonies – Singapore, Malaysia</b>	Graduations Office
	The University of Adelaide Alumni Malaysia Bhd - Reunion and Charity Dinner	The University of Adelaide Alumni Malaysia Bhd
<b>April</b>	Friends of the University of Adelaide Library Chapter - Eva Sallis, Winner of 1997 The Australian/Vogel Literary Award will speak on Themes of refuge and exile.	Friends of the University of Adelaide Library Chapter
	School of Commerce 10 year Anniversary	School of Commerce/ Commerce Chapter ACRD
	<b>Alumni Association Board Meeting</b>	
<b>May</b>	Deadline for Distinguished Alumni Award Nominations	ACRD
<b>June</b>	Alumni Board Meeting	ACRD
	<b>Annual General Meeting</b>	ACRD
<b>July</b>	<b>Mutual Community Postgraduate Travel Grants</b>	ACRD
<b>August</b>	<b>Combined Alumni Association Board and Chapters Meeting</b>	ACRD
	Graduations	Graduations Office
	<b>Alumni Association University Medal</b>	ACRD
<b>September</b>		
<b>October</b>	<b>Alumni Association Board Meeting</b>	ACRD
	Golden Jubilee – 50 Year Reunion	ACRD
<b>November</b>	<b>30 Year Reunion</b>	ACRD
	Combined Chapters Meeting	ACRD
<b>December</b>	Alumni Association Board Meeting	ACRD
	<b>Graduations</b>	Graduations Office
	Postgraduate Alumni University Medal	ACRD

Further information on the above program or chapter events can be obtained from our website at [www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni) which is updated weekly, through AdelaidE-Link (e-newsletter), or from the Alumni, Community Relations and Development (ACRD) office at +61 8 8303 5800.

## Your memories of Adelaide

Your memories of the University of Adelaide can remain alive with the new and expanding range of merchandise available.

[www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni)



## Connect and Communicate

Two of the Alumni Association's chapters, the MBA Alumni Association (MBAAA) and the Commerce Chapter, are connecting and communicating with their membership through separate websites and networking programs.

"Providing an effective online environment for members irrespective of their global location has presented an important challenge to the MBAAA," says Pamela Lee, the Chapter's President. In response to this challenge, and in collaboration with the Adelaide Graduate School of Business, a new website will "go live" by the end of 2002. The site makes use of a product offered by Potentiality, a Melbourne-based software company.

The site includes the ability to register and amend contact details, access to information on topics and events of interest via a Bulletin Board, a search facility for fellow alumni, and the ability to post messages.

"Facilitating the formation and development of a strong community of Commerce professionals is crucial to the success of the chapter's vision," says Luc Bondar, Chair of the Commerce Chapter.

"The chapter recognised that facilitating contact and networking between its widely diverse members (both professionally and geographically) required connectivity beyond the traditional methods used by alumni chapters."

Having assessed alternative methods, the chapter approached Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu's (DTT) Adelaide office to sponsor the development and maintenance of a



purpose-built chapter website and relational database. DTT have subsequently provided ongoing financial, advisory and content support, with final planning, design and building of the site carried out by the University of Adelaide's Web Services.

The website represents the primary communications vehicle for the chapter, and can be found at: [www.commerce.adelaide.edu.au/alumni](http://www.commerce.adelaide.edu.au/alumni). It allows members to register, to search for other members across a range of criteria and to contact each other via email.

The development of these networking programs reflects the strong relationship between the University, its graduates and the business community at large. ■

**Kim McBride**

Coordinator, Alumni & Community Relations

## Growing enthusiasm for new chapters

This past year has seen exciting developments in the area of international alumni relations. The affiliation of the Sarawak Alumni of the University of Adelaide brought the Alumni Association's international chapter count to five. We are also busy developing relationships with alumni in Thailand, the United States, the Philippines and Indonesia, enthusiastic to expand our international network into those countries. The future of international alumni relations hinges on the development of a range of services deliverable to and accessible by alumni regardless of geography.



Locally, we saw the establishment of three new chapters comprising the Adelaide University Sports Association Inc., Commerce Chapter and Friends of the University of Adelaide Library. With the affiliation of these chapters, a more diverse range of offerings is now available to all alumni.

With the increased interest from alumni interstate, this year the Alumni Association welcomed the start of a Melbourne Network. The enthusiasm of our Melbourne alumni signals the success of this network for years to come. We are currently working on establishing contacts with other interstate alumni and hope to welcome more interstate networks in the coming year.

*A souvenir exchange at the launch of the Sarawak alumni chapter. YB Dato Sri Haji Adenan Satem hands over a souvenir to Dr Harry Medlin, witnessed by the Deputy Chief Minister YB Tan Sri Alfred Jabu and the Organising Chairman Mr Rodger Chan.*

# Fantasy author's “spiritual home” revealed



*Author Sara Douglass waxes lyrical about some very special places at the heart of the University.*



Sara Douglass.

On her official website, Australia's most successful fantasy writer, Sara Douglass, reveals the location of her true “spiritual home”: the Staff Club of the University of Adelaide.

Visitors to the website ([www.saradouglass.com.au](http://www.saradouglass.com.au)) are also told: “I loved and still love the University of Adelaide, not only for the people but for its remarkable library, the Barr Smith Library.”

The Bendigo-based novelist's affection for the University results from the nine years she spent in the Department of History as an undergraduate, postgraduate and tutor. Under her real name of Sara Warneke she was awarded a BA (1985), a BA Hons (1986), and a PhD (1991).

Today, she remembers clearly the impact of the first lecture she attended.

“I was about 25 and had somehow fallen into doing a BA part-time. One afternoon I wandered in for a lecture by Dr Roger Knight of the History Department. It was something about the sugar industry in Borneo, and it made an absolutely stunning impression. I was being asked to think! I fell in love with uni study at that moment and have never fallen out of it.”

Later, there were “fantastic years” sharing a two-roomed

departmental office with seven other postgrads.

“The sense of discovery, the warm collegiate atmosphere, the shortbread-and-champagne morning teas for cash-strapped postgrad tutors hosted in the Staff Club by Professor Trevor Wilson ... what can I say? The Staff Club was always such a warm, inviting retreat, and I miss it enormously. But the person who has had the greatest influence on me was my postgrad supervisor, Dr Lynn Martin. I owe him a huge thank you for his inspiration, influence and support over the years.”

After completing her PhD (in 16th century English history), Dr Warneke left Adelaide to lecture in medieval history at La Trobe University in Bendigo.

As well as 12 fantasy novels, she has published a non-fiction work, *The Betrayal of Arthur* (Pan Macmillan 1999), exploring the legend of Camelot.

During her years at the University of Adelaide, Dr Warneke developed an enduring love for the Barr Smith Library. The bond has been strengthened in more recent years by the Library's acquisition of the original manuscripts of two of her most acclaimed works, *The Axis Trilogy* and *The Wayfarer Redemption*.

“When I first began my BA I

could barely be parted from the Barr Smith. It both frightened me and awed me. I had never seen such a collection of books. Then, as I moved into postgraduate work, I realised what a splendid collection it truly is. The treasures I found tucked away in small, dusty, forgotten alcoves!

“I can still remember standing in absolute delight at finding some forgotten volume, often with its pages uncut, never opened since the library acquired it in the 19th century, my hands grimy from the dust on the cover, sneezing, wondering how I could bear to be parted from it. Now, much of my time is spent haunting rare book dealers around the world seeking out copies of these books, trying to recreate in my world here in Bendigo some of that delight I had found in the Barr Smith.

“The library has had, and continues to have, such an astounding influence on my life that—to be honest—I don't think there is anything I can do that could possibly repay both institution and staff... but a few dollars now and again doesn't hurt. I'm very glad to be able to support the Barr Smith Library Appeal.” ■

Story John Drislane



# Barr Smith Library Appeal

On September 23, donors to the Barr Smith Library Appeal were given a special thank you in the library's magnificent Reading Room.

Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha thanked the more than 300 people who contributed to the appeal. They raised in excess of \$48,000 to support the library, which is one of the University's (and the State's) most treasured resources.

Professor McWha said the assistance provided to the University by donors was invaluable, because they also brought with them "a wealth of goodwill".

"Investment in the University will provide immense benefits for the students and staff, develop our expertise and provide for the continuation and improvement of our unique resources, such as the Barr Smith Library," he said.

The event also saw the launch of the Friends of the University of



(Above from left) Deputy Librarian Paul Wilkins, Vice-Chancellor Professor James McWha, Professor Tom Shapcott, and Librarian Ray Choate.

Adelaide Library—the newest chapter of the Alumni Association.

Guest speaker at the event was well-known author Professor Tom Shapcott from the English Department's Creative Writing program. A highlight of the event was a performance by Flight Of Ideas, a choir formed mostly of

University of Adelaide students and graduates.

If you would like to contribute to the Barr Smith Library Appeal, or are interested in supporting the library in other ways, please call the Alumni, Community Relations and Development office on + 618 8303 5800. ■

*The University would like to thank the following people for their generous support of the Barr Smith Library*

anonymous (x 67)

Audrey K Abbie  
Adela Alfonsi  
Barry Anderson  
Roger N Andre  
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