

Adelaidean

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

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Our eye in the sky aims to save lives

Above: Students Jonathan Bannister (front), Nayan Avalakki (left) and Peter Moncrieff (behind) work on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)

Photo by David Ellis

Engineering

Shark attacks could be a thing of the past at Adelaide beaches thanks to the efforts of a group of final year engineering students at the University of Adelaide.

Eight students from the School of Mechanical Engineering have designed and built an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) with a range of applications including shark patrols, bushwalker rescue, aerial mapping and traffic monitoring.

The seven-month project, involving four Aerospace and four

Mechatronic Engineering students, has resulted in a plane that can fly without human interaction and stream live video footage from a 10km radius.

The project is a landmark achievement for the first cohort of students completing their Bachelor of Aerospace Engineering undergraduate degree in 2007.

Team member Jonathan Bannister said the plane was configured primarily for search and rescue and was designed to fly for one hour with a cruising speed of 90km/h.

It will be put through its paces at an international UAV competition

being held in Queensland on September 25 and 26, involving 35 teams from six countries.

"Building this plane has been an incredible challenge for us," Jonathan said. "It has incorporated so many different aspects of engineering, from design through to construction, testing and operation."

"The workload has been huge but we have learnt so much about aircraft design, about manufacturing, about computers and communication equipment. It's real aerospace knowledge that we can apply in the real world when we graduate."

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From the Vice-Chancellor

Regular readers of this column will know that I have often written about the importance of our alumni and the alumni community to the University. I have said before that alumni are the lifeblood – and the life cycle – of this institution. Without them, we would have no students, no staff to teach the students, and no graduates. How the University manages its alumni relations is therefore critical to all of our activities.

I am pleased to announce that the University of Adelaide has a new Alumni Relations Strategic Plan for 2007-2011. This Strategic Plan heralds a new and exciting era of alumni relations for the University.

Alumni have played a significant role in defining and shaping the University of Adelaide for more than 130 years. The University has a long tradition of alumni and community engagement, and the new Strategic Plan builds upon our strong tradition of engagement, strengthening and broadening the existing program to meet the needs of alumni, the University and the wider community, now and into the future.

The plan comes out of an intensive consultation process that was undertaken by the University in 2006. We have acknowledged the growing importance of alumni and community engagement programs in the overall achievement of the University's primary goals, and recognised the need for a more focused approach to alumni relations.

After consulting with a broad cross-section of stakeholders in the alumni community, the 2006 review highlighted the importance of positioning alumni relations as a core function of the University, and recommended the development of a University-wide alumni relations program, more integrated into the life and fabric of the University. With the support and commitment of senior managers, these recommendations formed the basis of the Alumni Relations Strategic Plan.

The major elements in the plan that will contribute most significantly to the advancement of alumni relations at the University of Adelaide are:

- Substantive support to the Faculties and Schools in developing their own alumni program;
- Broadening the alumni program through an online community and membership program;
- Establishment of Alumni Forums to build stronger and more effective Alumni Networks;
- Creation of a funding program to support specific Alumni Network and Volunteer initiatives; and
- Greater focus on the student experience and students' role in the alumni program.

At the basis of the Strategic Plan is a strong commitment to enhance opportunities for alumni, the wider community and the University. The success of the Strategic Plan relies on building a culture that embraces this principle of mutual value, considering the common goals and benefits for both alumni and the University.

I urge you to read the new Alumni Relations Strategic Plan and see for yourself what we are working to achieve. The plan can be found online at:
www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/

We are now moving towards an exciting and inspiring new era of alumni engagement. By staying connected and working together, we can make an even greater impact on the future of alumni relations at the University of Adelaide.

JAMES A. McWha
Vice-Chancellor and President

Art & Heritage Collections

The University of Adelaide's Elder Music Library houses a rare treasure – a contrabassophon. The contrabassophon was invented in Germany in the mid 19th century. Its "roar" was favoured over the contrabassoon's "wheezing" and "buzzing". The bore of the contrabassophon is double the width of the bassoon and far wider than any other double bassoon.

The University's contrabassophon is significant as it is one of only four or five

made in London by Alfred Morton during the late 19th century, one of only a handful made anywhere in the world, and one of the few still known to be in existence. Most likely, it came to Adelaide when the Elder Conservatorium orchestra required a double bassoon.

Last month a world-leading contrabassoonist, Arlen Fast, a member of the New York Philharmonic orchestra, visited the University to play the contrabassophon. This contrabassophon was also



used by Adelaide Symphony Orchestra contrabassoonist Paul Blackman for a demonstration/lecture at an international conference in Melbourne.

Contrabassophon by Alfred Morton, London (late 19th century), is currently on display in the University of Adelaide's Elder Music Library, Hartley Building, North Terrace Campus

Photo by Julian Tremayne

■ Anna Rivett, Collections Officer,
Art & Heritage Collections.



\$2m fund puts researchers on the fast track

Commercialisation

The University of Adelaide aims to put more of its research discoveries on the path to commercialisation with a new \$2 million fund for researchers.

The Commercial Accelerator Scheme was launched recently by the University's commercial development company Adelaide Research & Innovation Pty Ltd.

Under the scheme, University of Adelaide researchers can receive up to \$250,000 to make their project "investment ready". It will address a recognised gap in research funding known as the "valley of death" between traditional research funding and venture capital.

University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said: "With the introduction of the Commercial Accelerator Scheme we hope to be able to continue to increase the number of successful commercial ventures at the University of Adelaide – to add to the already significant list of commercial successes we've had.

"Venture capital funds typically don't invest in research until they

have a product or prototype. The Commercial Accelerator Scheme will provide funding so researchers can establish proof-of-concept or reach a development milestone necessary to attract a commercial partner.

"Federal and State Government grant programs are also essential for research and development and this scheme complements these programs to take this research towards commercial development."

University of Adelaide commercial success stories include:

- Bresagen Ltd – the first biotech start-up company in Australia;
- GroPep Ltd – a biopharmaceutical company recently taken over by Danish company Novozymes;
- New cereal varieties bred at the University's Waite Campus;
- The developers of the Sydney Olympic torch fuel and flame system; and
- Mudpack Software, licensed to power companies to assist in managing blackouts.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

"We hope to increase the number of successful commercial ventures at the University"

Photo by Christopher Potter, CSP Creative
www.geocities.com/cspcreative/

News in Brief

Young Investigator Award semi-finals

Eight semi-finalists in the Young Investigator Awards for 2007 will present their research into women's and children's health on Friday 28 September from 11.30am to 2.30pm in the Queen Victoria Lecture Theatre at the Women's and Children's Hospital.

For full details visit the website: <http://via.cywhs.sa.gov.au/> or call (08) 8161 7703 for more information.

Cosi fan Tutte

The Elder Conservatorium and the Adelaide Centre for the Arts are presenting three performances of Mozart's opera *Cosi fan Tutte* this month.

To be held at 8.00pm from 13-15 September in the Little Theatre, North Terrace Campus (off Victoria Drive), the production will feature six outstanding singers from the Conservatorium's Vocal School.

Tickets are \$18 adult/concession and \$10 student. To book, contact Sarah Clark between 10am and 1.00pm Monday-Friday on 0419 274 646 or sarah.clark@student.adelaide.edu.au

Maths visitor talks Fermat's Last Theorem

The 2007 Mahler lecturer, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Chicago Mark Kisin, will give a free talk on Fermat's famous Last Theorem at the University of Adelaide at 3.00pm on Wednesday 5 September.

The Mahler Lectureship is awarded every two years to a distinguished mathematician.

Professor Kisin's talk, will be held in Room G08 in the Mathematics Building, North Terrace Campus.

For more information, visit the Maths events website: <http://dis.maths.adelaide.edu.au/news/events.php>

New location for Professional and Continuing Education

Professional and Continuing Education (PCE) has relocated to Levels 9 and 11, 115 Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

PCE offers a diverse range of programs, including: professional development; language, culture and general interest; Year 12 revision courses; English language skills; and project management.

To find out more about PCE and its new premises, visit the website:

www.adelaide.edu.au/pce/

Online Adelaidean giveaway

This month's *Adelaidean* has a special giveaway – tickets to an upcoming Selby & Friends concert – that you can only read about online.

For your chance to win, visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/adelaidean

Our eye in the sky aims to save lives

continued from page 1

The September competition, organised by the Australian Research Centre for Aerospace Automation, offers a \$40,000 incentive. The prize money will be awarded to the entrant whose plane finds a lost bushwalker in the Queensland outback in the shortest time.

Thanks to \$50,000 from The Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith Fund, aerospace company Thales, the School of Mechanical Engineering and other local companies, the students have built what they believe is an outstanding aircraft.

"This plane will have a lot of commercial applications," Jonathan said. "The primary one is shark patrol and surf lifesaving surveillance.

"At the moment we have fully manned aircraft flying up and down the South Australian coastline, which costs around \$1200 a day. If you were making a few of these UAVs you could sell them for less than \$10,000.

"They can be launched off a beach, recovered by parachute and can also land in the water. Surf lifesavers could have a computer monitor with them and track video footage from the plane at any time," he said.

The UAVs could also revolutionise the way surveyors work on large acreage, replacing theodolites and GPS (Global Positioning Systems) equipment with laser levels scanned from the aircraft.

"Other uses include bushfire management and traffic surveillance, as well as locating lost bushwalkers as per the competition," Jonathan said.

With a wing span of two metres and a weight of approximately nine kilograms, the UAV is constructed of composite materials and can land vertically via a parachute system, which averts the need for a runway.

"Flight testing is expected to begin shortly," Jonathan said. "We are really looking forward to seeing the aircraft fly. After so many hours of work from all team members it will be very rewarding to get some positive results."

For more information on this project please contact Jonathan Bannister at jonathon.bannister@student.adelaide.edu.au

■ Story by Candy Gibson



9/11 provides health lesson for Adelaide firefighters

■ Health Sciences

Adelaide's firefighters are being offered annual lung function tests by the University of Adelaide as part of an overall "wellness" program introduced by the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS).

Believed to be a first in Australia, the establishment of a lung function monitoring program in South Australia follows findings of accelerated lung damage in emergency service personnel who were involved in the rescue and clean-up after the terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001 (9/11).

"Everyone loses some lung function after the age of 25. In the five years following 9/11, the New York firefighters involved had an accelerated rate of loss of lung function of up to 12 times greater than the average non-smoking person," said Associate Professor Alan Crockett, who is Director of the University of Adelaide's Primary Care Respiratory Research Unit.

"A key factor in the New York firefighters' case is that five years before September 2001 they put in place a regime of lung function testing. That gave them the baseline information which clearly showed the damage done to individual firefighters by 9/11.

"This prompted the view that a baseline – or starting point – measurement of lung function should be available for Adelaide firefighters. We will then be able to assess the impact of any future exposures to potentially damaging substances. At the moment, if there was lung damage, we wouldn't know how much was caused by exposure and how much was pre-existing.

"The main concern of the MFS is to look after the health and wellbeing of firefighters. As well as helping individuals to track their health, this data will provide objective measures of the efficiency of current protocols around breathing apparatus and effectiveness of masks and ventilators."

Deputy Chief Fire Officer Mick Smith said that in line with the State Strategic Plan, the MFS, in partnership with the University of Adelaide, was introducing lung testing to improve firefighter wellness.

Lung function testing will be voluntary and offered to all of the approximately 800 MFS firefighters. Individual information will be confidential to each firefighter with the MFS receiving only summary overall results. The testing will involve two simple breathing tests.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

"We will be able to assess the impact of any future exposures to potentially damaging substances"

Above:
The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) responds to a fire

Photo courtesy of MFS

Kate watches over survival of the lambs

■ Animal Science

Just like humans, some ewes find the role of new motherhood more stressful than others. Researchers based at the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus are investigating how this impacts on lamb survival.

Animal Science Honours student Kate Lennon conducted a trial over a 10-day lambing period to assess ewe's bonding behaviour and its effect on lamb survival. She and fellow students monitored a South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) flock of pregnant ewes at Turretfield Research Station.

"Lamb survival is a huge issue in Australia from both welfare and production aspects," said Ms Lennon. "Newborn lamb mortality

rates are around 20%; there is great potential for improvement."

Ms Lennon monitored two groups of ewes, previously identified as either calm or nervous types through behavioural response tests. Maternal behaviours affecting lamb survival at birth include the time the ewe spends at the lambing site, the isolation from the rest of the flock and the grooming of its lamb.

"These behaviours are likely to promote a stronger bond between the mother and lamb," said Ms Lennon. "If a strong bond is formed, the ewe is less likely to reject the lamb in the crucial first three days and the lamb is more likely to survive."

The project aims to establish genetic correlations between the

ewes of different temperament and their behavioural traits and lamb survival. Genetic analysis will also be conducted to assess whether other production traits are likely to be correlated.

The ultimate aim would be to help sheep producers identify and breed for better mothering abilities without any loss of other production.

Ms Lennon's supervisor is Professor Phil Hynd, Director of the University's Roseworthy Campus. The project is being conducted in collaboration with SARDI Livestock Systems at Turretfield Research Station.

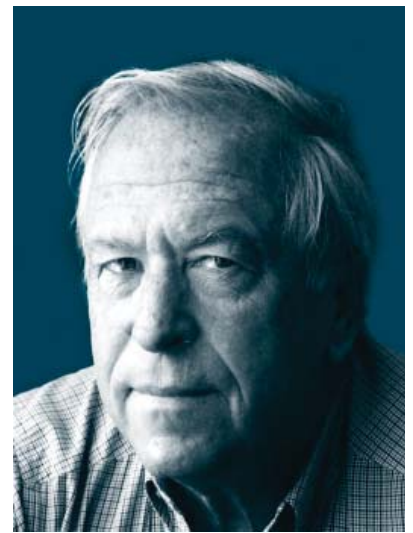
Below:
Kate Lennon watching over the lambing flock at Turretfield

Photo courtesy of the *Stock Journal*

■ Story by Robyn Mills



World philosopher visits Adelaide



Above:
Professor Simon Blackburn

Public Lectures

“He has perfected the tricky ability to discuss serious and complex issues in an accessible and amusing way”

One of the world’s most distinguished philosophers will present a series of public lectures at the University of Adelaide this month, examining the universal themes of truth, ethics and history.

Professor Simon Blackburn is an eminent British academic credited with bringing philosophy to the masses in an entertaining and accessible way.

Currently Professor of Philosophy at Cambridge University, he is a best-selling author and has a high media profile in the United Kingdom and United States.

Professor Blackburn has enjoyed a career spanning four decades on both sides of the Atlantic, teaching philosophy on all continents except the Antarctic.

Dr Philip Gerrans, Reader in the Philosophy Discipline at the University of Adelaide, described Professor Blackburn as “far and away the most entertaining and

valuable philosopher on the current world stage”.

“He has perfected the tricky ability to discuss serious and complex issues in an accessible and amusing way and has written a string of bestsellers as well as pouring out a stream of witty articles and reviews.”

Professor Blackburn will present four public lectures at the University of Adelaide on September 3, 5, 7 and 10, made possible by the Gavin David Young Memorial bequest. He will discuss the themes of truth, ethics, history, and philosophy and the university.

“His talks promise to entertain, challenge and provoke widespread debate,” Dr Gerrans said. “He expects his audience and readers to think hard, but he makes the process extremely rewarding.”

Professor Blackburn has held visiting appointments at the University of Melbourne, University

of British Columbia, US institutions Oberlin College, Princeton University and Ohio State University, the Universidad Autonomia de Mexico, and was for 10 years Adjunct Professor at the Australian National University in Canberra.

He is the author of 10 books, including his latest, *Plato’s Republic: A Biography*, which has been lauded as “a dazzling introduction to Plato’s greatest and most influential work by one of the world’s most distinguished and accessible philosophers”.

All lectures will be held in Napier Lecture Theatre 102 from 6pm-7.30pm. Truth (Monday 3 September), Ethics (Wednesday 5 September), History (Friday 7 September) and Philosophy in the University (Monday 10 September).

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Optical fibres: our future beyond telecommunications



A Research Tuesday with Professor Tanya Monro Tuesday 11 September at 5.30pm

The research of Professor Tanya Monro and her team centres on developing new classes of optical fibres for applications beyond optical data transmission.

In this lecture, she will discuss the opportunities for Australia in emerging optical fibre-based technologies.

Venue:

Lecture Theatre GO4 ground floor
Napier Building, North Terrace campus.
Admission is free.

Bookings essential:

Email: research.tuesdays@adelaide.edu.au
Phone: 8303 3692

Further information:

Visit the University of Adelaide’s Research website: www.adelaide.edu.au/research



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Life Impact The University of Adelaide



Farm facts to drive environmental strategy

■ Environmental Science

University of Adelaide PhD student Greg Lyle hopes his research will lead to clear, economically sound decision-making about the implementation of environmental regeneration strategies in Australia's wheatbelt.

Mr Lyle is investigating the correlation between data gathered in the paddock on grain yields with regional spatial information provided by GIS satellite technology. He will use this correlation to map the potential costs and benefits of revegetation and land restoration in real grain-growing areas.

Mr Lyle's research has won him one of the inaugural national scholarships awarded by the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, a national group of scientists involved in advancing solutions to secure the long-term health of Australia's land, water and biodiversity. Mr Lyle is the only South Australian to be awarded one of the 2007 Wentworth Group Science Program Scholarships.

"In Australian grain-growing areas the need to improve environmental outcomes is of increasing priority,"

Mr Lyle said. "Strategies such as land revegetation or restoration have had limited success among grain growers because uncertainty exists whether these strategies can be implemented while still maintaining both individual farm and regional economic viability.

"Implementation of revegetation or restoration strategies takes place on individual farms at a sub-paddock or paddock scale yet environmental issues and policy decisions are concerned with broader landscapes, where limitations within farms are difficult to anticipate.

"With the advent of detailed precision farming data and broad coverage satellite imagery, we now have environmental and economic information that spans decision-making scales from paddocks to regions. Using both together helps to understand the trade-offs necessary to provide environmental benefits in Australia's grain-growing regions. We can now identify areas where a strategy of revegetation and restoration might provide the most cost efficient environmental benefits."

Professor Mike Young, Wentworth Group member and Professor of Water Economics and Management at the University of Adelaide, said: "The approach that Greg's research is taking is helping to build a more sustainable future for Australian agriculture and Australian landscapes. The Wentworth Group is committed to finding real solutions for Australia – solutions that withstand the test of time."

The Wentworth Scholarship will provide Mr Lyle with funds to conduct stakeholder meetings with growers and local catchment authorities to identify potential issues that could arise in applying this innovative technique to an actual grain growing area.

As part of the Wentworth Group science program Mr Lyle will also attend science masterclasses in cities around Australia and will be mentored by some of Australia's leading scientists.

The Wentworth Group Science Program Scholarships are funded by the Purves Environmental Trust.

"The approach that Greg's research is taking is helping to build a more sustainable future for Australian agriculture"

Inset:
Greg Lyle

Photo by Robyn Mills

■ Story by Robyn Mills



Global change expert is new Executive Dean

The University of Adelaide has appointed leading global change scientist Professor Nick Harvey as its new Executive Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Nick Harvey was Professor in Geography and Environmental Studies at the University of Adelaide. He has also held senior positions in the University including Director of the Graduate School of Environmental Studies, Associate Dean (Research), and Acting Executive Dean on two previous occasions.

"Professor Harvey brings to his new role an outstanding academic and research record, and considerable leadership experience in research and education," said Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Academic) Professor Fred McDougall.

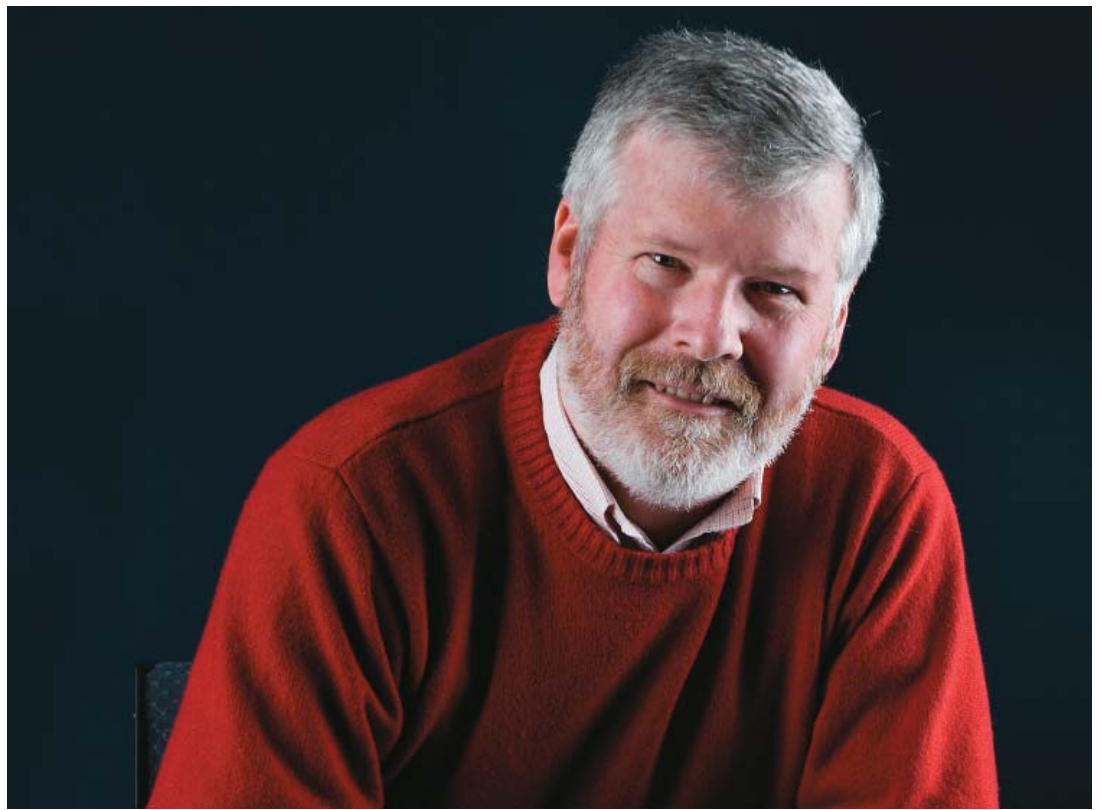
"He has already made a significant contribution to the global profile of the University and its research."

Professor Harvey is on a number of international scientific committees dealing with global change and was one of the lead authors on the recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group II report, the global body assessing the scientific evidence for climate change. He is also currently Chair of the international START-Oceania committee, based in Fiji, dealing with global change research and training.

Professor Harvey has written more than 100 publications including books, book chapters and scientific papers on coastal management and environmental impact assessment.

He is a member of the Australian Government Advisory Group on Coastal Vulnerability Assessment and a member of the Executive Steering Committee for South Australia's State of the Environment Report.

■ Story by Robyn Mills



\$4 million awarded to diseases expert

■ Biomedical Science

Above:
Professor James Paton

Photo by Elspeth Domin
Photography
www.elspethdomin.com

University of Adelaide infectious diseases expert Professor James Paton has been awarded a \$4 million Australia Fellowship to continue his research into new vaccines and treatments for life-threatening diseases.

Professor Paton, a highly regarded global leader in the fight against serious bacterial infections, was one of nine of Australia's top medical researchers to receive a total of \$36 million from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) last month.

Federal Health and Ageing Minister the Hon. Tony Abbott announced the winners of the Australia Fellowships at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research in Melbourne.

Professor Paton and his scientific colleagues at the University of Adelaide are responsible for some ground breaking medical discoveries in recent years, including how bacterial toxins cause severe gastrointestinal diseases.

His laboratory within the University's School of Molecular and Biomedical Science is addressing one of the major challenges that faces medical science in the 21st century – the control of infectious diseases.

A major part of Professor Paton's research program is directed at the

development of cheap and effective vaccines for the prevention of middle ear infections, meningitis and pneumonia caused by bacteria.

The world-acclaimed scientist and his colleagues are also exploring whether there are alternative ways of blocking interactions between pathogenic bacteria and their hosts, opening the way for development of new drugs and vaccines.

"The \$4 million fellowship will be used to investigate these new approaches for combating infections caused by bacteria such as *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Escherichia coli*," Professor Paton said. "New vaccines and treatments already under investigation in our laboratory will also be progressed to human trials.

"One of our key aims is to make Adelaide an internationally recognised centre of excellence in bacterial infectious disease research."

Professor Paton was the only researcher from South Australia to receive a 2007 Australia Fellowship. Eight other scientists from Victoria, the ACT and NSW were also awarded funds to tackle cancer, infectious diseases and mental health.

■ Story by Candy Gibson



Students provide legal help to the homeless

■ Law

Law students at the University of Adelaide are helping homeless and other vulnerable people with free legal advice.

Run out of the Westcare Church and Day Centre premises in Wright Street in the city, students hold a weekly legal clinic under the supervision of their lecturers – and they believe they are filling a vital need in community legal services.

“A lot of issues that people come in with are not necessarily legal problems,” said Sophie Dolling, who has just completed her double degree in Media and Law. “Often, it’s something relatively simple like not being able to deal with documentation and the bureaucracy surrounding banks or public authorities.

“They get swamped by the paperwork and may not understand it. Sometimes they can’t deal with the issue because of everything else going on in their life. We’ve found that by sorting out this one small problem, we can make a massive difference. They tell us they don’t have anywhere else to go.”

Adelaide Legal Outreach Service is run by third and fourth-year law

students as part of an elective subject called Clinical Legal Education. Their supervisors are senior lecturers Margaret Castles and Kathleen McEvoy.

Ms Castles said that since the clinic started in 2005, the students have helped more than 90 clients.

“The students come here not really having done anything in legal practice and by the end of the course they are extremely competent,” Ms Castles said.

“They get really valuable experience working with disadvantaged people in the community, and learning about pro bono legal work.”

The clinic doesn’t advise on family law or criminal law; those cases are referred on to other bodies such as the Legal Services Commission. Common issues that arise are industrial relations, including work law and unfair dismissal claims, parole issues, and expiation notices (offences where if a fine is paid but no charge is made, such as driving offences).

Louise Adams, who has recently completed her Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing) and Law

double degree, said: “It’s one of the most valuable courses in the Law degree. We learn to apply our knowledge and gain practical skills. And there is a lot of reward. People are just so grateful they have someone they can talk to about these problems.”

The students do all the interviewing, write letters and make all enquiries. The supervisors check their work and sign off.

Sophie said: “It’s been really good experience. We get to do pretty much everything ourselves but can still get advice when we need it.”

In addition to the legal outreach service at Westcare, students are also working on an outreach service to members of the Somalian community in the Western suburbs of Adelaide, under the guidance of solicitor Georgina Hone.

The Service operates on Fridays between 10am and 4pm throughout the year. Students also volunteer at the service during semester breaks.

“The students come here not really having done anything in legal practice and by the end of the course they are extremely competent”

Above:
Law students Louise Adams (left) and Sophie Dolling giving free legal advice in the Adelaide Legal Outreach Service

Photo by Robyn Mills

■ Story by Robyn Mills



New research institute to act on climate change

■ Environment

Tackling climate change is the mission of a new University of Adelaide research institute launched recently by South Australian Premier Mike Rann.

The Research Institute for Climate Change and Sustainability (RIcCs) brings together researchers from across each of the University's five Faculties to undertake research on reducing carbon emissions and developing adaptive strategies to respond to the anticipated impacts of climate change.

"The challenge ahead to meet the State target for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions is substantial and will require the application of latest understanding and development of new technologies," said Professor Barry Brook, RIcCs Director and the Sir Hubert Wilkins Chair of Climate Change.

"There is a lot of research across Australia on climate change but it is fragmented. The great strength and value of this new Research Institute will be in integrating research expertise from a range of different disciplines into a cohesive unit."

Mr Rann said: "I commend all those involved in setting up this new research centre. It's a terrific asset to our State and our research base."

The keynote speaker at the launch, climate change expert and CSIRO Honorary Fellow Dr Barrie Pittock, told guests that climate change was happening faster than models had predicted. Dr Pittock is author of the book *Climate Change – Turning up the Heat* and former foundation leader of the CSIRO Climate Impact Group.

"This joint initiative between the University of Adelaide and the State Government, and collaboration with industry and other research organisations, will help put South Australia at the forefront of climate change research," said University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha.

"It will help us to capitalise on existing research strengths and develop increased capacity in emerging areas of research, which will become increasingly important as climate change affects our lives."

Examples of research projects underway include:

- Investigating the impact of elevated carbon dioxide on vine growth and production. Researchers aim to create an international facility of monitored vines under elevated carbon dioxide and temperature;
- Modelling ecological impacts of climate change with the view to managing species diversity;
- Developing quieter, low cost, micro wind turbines;
- Developing a number of combustion technologies to enhance the use of biomass fuels (renewable fuels) including the application of a new type of flameless oxidation process;
- Developing systems to utilise concentrated solar energy for minerals processing;
- Establishment of an international research facility into geothermal energy.

Photo from Shutterstock Photography

■ Story by Robyn Mills

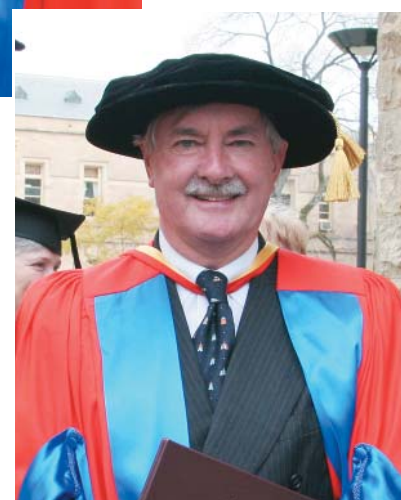


Left:
Professor Frank Fenner
with sister Winifred at the
graduation

Photo by Candy Gibson

Below:
Brian Croser

Photo by Robyn Mills



Highest awards for distinguished graduates

■ Graduations

“The University is very pleased to be able to show our appreciation and respect to these men, and proud that they are our graduates”

Two distinguished graduates returned to the University of Adelaide to be presented with the University’s highest award in recognition of the contributions they have made.

Professor Frank Fenner AC CMG MBE is credited with overseeing the global eradication of smallpox and controlling Australia’s rabbit plague through the introduction of myxomatosis. In his 90s but still working, Professor Fenner is one of Australia’s most highly honoured scientists. He was awarded a Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).

Mr Brian Croser AO was awarded a degree of Doctor of the University in recognition of his contribution to the University community and the wine industry. Mr Croser is a well-known winemaker and, until March this year, was Deputy Chancellor of the University.

“The University of Adelaide awards these special degrees to people who have distinguished themselves in service to the University community or in fields and industries relevant to the University’s research and teaching,” University of Adelaide Vice-Chancellor and President Professor James McWha said.

“Professor Fenner’s achievements and contribution in science and medicine are outstanding. Mr Croser’s contribution to the governance of the University has been above and beyond the call of duty and his contribution to the development of the University’s wine education and research has been significant.

“The University is very pleased to be able to show our appreciation and respect to both these men, and proud that they are our graduates.”

Professor Frank Fenner graduated in medicine from the University of Adelaide in 1938 and completed his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1942. He has had an outstanding career as a microbiologist and world expert on pox virus. He was Chairman of the Global Commission for the Certification of Smallpox Eradication and, in 1980, he announced the eradication of smallpox to the World Health Assembly.

He has received numerous awards and honours including the Japan Prize – a prize for applied science regarded as the equivalent of the Nobel Prize. He has been made a Companion of the Order of Australia, a Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George and a Member of the British Empire.

Mr Brian Croser graduated with a Bachelor of Agricultural Science in 1969. He was head winemaker for Thomas Hardy and Sons before establishing the former Riverina College of Advanced Education’s course in Wine Science and Viticulture in 1976. At the same time he, together with his wife Ann, established Petaluma Wines, becoming Executive Chairman in 1993.

Today he is Managing Director of Tapanappa Wines. He was President of the Winemakers’ Federation of Australia for some years and a past president of the Australian Winemakers Forum and Australian Society of Viticulture and Oenology.

Mr Croser was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia in 2000 and received a Centenary Medal in 2001. He was appointed to University Council in 1998, becoming Deputy Chancellor in 1999 until his retirement from Council this March.

■ Story by Robyn Mills

Celebrating success

■ Graduations

Around 1500 students graduated from the University of Adelaide during the mid-year graduation ceremonies held in historic Bonython Hall in July and August. The University of Adelaide offers a wide range of academic programs at all levels of study; these are just some of the graduates and their stories.



Above:
David Russell (centre) graduated with a Bachelor of International Studies, watched by proud parents Jenny Russell and Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia

Left:
Some of the University's first graduates in the new Graduate Certificate in Food Writing celebrate with a glass of wine. From left: course co-covener Professor Nicholas Jose, Food Writing graduate Stephanie Santich, course co-covener Associate Professor Barbara Santich, and Food Writing graduates Eloise Riggs and Vikki Moore.



Earthquake studies for Alumni Medallist

The Honours Alumni University Medal for 2007 has been awarded to James Daniell.

James graduated with First-Class Honours in Bachelor of Engineering (Civil and Structural) and a Bachelor of Science at the end of 2006 following an undergraduate career with excellent grades in all engineering and science courses.

The Honours Alumni University Medal is awarded each year for outstanding academic merit.

The institution that James has nominated for his higher degree study is outstanding – arguably the best in the world for the cross-disciplinary treatment of earthquake engineering and engineering seismology.

The European School for Advanced Studies in Reduction of Seismic Risk (ROSE School) at the University of Pavia in northern Italy is unique in that internationally renowned academics are flown in from all around the world to deliver the Masters course subjects in an intensive teaching mode over three or four-week blocks.

From left:
James Daniell with his father, Associate Professor Trevor Daniell (Civil & Environmental Engineering)



Swimming through his studies

National swimmer and State record holder Mitchell Bacon graduated last month from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Science (EcoChemistry).

Throughout his degree, Mitchell has combined a full swimming career with his studies, competing in State, national and international competitions.

Not content with his Bachelor degree, however, Mitchell is now continuing with an Honours degree in Chemistry.

Mitchell started swimming internationally at 17. His wins include the 400 metre individual medley national short course title in 2002 and the Oceania championships titles for individual medley in 2002 (200 metres) and 2004 (400 metres).

He has also represented Australia in the World University Games in 2003 (making finals in both the 200 and 400 individual medleys) and again in last month's World University Games in Thailand.

"Fitting in my studies around my training was hard but it helped keep me rounded and focused, and I'm ecstatic to have finished my degree," Mitchell said.

Left: Mitchell Bacon at the recent State Short Course Championships with one of his medals

Photo courtesy of Martin Chipperfield



Left: Medical Science Masters degree graduate Phyllis Turner (centre) celebrates her graduation with two of her great-grandchildren, seven-year-old Jack (left) and five-year-old Levi.

Mrs Turner, 94, is believed to be the world's oldest person to earn a university Masters degree. Her graduation generated worldwide interest from the media, including an invitation to appear on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno in the United States.

Mrs Turner originally quit school at an early age and returned to study almost 60 years later, completing an undergraduate degree at ANU in the 1970s.

In 2002 – at the age of 90 – she earned her Honours degree in Anthropology from the University of Adelaide, before moving on to her Masters.

Mace-bearer and mentor

In 2003 Joel Bayliss entered the University of Adelaide through its Foundation Humanities and Social Sciences access program for indigenous students.

Last month Joel graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in politics and was the mace-bearer for his graduation ceremony, a role reserved for students who have distinguished themselves through academic and other achievements.

"Joel has been exceptionally conscientious, committed and hard working, and is acutely aware of the many difficulties fellow Indigenous students face in school and university," said Wilto Yerlo adjunct lecturer Susan Cole, who coordinated the Foundation program until last year.

"He has supported fellow students in their studies, giving generously of his time and sharing experiences to assist in their success."

While studying full-time, Joel has worked part-time as a mentor for Aboriginal children in State schools. He has also recently been elected to the City of Marion Council – their first Indigenous Councillor and, at 26, their second to youngest.

"University has been the best time of my life," he said. "Education is the key – and that's what I've told the Aboriginal kids I mentored. I've pleaded with them to go to University. I am so glad I stuck with it."

Joel has plans to do his Honours in Politics after working for a while. He has just started as a graduate officer with the Office of the Liquor and Gambling Commissioner.

Right: Joel Bayliss with father Ivan and mother Wendy



Choc full of writing goodness

The first group of students to complete the University of Adelaide's new Graduate Certificate in Food Writing graduated in Bonython Hall on 30 July.

The first of its kind in Australia, the new online course was launched this year drawing on the University's expertise in creative writing and gastronomy, and some well-known names in the writing and food writing arenas. As a step away from the *Adelaidean's* usual commentary this month, we present a piece written by one of the graduates as part of their Food Writing studies.

Box Office Bombe by Stephanie Santich



■ Commentary

I'm devastated. Haigh's have discontinued their peppermint *marrons*, the cornerstone of my *petits fours* palette. There's something about the delicate shell shape, half-dipped in darkest chocolate, that suggests a certain bygone age – one that is more elegant, more refined, and certainly more decadent than ours. It calls to mind forbidden and archaic luxuries – turtle soup or tortoiseshell cigarette holders, and other extravagant fancies such as baroque ice statues, champagne fountains or moulded pats of butter.

The sweet is simplicity itself – creamy peppermint fondant pressed into a rococo mould and coated on one side with Haigh's finest bittersweet. It's a wintry candy, like the frosty glare of a film noir siren, the chocolate as sharp and barbed as a Myrna Loy quip, as deep and sultry as an Ava Gardner gaze. It's dirty like a cigarette, the swirling heavy-lidded Marlene Dietrich kind. It's something Dick Powell would have scorned as a frivolity, a folly, a burnt-out nightclub singer's secret vice.

It's the sort of chocolate that's too plain and austere to have found its way into a plush, heart-shaped box or a paper bag at the talkies. It's the kind that photographs well, but would never be found in the society pages. It's the sort of chocolate that isn't really a chocolate, but dresses that way for fun. The kind that doesn't make your fingers sticky, and that all the other chocolates want to be, simply because they can't. The peppermint *marron* scorns the opulence of, say, a rose or violet cream. It shrinks from the gauche modernism of lime fondant or raspberry noyau, but looks upon the native brittles with veiled interest, as if their pedigrees might prove worthy of investigation. A peppermint *marron* will never stain your dress or entice a filling from its niche. It will never drip inelegantly from your mouth or lend itself to being poked surreptitiously with a questing thumb. One never need fear that the peppermint *marron* might be masquerading as something delicious, only to splurt into your mouth a horror of strawberry custard.

They sell it naked, although this too is soon to be phased out. Stripped of its coat of sable, the peppermint *marron* becomes a *bon bon*, the province of children. No longer nobly, darkly, mysteriously cloaked, like a sea shell hiding within its coils a precious heartbeat, its nudity cries out to grubby fingers, its dark armour no longer a deterrent.

So I can't say I'm impressed with Haigh's decision. I feel personally slighted, and I'm sure my reputation as a host will suffer. I haven't been this irritated since their chocolate *nonpareil* were taken off the market. I huff and puff and the salesgirl tries to mollify me with an apricot layer cream, which I'm aware has a distinguished reputation in this State, but which dribbles into my hand like a small and petulant child. What a bore, I think to myself as I stalk out of the shop with a chocolate frog weighing close to a pound. It'll take months of diligent tasting to find a suitable replacement.

Above:
Peppermint *marrons*
not shown

Photo by Enrica Bressan



Palestinian scholar to deliver lecture

Public Lectures

Palestinian-British author and academic Dr Ghada Karmi will deliver the annual Edward Said Memorial Lecture at the University of Adelaide on Saturday 6 October.

Dr Karmi is an honorary research fellow and assistant lecturer at the Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom.

A well-known international commentator on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Dr Karmi appears widely in the British and Arab media and frequently has articles on the Middle East published in *The Guardian* (UK), *The Nation* (US) and *Journal of Palestine Studies*.

Although born in Jerusalem, Dr Karmi has spent most of her life in Britain, where she studied medicine and initially practised as a physician, specialising in the health and social conditions of ethnic minorities, migrants and asylum seekers.

In her 2002 autobiography, *In Search of Fatima: A Palestinian Story*, she describes growing up in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Katamon, with its mixture of Christian and Muslim Palestinians. With her family she was forced to flee in 1948 and settled in London, where her father worked for the BBC Arabic service.

The Edward Said Memorial Lecture honours the memory of

one of the most famous Palestinian intellectuals in the world until his death in 2003.

Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk delivered the inaugural Edward Said lecture in 2005 and Israeli scholar the late Professor Tanya Reinhart followed up in 2006. Both lectures were sold out.

A year before his death, Edward Said described Dr Karmi's autobiography as "a stunning memoir... extraordinarily well written and amazingly honest".

"Hers is a story of exile and displacement... rich in detail and human experience. Karmi is excellent on the quality of family and even communal life in Mandatory Palestine... she also has a wonderfully subtle way of showing how in thousands of different ways the political and the personal intermesh, and this she does with a skill and insight that could be a novelist's envy," Said wrote.

This year's Edward Said Memorial Lecture on Saturday 6 October will be held in Elder Hall at 5pm.

Tickets \$12 if pre-purchased online www.friendsofpalestine.org.au or from Digimob Australia at 246 Pulteney Street, Adelaide, and \$15 at the door.

For more information, go to www.adelaide.edu/esml

"Hers is a story of exile and displacement... rich in detail and human experience"

Above:
Dr Ghada Karmi

Photo courtesy of
Dr Ghada Karmi

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Threats to an open society

Is the West's reaction to the Twin Towers and other attacks just what the terrorists were hoping for?

This question will be posed by one of Australia's most respected political figures and intellectuals, Dr Barry Jones AO, when he gives this year's John Bray Oration on 4 September on the topic of freedom of speech and censorship in contemporary society.

Dr Jones became a household name as a *Pick A Box* quiz champion before entering politics in the 1970s. He was Minister for Science from 1983 to 1990, presiding over the growth of the CSIRO, the creation of the Australia Prize, Questacon and the Commission for the Future.

He was President of the Australian Labor Party between 1992 and 2000 and again in 2005-2006.

He has been Vice President of the World Heritage Committee, Deputy Chair of the fourth Constitutional Convention and a member of the Executive Board of UNESCO.

He is a prolific author of political and sociological books, the most recent being his autobiography *A Thinking Reed*.

In his talk, "Censorship and secrecy: threats to an open society in an insecure age", Dr Jones will discuss the "substantial erosion" in the West of many elements which characterise a free society.

The John Bray Oration will be held at 5.45pm in Union Hall, North Terrace Campus on Tuesday 4 September. Bookings are essential RSVP to Gaynor Tyerman on 8303 6356 or email tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

The University of Adelaide was strongly represented among the group of 16 young scientists chosen by Fresh Science in 2007.

Fresh Science is a national program that identifies new and interesting research being done by early-career scientists around the country. It provides practical training and experience to the Fresh Scientists in how to present their research to the media and the public.

Of the 16 Fresh Scientists selected for 2007 from more than 80 nominations, four were from the University of Adelaide: Quinn Fitzgibbon, Cadence Minge, Martin Sale and Edwina Sutton.

You can find all of their research stories in this issue of the *Adelaidean*.

Fresh Science is sponsored by the Federal and Victorian governments. For more information, visit: www.scienceinpublic.com/sciencenow/

Brain gene flicks the switch on gender

■ Biochemistry

University of Adelaide researchers have discovered a way of creating a male mouse without a Y chromosome by manipulating a single gene in the developing fetus.

Normally males have one X and one Y chromosome and females have two X chromosomes. But Postdoctoral Research Officer Dr Edwina Sutton has produced male mice with two X chromosomes by artificially activating a gene in the developing gonads.

"The gene – Sox3 on the X chromosome – is well known for its impact on brain development, but this is the first time it's ever been shown to change sexual development. By making this brain gene active in the developing gonads of mice with two X chromosomes during the critical stage of development, we switched off female development and switched on 'maleness'," said Dr Sutton.

"This is not only important for our knowledge of evolution of the

sex chromosomes, but it also has potentially significant implications for people with disorders of sexual development, the causes of which we know very little about. We can use these mice to increase our understanding of these disorders which occur with a high frequency in our community and, ultimately, develop therapies or technologies to improve clinical outcomes."

This discovery came about by chance. Dr Sutton and her supervisor, Research Fellow Dr Paul Thomas, both in the University's School of Molecular and Biomedical Science, were investigating the role of Sox3 in brain development and discovered they had produced 80% XX male offspring. Although completely male in appearance, reproductive structures and behaviour, the XX males are all sterile.

Dr Sutton's findings were recently presented at the First Pan American Congress in Developmental Biology in Cancun, Mexico.



Above:
Dr Edwina Sutton

Photo by Robyn Mills



PhD student Cadence Minge in the Research Centre for Reproductive Health

Photo by David Ellis

‘Fat eggs’ likely cause of infertility in obese women

Reproductive Health

“Consuming a diet high in fat causes damage to eggs stored in female ovaries. As a result, when fertilised these eggs are not able to undergo normal, healthy development into embryos”

A University of Adelaide researcher has discovered scientific evidence that obesity is a key factor in infertility – because of how it affects women’s eggs.

While obesity has long been thought to be a major factor in couples’ inability to conceive, this is the first time the effects of obesity on the egg have been discovered.

The research findings – using female mice – have been made by PhD student Cadence Minge in the University of Adelaide’s Research Centre for Reproductive Health.

Importantly, her research has also discovered a way to completely reverse the effects of obesity on mouse eggs, enabling afflicted eggs to develop into healthy embryos.

“Consuming a diet high in fat causes damage to eggs stored in female ovaries. As a result, when fertilised these eggs are not able to undergo normal, healthy development into embryos,” Ms Minge said.

Ms Minge has discovered that a protein in the cells surrounding, supporting and nourishing the egg – called Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptor gamma (PPAR γ)

– is the main reason behind diet-induced infertility.

“The behaviour of this protein helps to determine the way in which the ovaries sense and respond to fats,” Ms Minge said. “Being able to control this protein will be very important in the quest to reverse infertility caused by poor diets.”

Ms Minge’s research has found that when the protein is selectively targeted with the anti-diabetes drug rosiglitazone (marketed as Avandia by GlaxoSmithKline), the adverse effects of obesity on egg quality are completely reversed.

“The drug enables us to switch on the protein, thereby changing the way in which the ovaries sense and respond to fats. Embryo development rates are restored, and the cellular differentiation of the early embryo is improved. In the long-term these improvements can result in increased birth weight and fetal survival,” Ms Minge says.

However, Ms Minge warns that rosiglitazone should not be seen as a “quick fix” for infertile women.

“The rosiglitazone findings are of great significance for scientists researching egg maturation within

the ovary. But at this stage, the research findings have only been made in mice. Also, the drug itself can have possible harmful side-effects, and more research is needed to find other, safer ways of activating the protein,” she said.

“With more research, if we can pinpoint critical cellular controls of egg quality, it may allow women to maximise their likelihood of healthy conception.”

Ms Minge said her findings also emphasised the importance of a healthy lifestyle for women interested in conceiving children naturally.

“Despite the wide-ranging recognised health risks associated with excessive bodyweight, Australia’s waistline continues to expand. Currently, Australia is on par with heavyweight nations such as the US and the UK, with approximately 60% of Australian adults now overweight or obese,” Ms Minge said.

“I hope that these findings encourage people to carefully consider the impact of lifestyle choices on longer-term quality of life.”



Researcher Quinn Fitzgibbon about to release a live tuna into the waterbed

Photo courtesy of Quinn Fitzgibbon

Tuna research adds value to industry

■ Environmental Science

Bluefin tuna use three times as much oxygen as other fish their size, making them more difficult to culture, according to new research at the University of Adelaide.

The findings have been made by Earth & Environmental Sciences PhD student Quinn Fitzgibbon and colleagues, in a study where they monitored live tuna swimming inside a 350-tonne “waterbed”.

The research team also found that tuna use twice as much energy processing their food as any other fish, and so need to eat more to grow.

“Because of their high oxygen and energy demands, we think of tuna as the V8 race car of the fish community,” Mr Fitzgibbon said. “Their large, finely tuned mechanisms support great performance, but use a lot of fuel and are expensive to run.”

While tuna farming has quickly grown to be Australia’s most valuable aquaculture industry – worth about \$300 million annually, mostly supplying the international sashimi market – until now little has been known about these large, strong fish because of the difficulties of studying them.

The information the research team is collecting is being used in models that describe the energy needs of growing tuna. It will also help tuna farm managers ensure the health of their fish and assist in the design of feeding strategies, helping to maximize productivity and profitability.

By installing a sealed bag or waterbed made from reinforced plastic into an ocean tuna farm, Mr Fitzgibbon was able to measure the consumption of oxygen of the tuna inside.

Tuna are introduced to the waterbed through a sealable port and can spend weeks inside, happily swimming around and feeding. The bag has probes to measure oxygen levels in the water, video cameras to record the tuna’s behaviour, and lights that turn on at night so filming need never stop.

This innovative four-year research project has “opened a window on the unique physiology and ecology of this fascinating fish”, Mr Fitzgibbon said.

Mr Fitzgibbon has been working with scientists from South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) Aquatic Sciences, and his work has been supported by the Aquafin CRC and its participants, including the Tuna Boat Owners Association of South Australia, the SA Government and Fisheries R&D Corporation.



Martin Sale demonstrates how a magnetic coil is used to stimulate nerve activity in the brain

Photo by David Ellis

Brains learn better at night

■ Physiology

If you think that the idea of a morning person or an evening person is nonsense, then postgraduate student Martin Sale and his colleagues from the School of Molecular and Biomedical Science have news for you.

They have found that the time of day influences your brain's ability to learn – and the human brain learns more effectively in the evening.

By identifying at what point in the day the brain is best able to operate, rehabilitation therapy can be targeted to that time, when recovery is maximised.

“Our research has several future applications,” Mr Sale said. “If the brains of stroke patients can be artificially stimulated to improve learning, they may be able to recover better and faster.”

The researchers used a magnetic coil over the head to stimulate nerve activity in the brain, and linked it to an electrical stimulus of the hand.

Mr Sale discovered that the brain's capacity to control hand movements is influenced by the time of day.

His study found that larger changes are induced when the

experiments are performed in the evening, as compared with mornings.

“Such time-of-day variations in function are not unusual. Organisms are adapted to the continual change in light and dark during a 24 hour period to avoid predators and to reproduce faster,” he said.

“For example, the petals of many flowers only open during the day, while some organisms only reproduce at night. In humans, these rhythms are governed by a variety of hormones that control many bodily functions.”



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A career in perfect harmony

■ Music

Above:
Carl Crossin

Photo by Candy Gibson

Bob Dylan is regarded more for his song writing than his vocal ability, but local choral lovers owe him a huge debt of gratitude.

If not for his classic 1960s song *Mr Tambourine Man*, Adelaide may never have heard of Carl Crossin. It was this song – sung in perfect harmony by American folk-rock band The Byrds – which sealed the fate of the talented South Australian conductor at 12 years of age.

“That song threw the switch for me. I just loved the vocal harmony and decided on a career in music from the moment I heard it,” he said.

More than three decades later, his passion has not subsided. Today Carl Crossin wears the conducting hats for three Adelaide choral groups, alongside his “day” job as Senior Lecturer, Head of Academic Studies and Deputy Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music.

In a career spanning 30 years he has built an international reputation as a choral conductor, educator, clinician and composer. Adelaide can also thank him for creating the most diverse choral program in the country and helping to maintain the State’s reputation as home to Australia’s finest choral singers.

A self-confessed opportunist, Carl has either created choirs from scratch or reinvented them. He has

founded no less than six Adelaide choirs since 1985, among them the Adelaide Chamber Singers, the Adelaide Symphony Chorus (in conjunction with the ASO), the Elder Conservatorium Chorale, Adelaide Voices and Bella Voce (the last three of which are University of Adelaide choirs).

The purity and power of the human voice is the motivation behind Carl’s commitment to choirs.

“I very much enjoy ensemble activity and love doing things with a team. But I like being a prime mover in that team – taking the initiative, leading and guiding.

“The wonderful thing about working with voices is that every single person has one. Singing is as natural as breathing and you don’t need to create instruments because it is all there in the human voice.”

Carl is both a graduate of the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the University of Adelaide. He has also studied choral conducting in the United States and Britain as a recipient of international study grants.

Since joining the Conservatorium in 2002 he has developed a unique choral program that is the envy of other tertiary music schools in Australia.

“We are probably the only Conservatorium in the country

which has a fully fledged range of choirs in addition to a symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra and wind symphony. Ensemble music making is very important to the University.”

His work with singers has not been limited to the choral field either. He has conducted critically acclaimed performances of opera and recently returned to composition.

An ongoing collaboration as Chorus Director for the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra (ASO) has produced some outstanding results for the talented conductor in recent years.

In 2004 his Adelaide Chamber Singers performed the world premiere of the *Peter Sculthorpe Requiem* in partnership with the ASO. Earlier this year their *Requiem* CD was released by ABC Classic FM, attracting glowing praise from the world’s leading CD publication *Gramophone*.

In October, Carl will also prepare the Adelaide Symphony Chorus for a joint performance with the ASO of Mahler’s *Symphony No. 2, Resurrection*, which has not been performed in Adelaide for 34 years.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Strong start for Library Appeal

Development

More than 660 donors have already given to the 2007 Barr Smith Library Appeal since its launch in April, making it the most successful appeal to date.

The annual appeal, now in its sixth year, raises money for the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library, helping to maintain and expand its diverse collection of over two million items.

Donations play an important role in ensuring that South Australia's biggest library continues to be a valuable resource for students, staff and the general public.

"It is encouraging that the community has shown such outstanding support for the Barr Smith Library," said University Librarian Mr Ray Choate.

"Every donation makes a real impact on the many students, staff and members of the community who use the Library every day, and will help to ensure that future generations can continue to utilise this resource."

Mr Choate said that funds from the 2007 Appeal would contribute to the breadth of collections in areas where current reading was expected to maintain general knowledge, and to the purchase of expensive specialised titles, enhancing the Library's research resource capability.



The Barr Smith Library has more than one reason to celebrate this year – 2007 also marks the 75th anniversary of the Library's opening on the University of Adelaide's North Terrace Campus. Support from alumni and friends helps to ensure that the library continues to be a key academic and public resource for the future.

For more information about the Barr Smith Library Appeal, or to make a donation, please contact Helen Paul, Development and Alumni, at helen.paul@adelaide.edu.au, phone (08) 8303 4275 or visit: www.adelaide.edu.au/alumni/giving/

■ Story by Lana Guineay

"Every donation makes a real impact on the many students, staff and members of the community"

Development & Alumni Events

United Kingdom Chapter

Event: Reception to introduce the new Patron, Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain in London and in Adelaide for Australia. Also launch of the Maurice de Rohan Scholarship.

Venue: Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood, London; and afterwards at the Lord's Tavern

Date: Wednesday 5 September

Time: 6.30pm

RSVP: Details to be advised

Event: Christmas Event

Please put this date in your diaries and tell other Alumni and Friends

Venue: Exhibition Hall, Australia House, Strand, London

Date: Thursday 29 November

Time: 6.30pm

RSVP: Details to be advised

Roseworthy Old Collegians Association

Event: ROCA Annual General Meeting and Annual Reunion Dinner, includes presentation of the 2007 Award of Merit, and special profiles from 10, 25, 40 and 50-year reunion groups.

Date: Friday 12 October

Time: 7.00pm

Venue: Glenelg Golf Club, James Melrose Drive, Novar Gardens

Cost: \$40 members, \$45 non-members

RSVP: Dr David Cooper, dacooper@merlin.net.au, phone (08) 8363 4371 (work), (08) 8332 5982 (home)

Florey Medical Chapter

Event: Medical Vignerons Dinner 2007, the Florey Chapter's premier event. An excellent opportunity to meet other Florey chapter members and catch up with old University friends. Enjoy wines from some of SA's finest vigneroners. All welcome.

Date: Friday 9 November

Time: TBA

Cost: \$80. Student discount available

Venue: National Wine Centre, Cnr Botanic Rd and Hackney Rd, Adelaide

RSVP: Gaynor Tyerman (08) 8303 6356 or gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

Kathleen Lumley College

We are seeking registrations from alumni of Kathleen Lumley College who are interested in receiving information regarding the 40-year celebrations (in 2008) of the laying of the Foundation Stone by Kathleen Lumley in 1968. Please register your details with Kate Reinfeld at Development and Alumni, call +61 8 8303 3692 or email kate.reinfeld@adelaide.edu.au

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London scholarship for pianist

Music

It is the fourth major prize that Michael has won since 2003

Above:
Michael Ierace

Photo by Candy Gibson

Student pianist Michael Ierace has been awarded the \$20,000 Elder Overseas Scholarship to study at the Royal College of Music in London.

The 24-year-old Masters student will fly out to London this month to spend the next two years polishing his piano technique in one of the world's leading conservatoires.

Michael is the 2007 recipient of the long-standing Elder Overseas Scholarship, one of the Elder Conservatorium's most prestigious prizes, which was established in 1883 by an endowment from Sir Thomas Elder.

The scholarship has been held by such notable musicians as composer and pianist Dr Miriam Hyde, pianist Lucinda Collins, baritone Grant Doyle and celebrated cellist Pei-Sian Ng.

It is the fourth major prize that Michael has won since 2003, when he took out the University's David Galliver Memorial Award, in honour of the late professor who was a former head of the Elder Conservatorium.

In 2004 Michael won the Geoffrey Parsons Award while studying for his Bachelor of Music (Honours) degree at the Elder Conservatorium, and a year later won the MBS National Young Performers Award.

The Royal College of Music trains gifted musicians from all over the world for international careers as performers, conductors, composers and other significant leadership roles within the arts.

The course Michael will undertake is a Masters Degree in Performance, an intensive program of both practical and written work over two years.

"The Royal College is recognised as one of the best teaching institutions in the world and I'm looking forward to learning from the very best," Michael said.

Regular visiting musicians include Sir Thomas Allen, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Peter Donohoe, Barry Douglas, Bernard Haitink, Lewis Kaplan, John Lill, Sir Roger Norrington and Sarah Walker.

Michael has already gained valuable experience in Europe, performing in Austria and Italy, including a Christmas Day recital in the spectacular Italian Alps, the Dolomites.

He credits his piano teacher Lucinda Collins for much of his success in the past four years. "She has taught me a lot and I think I have improved a great deal under her tuition," he said.

■ Story by Candy Gibson

Development & Alumni Events

John Bray Law Chapter

Event: John Bray Oration 2007 – Dr Barry Jones AO, "Censorship and Secrecy: threats to an open society in an insecure age"

Date: Tuesday 4 September

Time: 5.45pm for 6.00pm

Venue: Union Hall,
University of Adelaide

Cost: Banknote or gold coin donation to assist the Chapter's activities, including preparing a biography of Dr Bray

RSVP: Gaynor Tyerman
(08) 8303 6356 or gaynor.tyerman@adelaide.edu.au

West Malaysia Chapter

Event: Live video broadcast in Kuala Lumpur of University of Adelaide's James Crawford Biennial Lecture Series on International Law – Professor Hilary Charlesworth, "Debating Democracy in International Law". Co-organised by the West Malaysia Chapter and the law firm of Thomas Philip.

Date: Tuesday 11 September

Time: 5pm - 6.30pm Malaysian time.
7pm Adelaide time.

Venue: Menara Telekom (Video-conferencing Studio), 18th Floor South, Jalan Pantai Baharu, Kuala Lumpur

Cost: by invitation and application

RSVP: Contact Ms Rose, phone +603 62015678, fax: +603 62035678, email: ros@thomasphilip.com.my

Friends of University of Adelaide Library

Event: "1940 Britain: from phoney war, to finest hour to where?" – a free public talk by Trevor Wilson, Emeritus Professor of History, awarded the AM in 2007 for his services to education through teaching, writing and historical research in the area of military history of World War I.

Date: Thursday 13 September

Time: 1.05pm

Venue: Ira Raymond Exhibition Room, Barr Smith Library, North Terrace Campus, University of Adelaide

Cost: Admission free and open to the public

RSVP: By Tuesday 11 September to robina.weir@adelaide.edu.au or phone (08) 8303 4064

For more Development & Alumni events, turn to page 21

“I’m very thankful for the education that I have had and wanted to be able to give something back”



Scholarship promotes women and education

■ Scholarships

Democrat Senator for South Australia Natasha Stott Despoja admits she may have an old-fashioned view about university – she believes it should be about love of learning and a holistic life experience, not just an academic pursuit towards a career.

She also strongly believes that university education should be publicly funded and available for anyone with academic ability.

Senator Stott Despoja funds a scholarship for female arts students at the University of Adelaide, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1991. Now into its second year, the Stott Despoja Scholarship pays the students’ tuition fees for the first year of their degree.

“Studying at the University of Adelaide was a wonderful time in my life, partly because of the opportunity to expand my academic horizons but also, more broadly than that, because of the opportunities

I had to be involved in a range of extracurricular activities; being active in student representation, promoting the role of women on campus, writing for the student newspaper and some involvement in the drama group,” said Senator Stott Despoja.

“I’m very thankful for the education that I have had and wanted to be able to give something back. I passionately believe access to education should be based on merit and ability, not how much money you or your family have.”

Senator Stott Despoja visited the University recently to meet the 2006 and 2007 Stott Despoja Scholarship winners: Taryn Ryan from Broken Hill, studying for a double degree in International Studies and Law, and Aneta Reuter from Lobethal, now in her second year of her Arts degree in languages.

“It is such a good feeling following my lifelong goal of attending

University but, at the same time, the move has not been easy,” said 2007 winner Taryn, who is the youngest of five in a single-parent family.

“I had to make the big move away from my family, friends and a small country town to Adelaide. The scholarship has helped lift a weight off my shoulders, and my family and I are extremely grateful.”

In 1995, Senator Stott Despoja, at the age of 26, became the youngest woman ever to enter Federal Parliament. Throughout her political career she has held the Democrats’ higher education portfolio and has been a strong supporter of publicly funded education. While at the University of Adelaide she was President of the Students’ Association in 1991.

Above (from left): South Australian Senator and scholarship provider Natasha Stott Despoja with the first two winners of her scholarship, Aneta Reuter and Taryn Ryan

Photo by Robyn Mills

■ Story by Robyn Mills



From left:
University of Adelaide
music student Steven
Pavlovic (tuba) with Darth
Vader (aka *Star Wars* fan
Matt Tucker)

Photo by Randy Larcombe

Movie music lovers feel the Force

■ Music

You've seen *Star Wars* the movie, now come along and experience *Star Wars* the concert, in the University of Adelaide's Elder Hall on Saturday 13 October at 6.30pm.

The concert will feature the highly acclaimed, award-winning Elder Conservatorium Wind Orchestra conducted by Robert Hower, and helps to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the first *Star Wars* movie.

Audience members will be able to mingle in the foyer of Elder Hall with some of their favourite *Star Wars* characters: Darth Vader, Princess Leia, Jedi and Stormtroopers.

The first half of the evening will showcase outstanding works from the wind orchestra repertoire, including Percy Grainger's *The Power of Rome and the Christian Heart*, *Blasket Dances* by Matthew Taylor and *Resonance* by Christopher Marshall. *Blasket Dances* and *Resonance* are both Australian premières.

The second half of the program will feature the popular *Star Wars* theme, composed by John Williams for the 1977 movie and arranged for wind ensemble by Donald Hunsburger.

Director George Lucas hired Williams to write "a grand musical sound" for *Star Wars*, and Williams convinced him that an original score would be "unique and more unified" than orchestral pieces as Lucas had originally requested. In March 1977, Williams conducted the London Symphony Orchestra to record the film soundtrack in 12 days.

"John Williams's music has definitely caught the public's ear over a period of decades, and almost everything he composes seems to be popular," Robert Hower said. "The music for *Star Wars* is right up there with the best of his musical scores that people know and love. To many people, that music is as memorable as the movie itself.

"The arrangement we're using is probably the most intricate arrangement around. It combines music from different scenes across the *Star Wars* movies – it includes the main *Star Wars* theme, the Darth Vader theme, Princess Leia's theme, and music from the forest battle in *Return of the Jedi*. It's a great arrangement – Princess Leia's theme is so beautiful it will make you cry," he said.

Star Wars – the concert – is the latest in the Elder Conservatorium of Music's Evening Concert Series.

Tickets are \$25 adult/\$20 concession/\$14 student, available from BASS or dial'n'charge 131 246 or at the door. University of Adelaide staff at concession price.

For more information or to subscribe, please contact the Manager, Evening Concert Series, on (08) 8303 5286 or email: helen.simpson@adelaide.edu.au

www.music.adelaide.edu.au