



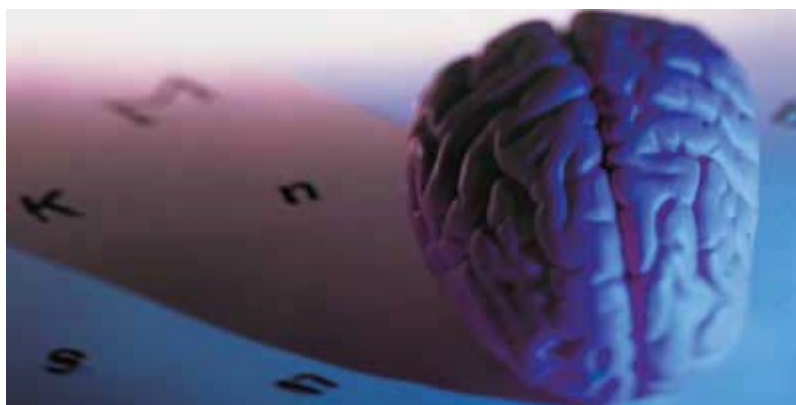
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UniSA News

July 2004

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



Stemming the Brain Drain

The "brain drain" registers a blip on the economic radar with alarming regularity. The loss of our best and brightest intellectual resources to other states in Australia and overseas is a perennial problem for the business and science communities.

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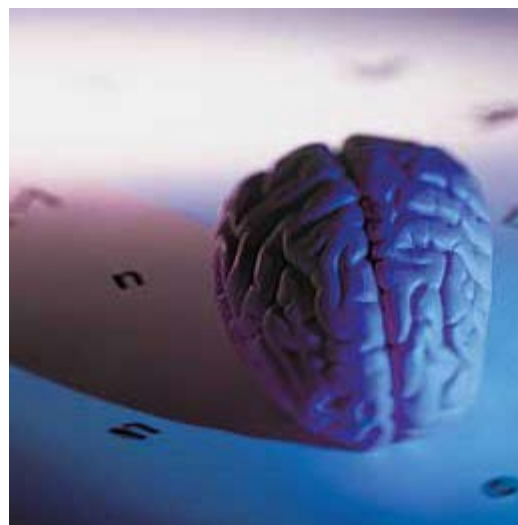
Stemming the Brain Drain

by **Thel Krollig**

The “brain drain” registers a blip on the economic radar with alarming regularity. The loss of our best and brightest intellectual resources to other states in Australia and overseas is a perennial problem for the business and science communities.

However according to a UniSA researcher, if we're serious about improving the situation, it is not a matter of trying to halt the exodus of young professionals so much as valuing their experience upon their return.

According to Professor Phyllis Tharenou, Dean of Research with UniSA's Division of Business and Enterprise, her recent studies confirm that the lure of more money, cross-cultural experience and long term career opportunities attract our top brains to key world economies such as the US, the UK and Hong Kong.



“Finally I think Australian state and Commonwealth governments and companies are getting serious about understanding the factors that lead to this exodus of bright young minds – and that is the first step in trying to turn it around,” said Prof Tharenou.

“It is a demographic problem that is especially critical in a state like South Australia.”

So why do so many Australians pursue long-term career paths abroad?

“My research shows that young employees who developed an interest in working abroad have little family influence on their decision, no partner, high expectations of positive outcomes, work in organisations with a high international focus, and had a high level of self-confidence about working abroad including in developing countries.

“What has become clear is that ambitious young people don't return to Australia because they do not believe there is anything to be gained career-wise,” she said.

“Studies have also found that most people entertain the idea of coming home, but the companies they work for do not have repatriation policies that are attractive.

“What I believe we need to do is work more cleverly in our approach to circulating young people in the global workforce.

“For example when an international firm has a young employee they know is interested in an international career, they need to find ways to offer them a two-to-three year stint abroad, but then bring them back.

“But in bringing them back they must be able to offer a compar-able or better position in Australia.

“This means that not only are we bringing home the brains, we are making an investment in the future of our companies on a global scale. Companies in small economies, like Australia, need to internationalise to prosper, or even survive. To do so, they need to expatriate their 'A team' to start-up their operations abroad, enhance their transfer capability, and reduce risk.

“I suspect many stay away because their prospects on returning home to the same company are soft and ill-defined, and until we recognise the value of continued investment in our intellectual resources the

pattern of brain drain will continue.“

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From the Vice Chancellor

UniSA welcomes the international space community

In coming weeks you may overhear strangers with foreign accents discussing the intricacies of space travel on street corners, in restaurants, bars and cafes around Adelaide. Do not be alarmed – they are not visitors from other planets, only visitors from other countries who happen to visit other planets for a living. They have come to Adelaide to study.

With support from Adelaide and Flinders Universities, the University of South Australia is the lead host for the International Space University (ISU) Summer Session (SSP) – a nine-week intensive professional development program for space professionals held from July-August this year.

ISU is a world leader in international, interdisciplinary and intercultural space education and research. Since holding the first summer program in 1988, it has specialised in preparing postgraduates and professionals for work internationally in the space sector. It also offers short courses and masters programs in space studies and space management.

More than 100 students from about 30 countries along with space industry professionals, ISU faculty members and visiting national and international experts are here to attend the SSP. When they complete the program, students will be awarded a UniSA Graduate Certificate in Space Studies.

Design projects are an important part of the curriculum. Students work in groups to produce a conceptual design related to a current major international space study. One project will concentrate on designing a solution to an environmental problem of significance to Australia – drought mitigation. Another will address broadband telecommunications services to remote areas by satellite. As part of the program, students will go on a three day field trip to Woomera where they will observe a demonstration of a rocket launch by the Australian Space Research Institute.

To coincide with the program, the National Space Society of Australia is planning a three-day Australian Space Development Conference in Adelaide involving up to 200 space industry delegates from Australia and overseas. With so many people converging on our city at once, it will indeed be feeling 'out of this world'!

When you take a closer look, Adelaide is by no means an unlikely destination for these space activities. A large number of local organisations are involved in or have activities closely related to space education and research. They include UniSA's Institute of Telecommunications Research (ITR), the University of Adelaide's World Institute for Space Research, M.net Corporation Ltd (in which UniSA's ITR is a founding member), Australia's Defence Science and Technology Organisation, the Cooperative Research Centre for Sensor Signal and Information Processing, the South Australian Space School, and specialist companies like DSpace Pty Ltd and Auspace Ltd.

Each year since 1988, a different educational or research institution around the world has hosted the SSP. Previous hosts have included Pôle Universitaire Européen de Strasbourg in France; Cal Poly Pomona in California, and other institutions in Chile, Spain, Austria, Sweden, Japan and Thailand. This is the first time this significant space industry event has been held in Australia.

UniSA is honoured to host the event and on behalf of all South Australians, welcomes the international



space community to Adelaide.

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In brief

Recycling simplified

UniSA's recycling program has been simplified in an effort to reduce the amount of waste to landfill produced by the University by 50 per cent compared to year 2000 figures.

All types of paper are now being recycled together via UniSA's under-desk paper boxes and recycling bins, allowing previously 'banned' material such as glossy magazines and photocopy wrappers to be recycled. Cardboard will continue to be recycled separately. UniSA services director Neville Thiele says it's all part of a greater push – which has included reducing water and electricity usage – to make the University more sustainable. "Through its Greenhouse Challenge Charter the University is doing its best to reduce waste and carbon dioxide emissions," says Thiele. "We've had tremendous feedback from staff." For more info visit www.unisa.edu.au/services or email monique.kanters@unisa.edu.au

Hot topics online

Visit the 'Hot topics' page on the Hawke Policy Website to read summaries of UniSA researchers' responses to hot social issues. The first featured topic is *Footy for fun and sex for free*, which asks whether the culture of football is responsible for the recent allegations of sexual assaults, or whether it is a deeper problem of how we see masculinity. The second feature is *Failing at school: is it a boy thing?*, examining whether there is a crisis in boys' education, whether we need more male teachers, or whether these are the wrong questions entirely. More features will be posted soon. Go to



www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/institute/HawkePolicyWebsite/hottopics.htm

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French connection

by Karen Williams

Can you imagine Paris without the Eiffel Tower? Perish the thought – but it nearly happened. It was chosen from 700 proposals in a design competition in 1889 to commemorate the centenary of the French revolution. The Eiffel Tower wasn't popular with everyone – more than 300 people opposed its construction, and it was almost torn down in 1909, but was saved because of its antenna, which was used for telegraphy. This is just some of the trivia you can find on this website, which has 7,000 pages about everything to do with Paris. The sections are divided roughly into four: the city, its culture, tourist information, and Paris Kiosque.



Under the city section you'll find information about public transport, cafés, images of Paris, theatres, and even the location of the Cartier and Chanel stores if you're so inclined. The culture section has information about everything from the Eiffel Tower to the Louvre, and information about special expositions, maps, and a calendar of events. Under the tourist information, you'll find a glossary explaining the structure of the city, with its 20 arrondissements, where the Latin quarter is located, and so on. Paris Kiosque is the electronic magazine of the Paris Pages, and it contains some good reading, not the least of which are the 'Letters from Paris' (usually expat Americans).

It has archives of previous issues, a guest book, Paris postcards to send to your friends, and much more. Happy Bastille Day. www.paris.org/

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Classifieds

For sale

Academic Gown. Oxford-Cambridge Master's style in "cool wool". Immaculate condition. For sale only because of owner's doctoral elevation. \$145 (worth \$325 new). email nigel.starck@unisa.edu.au or phone 0416 113 178.

Barina, City model, 1995, 165,000 km, great condition, very economical, UMR 463, \$4850 ono Phone 0402 919 646

1990 Hyundai S Coupe, auto, air, power steering, power windows, black, \$3,500 ono. Phone 0402 083 531

Business financial calculator brand new with warranty. \$80 phone 0423 214 481.

Ford Laser Ghia auto four door hatch, brown, UWT 279, 1982, good first car, asking \$1,500 ono. Contact Mandy on 0419 849 800

Accommodation

Mawson Lakes brand new large 3 bedroom designer townhouse built on park. R/C aircon, bright and spacious open plan living, low maintenance. A tenant's dream! \$260 per week. Phone Barb Rix: 8447 1420 or mobile 0414 708 669, 0410 609 820.

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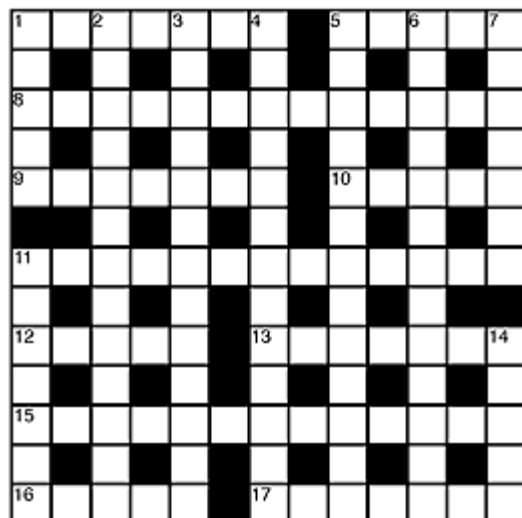
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Colgan's cryptic crossword



ACROSS

1. Tranquil Hawaiian surroundings (7)
5. It's tied up for transfer (5)
8. Acting like a tourist matches acting amorously (13)
9. Thrifty acquisition corresponds to a richer resource (4-3)
10. Flee from Croatia (5)
11. One determining fortunes with a tarot card? (5,2,6)
12. He makes the decision - take it for an overhaul! (5)
13. Radioactive material in the atmosphere causes sporting cancellation (7)
15. Endless hallucinatory pills; they're designed to get one high (5,8)
16. Opens surreptitiously, and takes off (5)
17. Applies oneself to non-commercial trappings (7)

DOWN

1. The pole-fish? (5)
2. In the red, Pole has to earn money (8,5)
3. Bailleurs use preventive devices (6,7)
4. Small token of appreciation received for player (6,7)
5. Avoids controversy by missing runs of the publication (5,3,5)
6. It's definitely not hot in lots of spicy food (6,7)
7. Beneficiary of a couple of embracing supporters (7)
11. Exertion needed to surmount steep English town (7)
14. Swears at lost pilots (5)

Win a bottle of wine

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to Len Colgan at (08) 8302 5785 by Friday July 23.

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Academic board - May 2003

by Peter Cardwell, Executive Officer, Academic Board

Backing Australia's Future – HECS Changes Consultation

The Executive Director: Finance and Resources, Paul Beard, and the Equity and Welfare Vice President of the University of South Australia Students' Association, Ryan Manuel, delivered special presentations on changes to HECS arising from Backing Australia's Future.

From 2005, universities in receipt of Commonwealth supported places will for the first time be able to determine their own student HECS contribution level for each program within ranges set by the Commonwealth.

A number of other universities have already determined to increase student HECS contribution levels by up to 25 per cent. The impact of a 25 per cent increase in HECS charges at the University of South Australia would vary between programs.

UniSA's funding shortfall has meant that staff student ratios have increased significantly in recent years.

Beard reported that with costs up 3 per cent the University will continue to have a shortfall, which adds pressure for further cost cutting and will inevitably lead to a further increase in our staff student ratio. This will adversely impact on services such as the Library and IT and also affect the quality of our teaching.

Lifting our student HECS contribution level by 25 per cent would raise an additional \$4.6 million in 2005 rising to \$13.5 million in 2009. This would cover the shortfall and could be channelled into improving services for students and the quality of our teaching.

At the invitation of the Chair, the Equity and Welfare Vice President of USASA, Ryan Manuel provided a response to the presentation. Manuel presented an alternative student view on the possible outcomes.

Manuel introduced his presentation by arguing that the University's revenue shortfall and financial risk would be mitigated under an adjusted revenue model that took into account factors such as the existence of its contingency fund and higher than anticipated cash reserves from the sale of the Underdale Campus.

It was argued that raising HECS fees would have a deleterious impact on the University's image and reputation. Students also believed that such a move might have an adverse effect on the University's competitiveness and demand for some of its programs.

Students believed that HECS charges should remain the same, which would in all probability provide some financial risk for the University. However, maintaining the status quo would generate positive publicity, be well received by students and the community, and reinforce the University's perceived strengths and reputation as an institution with a commitment to equity and access for disadvantaged groups.

Portfolio entry for school leavers

Academic Board approved a trial of entry by portfolio for school leavers in 2005. The proposal will involve providing an entry pathway for up to 15 students from 10 northern Adelaide public schools for entry into the University's graphic design, computing and nursing programs.

Rather than relying solely on the current practice of selecting high school students into the University on the basis of their TER score derived from Year 12 SACE, the proposal will provide an entry pathway for students from equity backgrounds that recognises an alternative means of measuring merit. This will involve the demonstration of achievement through a portfolio of work and supporting statements.

Policy A38 advisory structures

A revised Advisory Structures Policy was approved. The policy has been revised in 2004 to ensure that advisory structures support Divisional activity, and that appropriate consultation takes place with external stakeholders. The revised policy is more flexible, and will ensure that Divisional advisory structures are adaptable to meet the needs of a range of academic disciplines and areas. In addition, the policy makes provision for advisory structures in Research Institutes and Centres, which mirror those in Divisions.

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It's all in the stars

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

It's been used by societies all over the world for thousands of years to gauge when to plant crops, fish and hunt. Certain US presidents have been known to seek advice from astrologers and postpone important signings to times when the planets are more favourably aligned, and astrology has even been harnessed by some to make money on the stock market.

For Carole Lydon, the art of using planetary movements to make sense of life on earth has developed into a satisfying sideline to her day jobs in International Relations and Chancellery at UniSA.

Carole first became interested in astrology when she had her chart done four years ago. Intrigued, she took up study at the Adelaide School of Astrology, and she now consults in her spare time, while working towards a day when she can indulge in her passion full time.



"I'm a bit of a voyeur – I love getting into people's heads which is basically what I do with it," she says. "I think everyone has an innate desire to know more about themselves."

"Astrology can help show people their strengths and weaknesses, and provide options and solutions on how to overcome problems you're experiencing."

"A lot of people come to me with a dilemma – for example it might be that they're unsure of what vocational direction they want to head in. While I never say what they should do I can go through their chart and tell them where their talents lie."

The people who come to Carole for readings don't fit a stereotype – she gets everyone from professionals to students, to new mothers wanting their baby's chart read.

And then there's what's known as 'mundane astrology' – where astrologers use the planets to predict the outcome of elections, wars and other current events.

The million dollar question is, does it work? Carole, and millions of others the world over are convinced that it does.

"The basic premise of why astrology works is like this: The solar system is like a giant cosmic clock with components that move in a predictable manner. We are just part of that clock. Women, fishermen and mental health practitioners will testify to the effect of the full moon. So, why not the other planets? When you discover their qualities and observe their effects it's rather convincing."

As an exercise as part of her studies, Carole has successfully predicted stock market moves and even the winners of Big Brother. So what's her predication for the current BB series winner? "I haven't actually compared all the charts for this series, but I think Ryan will walk away with the money – but it doesn't take an astrologer to guess that!"

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New scholarship for rural students

by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**

A new scholarship to help students from rural areas study at the University of South Australia has been established thanks to a generous donation from a graduate.

The Don Hawke Memorial Scholarship will provide up to \$25,000 a year for the full length of the recipient's degree, covering fees, accommodation, living expenses and other incidental study costs.

The scholarship was made possible thanks to a very generous donation by Jean Pearce, sister of the late Don Hawke.

Jean and her family feel the scholarship is a fitting memorial to Don, a farmer from Kadina who was known for his kindness and consideration for other people.

"Don was a generous person who valued education and went out of his way to help people, especially those who weren't well off," Jean says. "He gave without expecting anything in return, so I think he would have approved of the scholarship."

As a young man Don was accepted to study law at university but faced a difficult decision when his uncle died unexpectedly, leaving him to choose between buying into the family farm or moving to the city to study.

Don ended up choosing the farm and stayed in Kadina, where he spent many years serving on the local council and as a member of Apex, until his untimely death in 1998 of a brain tumour.

Part of Don's estate included a parcel of Kadina East land that he'd bought in the 1970s. It was the recent sale of that land which provided the funding for the Don Hawke Memorial Scholarship.

The scholarship will be administered by UniSA's Alumni and Development office, with the first scholarship to be advertised later this year.

Alumni and development manager, Yvonne Clark, said that the University was honoured to be involved.

"This is one of the most generous donations the University has ever received," she said. "We greatly appreciate it and the difference it will make to rural students."

In an effort to ensure that recipients are mature and able to settle into the requirements of university life, students who are awarded the scholarship will be required to have a gap year between leaving secondary education and embarking on their tertiary studies. For a full list of criteria, email yvonne.clark@unisa.edu.au



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Aerobics champion on top of the world

by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**

It was a magic moment in the usually low-key world of competitive aerobics in Australia: In front of a home-town crowd of 3,000 cheering spectators, Kylie Halliday leaped, kicked and one-armed-push-upped her way to claim the senior women's individual silver medal at the 2004 World Aerobic Championships.

For Kylie, a UniSA human movement student who holds the current national aerobics title, it was an affirmation of years of hard work.

"To be placed in the top two was great," she says. "I'm not at all disappointed on coming second, I'm 23 and still have a long way to go in the sport."

Urged on by aerobics champion Patsy Tierney, Kylie took up the sport six years ago after an injury forced her to retire from gymnastics.

"I met Patsy when I was doing gymnastics at the Institute of Sport, and she suggested aerobics would be much easier on my body," says Kylie. "She started up a squad and I've been doing it ever since."

Fitting in the demands of elite-level sport with study has not always been easy, but Kylie says it's been made easier thanks to supportive lecturers – and she's even planning to go on to postgraduate study.

"I want to finish my degree by the end of next year, and then do a two-year postgrad program in nutrition – eventually I'd love to work in children's health," she says.

As for sporting goals, it's now a countdown to October when Kylie will defend her national title, and beyond that she's looking to the 2005 world championships.

Although appreciative of the sponsorship she's received on a local level, Kylie dreams of a day when Australia's aerobics champions enjoy the kind of sponsorship enjoyed by some of their European counterparts.

"The thing that's frustrating is that three of the last four women's world champions have been from Australia, but despite our dominance it's still a relatively unknown sport compared to Europe, where competitions are televised – and the top competitors don't need day jobs.

"Here we're doing it purely for the love of the sport – there's no money involved," she says. "I'll continue doing it for as long as I enjoy it."

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New home for Dowie sculptures

by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**

A series of sculptures originally created in the 1970s by renowned Australian artist John Dowie will be installed in the new library extension at Mawson Lakes, thanks to the generosity of 13 alumni and friends of the University.

The Art of Learning sculptures, which represent the transferral of an idea to form through different cultures through history, were originally commissioned to complement the original library building at the then Levels campus of UniSA's antecedent institution, the SA Institute of Technology.



Most of the sculptures were installed around the outside of the building and in the ground floor foyer in 1972, but at the time there was not enough space for all of them, and 13 were put into storage.

Now, with a \$9 million expansion of what's now known as the Sir Eric Neal Library underway as part of UniSA's Blueprint 2005 capital works program, the 13 sculptures are set to find a fitting home.

The sculptures will be installed in a new glass atrium which will form a link between the original building and the library extension. (The building was originally designed to allow for a vertical extension, however this plan was shelved in favour of the new extension).

The sculptures' installation was not originally factored into the Blueprint budget and was only made possible thanks to the donations of 13 alumni and friends of the University.

UniSA senior development officer, Robyn Brown, said she would like to thank Sir Eric Neal, who helped raise the funds required, as well as the donors themselves.

"It's fantastic that future students will be able to view the sculptures in all their glory," she said.

As for the artist himself, at 89 Dowie is still sculpting, and looking forward to seeing the 13 sculptures in their new home. "I'm really very pleased that the University is doing this, and I'll be most interested to see them when they're unveiled," he said.

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The grim divide

by Michèle Nardelli

On any given weekend in Australia, hundreds of children are visiting the local police station. And they are not there because they have been acting up – instead they are a part of organised contact handovers.

It might sound soulless, but for many separated or divorced parents, it is the only safe way they can organise to hand over care of their kids.

Just what makes couples who once loved each other move down a path that allows no communication, that is often characterised by verbal and physical abuse and where not even the 'interests of the children' make a difference, is probably as complex as the history of each failed relationship.

And as in all matters that are deeply personal and highly emotional, trying to place rules around separation, divorce and the right to parenting is fraught and often flawed.

As the federal government's new anti-domestic violence campaign hits TV screens and in the wake of last year's debate that saw many fathers' rights advocates (including the prime minister) mooted the idea of 50/50 joint custody as the norm, what can be done to keep children safe and relatively unscathed when relationships fail?

According to UniSA research, the safety of children must be paramount in all decisions regarding access and custody.

UniSA researcher Dr Dale Bagshaw says there is increasing recognition that child abuse and domestic violence are not separate phenomena.

"Children can be seriously affected by witnessing domestic violence and we also know that conflict and violence escalate during separation and divorce," Dr Bagshaw says.

What's at stake

- About 50 per cent of Australian couples who divorce or separate engage with the Family Law system.
- Only about six per cent of applications to the court go on to be decided by a judicial determination – most people settle out of court.
- Within that six per cent some two thirds involve violence or abuse issues.
- A 13-year study from the

"Some estimates suggest that domestic violence is twice as likely to occur immediately before, during and after separation. So it is at these times when children need a system that protects and acknowledges them.

"For a long time now, in fact since changes to the Family Law reform Act in 1995, it has been acknowledged that it is important for children to have ongoing contact with both parents when a family breaks up. But that situation gets much more complicated when domestic violence is involved.

"The potential for harm to children locked in the middle of an abusive relationship between parents can not be under-estimated. Families need help early in the process of separation and they need help that acknowledges the special needs of all members of the family, including children. But when there is a pattern of violence in the relationship we really need to be doing more to protect children."



Australian Institute of Criminology shows that a quarter of intimate partner homicides occur between separated, former or divorced couples and of those, 84 per cent of the victims are women.

- 21 per cent of all filicides (parents murdering their children) are associated with domestic disputes and domestic violence. 63 per cent of all filicides are committed by fathers and 68 per cent of children killed are aged five and under.

Dr Bagshaw says many first 'ports of call' for separating couples are ill-equipped to provide the support they need.

"Usually people go to a lawyer, counsellor, or community service and these people are often trained only to deal with their area of specialty – that rarely includes any understanding of children's emotional needs and their need to be considered in the process of separation," she says.

"Ideally we need to be able to provide families going through divorce and separation services that are child-centred and integrated, so that in this time of crisis they are not struggling to understand contradictory advice from different services. Parents need help in developing a plan for parenting beyond separation."

And in the government's Family and Community Affairs Committee Report into child custody arrangements released on December 29 last year, the committee concludes that separating families need to be able to make a safe, workable parenting plan that focuses on children's needs. Children's advocates are to some extent comforted that the report supports a continuing emphasis on the rights of the child.

However the report's recommendation to add a new Families Tribunal to the existing Family Court structure is seen by some as an expensive

and risky experiment.

UniSA researcher Dr Elspeth McInnes argues there is a long road ahead before such a system would be workable and in the meantime children are still at risk.

"In essence the tribunal provides just another arena in which couples can dispute and the way it is shaping up, there seems to be no progress in providing more information for people about their legal rights or about some of the very practical issues they need to confront upon separation," Dr McInnes says.

"By side stepping access to information about the legal parameters of divorce and separation, sending families to the tribunal could discriminate against some of the most vulnerable parties, especially children."

Dr McInnes says money could be more usefully spent boosting services that already exist but are hanging on with shoestring budgets.

"We read of children murdered as a result of domestic disputes with dismal regularity," she says.

"I believe we need to boost education, mediation and intervention services that together help to protect the most powerless in these situations.

"As a first step we need to have downloadable kits, much like Legal Will Kits, available on the web, so that people can access clear information, tools that will help them plan parenting post- separation and that will inform them of their rights.

"In any legal determination or delivery of services to families going through separation we must view safety – the safety of children, of women and all parties that may be at risk – as our first value. It is never good enough to see children's lives compromised for parents' demands."

Dr Dale Bagshaw is the director of UniSA's Conflict Management Research Group. Dr Elspeth McInnes is a lecturer in education at UniSA with the de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood and Family Studies.

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Tackling coordination disorders

by Richard Watson

Children in the northern suburbs suffering from a coordination disorder will benefit from a special movement education program being run by UniSA.

UniSA human movement specialist Dr Annette Raynor says about six per cent of children suffer from Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD), which as well as stopping participation in physical activity, can lead to academic, social and behavioural problems.

Raynor says DCD is a serious problem with far-reaching consequences. "The essential feature of a child with DCD is significant impairment in the development of motor coordination when compared to age-matched peers. Their brain and muscles aren't communicating properly and normal childhood activities as well as academic achievement can be very difficult," she says.



"These children are often rejected by their peers ... they are 'last to be picked' for a game of sport. This can develop a reluctance to join in sporting and physical activity, low self-esteem and social problems. DCD is both a physical and social problem for these children."

DCD can be tackled, however, and UniSA will expand its already successful movement education program to the northern suburbs on August 17.

The 10-week program involves one-on-one teaching by UniSA students specialising in Primary School Physical Education and Human Movement.

"Children will be assessed and individual programs developed to meet their needs," Dr Raynor says.

"They will be taught how to move effectively through a range of tasks including ball skills and locomotor activities such as jumping, running and hopping. Underlying problems such as balance and sequencing of actions will also be addressed."

The initial program will be held at Swallowcliffe Primary School, with the program also catering for Davoren Park and Elizabeth Grove Kindergartens and Elizabeth South Primary School.

Swallowcliffe Primary School principal Katherine Holman said that this was a significant new service for the local community.

"The way in which UniSA is working in consultation with the northern region shows a genuine understanding of and commitment to the community," she said. "Children with DCD have difficulty in many areas including bookwork and social skills. Schools have traditionally supported children facing academic challenges but it is also important to help students that have physical difficulties, especially when they impact on so many other areas.

"Primary school staff will be involved in the program to ensure sustainability and we are also examining ways of applying the techniques on a broader scale."

While DCD causes many health issues it is treatable and the program has already been successfully

triated.

“The trial results were extremely positive. Improving children’s co-ordination and enabling them to view physical activity as fun rather than failure will have a positive influence on many areas of their lives.

‘I can do it too’ has become the program’s catchphrase,” Dr Raynor said.

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Summer school in Denmark

Seven MBA students from UniSA have set off on an educational experience in Denmark that will change their lives.

The European Summer School for Advanced Management (ESSAM), which this year runs in Aarhus, Denmark, from June 20 to July 3, has been established to give MBA students from around the world a pressure-packed experience of international business.

Attended by 120 students, it has people clamouring for places, with up to 600 applicants each year. The UniSA contingent includes high achieving MBA students who are in the final stages of their degree program. They represent seven places out of only 20 allocated to the Australasian region.



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Palliative care project launched

by Cathy Hughes

Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Tony Abbott officially launched the Caring Communities Palliative Care (CCPC) project in Whyalla on June 9 with the click of a mouse on the new web site created for the occasion.

The project represents a \$170,000 investment of Commonwealth funds in the campus to undertake research and education work to build the capacity of regional communities in dealing with the issues of caring for people with life limiting conditions.

The Whyalla based UniSA project team is being headed by Dr Mary Oliver (pictured right), who said the CCPC was significant for several reasons. "While the Commonwealth is clearly looking to the University to provide leadership, it is also another opportunity for us to work collaboratively with regional health service providers to achieve outcomes that can also have benefits for other Australian communities," Dr Oliver said.



She said the project team was working in conjunction with seven regional partner organisations representing the regional health service areas of Eyre, Jamestown, Mid North, Northern & Far Western and Wakefield as well as the Pika Wiya Health Service in Port Augusta and the Whyalla Area Cancer Support Services.

"To date the project team has interviewed 60 care givers, family members and people suffering a life threatening illness, as part of the research phase."

"The information gleaned from these often very personal and moving interviews with various people around the state has resulted in the basis of the regional community information sessions that we are about to begin," said Dr Oliver.

For more information contact Cynthia Ofner on (08) 8647 6073 or visit the website at www.unisa.edu.au/why/disciplines/nursing/palliativecare/

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Thinking of the future

One year into a collaboration between UniSA's Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence program, the Hawke Centre reflects on what has been achieved.

The serious thinking got underway when the Hawke Centre co-presented the inaugural Adelaide Thinkers in Residence public lecture in mid-2003 with Herbert Girardet reflecting on Making Adelaide a Green City. He was followed by creative urbanite Charles Landry who had the chance to garner the bouquets and brickbats, giving Adelaide a constructive report card during the second in the lecture series, at the end of his term as a thinker in residence.



An initiative of Premier Mike Rann, the ATIR program receives \$0.5m in annual government funding until mid-2007, with other partners being asked to contribute a further \$1-2m. The Thinkers – all internationally acclaimed experts in their fields – are here to help the state move forward in areas like urban reinvention and environmental sustainability. They also promote SA when they return home.

"The concept is the antithesis of a consultancy," says the Property Council's SA executive director, Bryan Moulds. "What we do too often is fly in someone who's an expert, put them in a car and drive them around Adelaide and then get them to tell us what we should do," he said.

"Instead, what Charles Landry did was he brought us together to start to think of Adelaide in a different way. The ideas came out of our thinking, not just his thinking."

Next cab off the rank was the exciting multimedia performance group Blast Theory – ably represented by Matt Adams at the third, and packed lecture, explaining how new media communications are affecting youth, arts and leisure. Blast Theory also met more than 240 people through master classes, seminars and tours.

A year on from the first Thinker, the Hawke Centre has just co-presented the latest ATIR public lecture with natural resource management expert Professor Peter Cullen, who spoke on Water Challenges for Adelaide in the 21st Century, offering a 10 point survival plan to the crowd of 1,000 who attended his lecture at the Adelaide Town Hall.

Director of the Hawke Centre, Elizabeth Ho said she was pleased with the program's popularity in the local community.

"We promote widely and effectively, but full houses of more than 1,000 per lecture prove that locals are more than keen to hear the Thinkers directly, not through a media filter. We can see from the post-lecture enquiries that people are actively responding to their challenges. The Hawke Centre through UniSA also supports public access to ATIR findings, and e-links enquirers directly into the Thinkers' reports and emerging results."

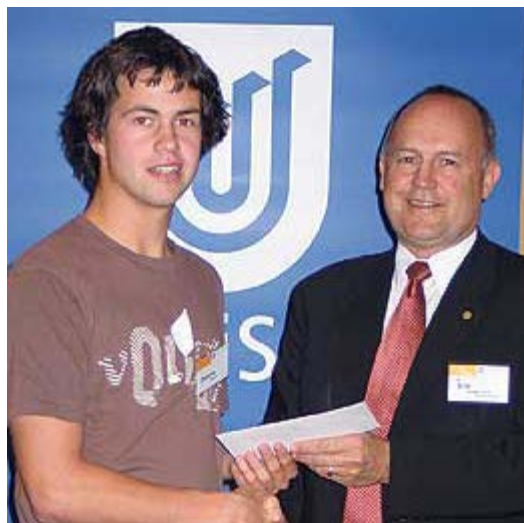
Ho says some of the key results of the program so far include: Adelaide company Darling Graphics winning a project to deliver animation to the Museum of London; state government plans to make plumbed rainwater tanks mandatory in new homes from July 2006, as well as a move to ensure new houses built from that time are designed with a five-star energy rating; expanding the One Million Trees program to three million trees by 2014; and funding of the Green City project to make Adelaide a leading green city centre by 2010.

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Transition grants presented



More than 30 UniSA students were presented with Transition Grants totalling \$42,000 at a special ceremony at City West.

The transition grants cover four categories – 20 metropolitan grants of \$1,000 each provided by UniSA, HomeStart Finance, CPS Credit Union and Nursing Agency of Australia; seven rural/isolated grants of \$1,500 each provided by UniSA and HomeStart Finance; seven Mutual Community Grants of \$1,500 each for rural/isolated students enrolled in a Health Sciences program; and a UniSA-Smith Family Learning For Life grant which includes a \$6,000 scholarship over three years plus a transition grant of \$1,000 provided by International Power.

The grants are also funded with generous support from individual donors, including previous UniSA graduates.

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Parfitt to head ITR

UniSA has appointed Dr Andrew Parfitt to head up its Institute for Telecommunications Research.

Dr Parfitt has had an outstanding career as a specialist in antenna and radio systems. A graduate in engineering from the University of Adelaide, he began his professional career with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation before returning to study under a DSTO cadetship.

He has a PhD in Electrical and Electronic Engineering from Adelaide University and was an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Engineering there, before joining CSIRO's Telecommunications and Industrial Physics division in Sydney. Within the CSIRO he led the Space and Satellite Communication Systems team from 2001.



In 2003 he took on the leadership of the Cooperative Research Centre for Satellite Systems (CRCSS), the national research group responsible for launching FedSat, Australia's first satellite in 30 years. He has held adjunct academic positions at UniSA, the University of Adelaide, Sydney University and Macquarie University and is the NSW Chair of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

Dr Parfitt will continue in his role as CEO of the CRCSS concurrently with his new position.

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Educators look to the north

Most of us have heard the statistics on Adelaide's northern suburbs: Participation in tertiary education is lower than national averages and youth unemployment alarmingly high. Politicians acknowledge that it's among Australia's most disadvantaged areas, but what's being done to change the situation?

Quite a lot, if the Northern Adelaide Education Symposium held recently at UniSA's Mawson Lakes Campus is anything to go by. The symposium brought principals and student counsellors from schools in Adelaide's north together with UniSA staff to look at how the University is working to improve the educational prospects of people living in the north, and what extra support will be offered in future.



With presentations by Mike Elliott (Director of UniSA Northern Adelaide Partnerships), Brenton Dansie (Dean of Teaching and Learning, for the Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment), Michael Rowan (Pro Vice Chancellor for Education, Arts and Social Sciences), David Saville (USANET coordinator) and UniSA's Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley, the symposium covered a lot of ground.

While Saville reported on the success of USANET – more than 4,000 students from low socio-economic backgrounds or rural and remote areas have entered UniSA as part of the bonus points-based scheme – Prof Rowan took the opportunity to talk about UniSA's teacher education programs, which from next year will be offered in the northern suburbs at new facilities at Mawson Lakes.

The Vice Chancellor tied up the presentations with a talk about UniSA's vision for the north, and the attendees enjoyed some lunch and a chance to speak with each other about the various initiatives.

Craigmore High School principal, Des Wauchope, said he was impressed. "It was enlightening and encouraging to listen to the Vice Chancellor talk about UniSA's vision for the north," he said.

"I think the flow-on for our students and our school is fantastic, and I'm really encouraged by the fact that teacher education is coming to Mawson Lakes. Having it so close and accessible is going to be fantastic."

For more information on UniSA initiatives in northern Adelaide, visit www.unisa.edu.au/unap/Proj.asp or call UNAP on (08) 8302 3659.

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Bringing the Beatles online

Most of them weren't even a twinkle in their mother's eye when the Beatles came to Adelaide in 1964, but 15 UniSA students studying the elective Internet Broadcasting immersed themselves in Beatlemania over the June long weekend.

As part of their final group practical for the semester, the students descended upon the Australian Beatles Festival, where they crewed, interviewed, edited, and broadcast videos on a pre-designed website – all within a 24-hour period. Highlights included interviews with John Lennon's half sister, Julia Baird (pictured with students Josh Bergamin and Tauri Manthorpe) and original Beatles drummer, Pete Best.

Tutor Andrei Gostin said the exercise was designed to put theory into practice. "It was a chance for students to see their skills in action, to coordinate and organise an effective team, and also for them to be able to

make effective decisions in a tight time schedule. Besides, it's not every day that you get to meet John Lennon's sister, or the first Beatles drummer for that matter," he said.

Production manager Megan Haymes said the experience was worthwhile. "As a team project it was fantastic – we all worked together well, and we learnt a lot as well."

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Decisions on fees and scholarships

UniSA's Council has voted to increase HECS charges from 2005, and to introduce more than 2,000 scholarships for disadvantaged students.

The decision to increase fees by 25 per cent for all students commencing in 2005 (except students undertaking nursing and education programs) follows an extensive consultation process involving forums on each campus and at major university committees.

Council also voted to increase the number of scholarships for students from low socio economic backgrounds and from rural and remote areas, providing 2,000 scholarships of \$2,000 a year for the duration of a program (up to four years). They also agreed to offer scholarships to students commencing programs to prepare them to be science and maths teachers.

UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley said a great deal of thought had gone into the decision. "We have thought long and hard about our options and take the decision to raise HECS charges with reluctance, but without increases in the HECS rate at UniSA, our projections show that by the year 2009, our funding shortfall is \$47.6 million," she said.

"However we welcome the opportunity to provide more scholarships. Many students face financial pressures and even financial hardship while studying and poorer students need financial assistance. Our UniSA Scholarship Fund will provide much needed help to many more students in 2005."

For more information, visit www.unisa.edu.au/news/2004/150604.asp

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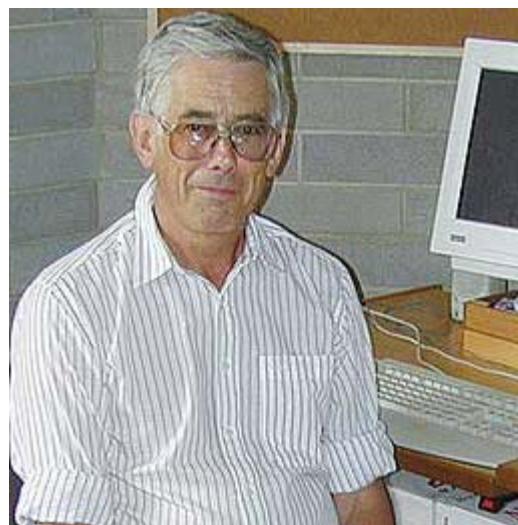
Hope for workers stuck in IT time warp

by Thel Krollig

Workplaces stuck in an IT time warp, where email, chat and simple file sharing is about as far as computer support for group activities goes, should soon look forward to a new generation of group-oriented software technology that will make working together easier.

Leading UniSA IT academic Roger Tagg says the way we approach computing in groups, particularly in administration, is failing to take advantage of the many recent bright ideas from researchers and the IT industry.

A senior lecturer in Computer and Information Science, Tagg says that many IT innovations have been developed, but neither software vendors nor organisations have quite found the way to cross the bridge of adopting these new technologies, without which organisations will not get the best out of their staff.



"Most users do not venture beyond email and chat," Tagg says. "We are not sharing tasks and there is little support for shared processes, limited help in organising stored data in any consistent way and no easy way of integrating different systems into a single user portal."

"Groupware, which loosely is any software that supports people working in groups, has been around for a decade or so now. But to some extent, people have shied away from the technology. And even if users were to use the current features fully, it would only scratch the surface of the information overload that many office workers are experiencing," he says.

"For example, even within the same project or activity, it is difficult for a user to link the related data that is split between text documents, databases, email messages and web pages, and it's even harder with project management and business applications"

But a new generation of groupware, which could be just around the corner, may change all that.

"Some of the new techniques, such as adaptive workflow, intelligent assistants and automatic text categorisation, can improve productivity by providing better integration of information and knowledge, and products that are easier to use," he says. "The key to success is that the users understand what the tools can do and are motivated to learn how to use them.

Of course it helps if the tools are presented in a consistent and easy to learn way. Otherwise people will be turned off and simply not use them."

According to Tagg, workers can soon expect to be working from something that looks more like a car dashboard than what we are used to today from tools like Outlook and Lotus Notes.

"One key to success will be in personalisation of the user's desktop, which needs to be tailored to each individual according to the many different workgroups or projects they are involved with."

"To handle this, we may have to expect to be using even bigger screens, sometimes multiple screens, or even whole walls of screens. And, because many users do not sit in one place all day, there is a need for views for users on the move."

Tagg says groupware advances must enable a more balanced working day for workers.

“We need to be spending more time in the workplace communicating face to face and building and strengthening team and group relationships.

“What we know is that if members are forced to spend more and more of each day in front of a screen and keyboard, team and group work suffers.”

Tagg says the costs and benefits of office automation aren't easy to quantify. “In the end it may be that managers will only spend money when a crisis occurs – say when customer service quality drops off because of staff overload, or when there is a serious failure in control,” he says. “At the time of the first generation of groupware, the big management consultancies hit this barrier first. They were early users of Lotus Notes, and they also understood the downside of overloading humans.

“But many organisations – and individuals – show lemming-like tendencies!”

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ITR spin-off secures \$2m in funding

Cohda Wireless, a spin off company originating from UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research, has secured \$2 million in federal government funding to fast track the commercialisation of 4G wireless communications technology.

Cohda Wireless CEO Peter Harriss said the funding would support prototype development of the technology to be ready for pilot trials with Australian and US public transport and public safety agencies by mid 2005.

Potential applications for the technology include video security, advanced passenger information systems, advertising and wireless internet connection on public transport, as well as real-time video links for emergency response vehicles.

Harriss said Cohda's technology offered increased communications range, data throughput and mobility for mobile wireless users.

"We aim to launch our product where the full range of cost, bandwidth and mobility benefits will be realised. The overseas market potential for this technology is enormous," he said.

"When fully developed, Cohda's new communications technology will incorporate advanced signal-processing techniques developed by the world-class Institute for Telecommunications Research located at the University of South Australia's Mawson Lakes campus".

Funding has been sourced through a combination of an AusIndustry R&D Start Grant, and pre-seed funding from SciVentures Investments and the University of South Australia's commercialisation company ITEK.

Recognising the commercial potential of the intellectual property, ITEK funded initial proof-of-concept testing and managed the required fundraising and transition of Cohda Wireless into a stand alone spin-off company.

ITEK's managing director Mark Hender said Cohda was a strong example of the "high global potential of home-grown technology".

"This substantial investment will also position the company to attract next round commercialisation funding and to engage commercial partners," he said.

SciVentures investments director Dr Greg Smith said Cohda had presented a compelling case for investment.

"It was the potential of the business case, combined with the technical, management and commercial expertise of the entire team that led to our decision," Dr Smith said. "We are excited to be involved in the development of this new technology which has outstanding potential in global markets."

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Develop your TV production skills

UniSA staff interested in developing TV and video production skills are being invited to enrol in professional development programs being offered at the Adelaide Centre for the Arts.

TAFE SA is offering two professional development courses - TV Studio Program Production, and Editing Video with Final Cut Pro v4..

The courses are held over ten weeks from late July and cost \$450. Enrolments close on July 9. For more information phone 8463 5000.

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