



UniSANEWS

November/December 2004

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



The power of small things
Full Story

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The power of small things

by Michèle Nardelli

Some of the greatest wonders of the 21st century will probably occur on a small scale – in fact a tiny scale – smaller than a human blood cell, right down there at the level of atoms and molecules.

And UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute is set to spearhead some of these tiny breakthroughs, having an enormous impact on improving the water we drink, the medicines we use, the food we eat and the materials we use to build everything from cars to computers.

In October UniSA officially opened the Nano and Bio Materials Centre back to back with the new South Australian Node of Future Materials. The centre is a research concentration set to spur on international engagement with some of the most important research into nanotechnology in the world today. Future Materials will allow Australian companies access to materials characterisation and evaluation, help with problem solving through the investigation of contaminants and materials failures, studies and testing of new coatings, films and surface modifications, collaborative research to assist the development of new products and processes and expert independent advice on intellectual property matters.

Director of the Ian Wark Research Institute, Professor John Ralston, says million dollar funding under the Federal Government's Backing Australia's Ability Initiative will support continuing engagement with international partners to work on projects at the vanguard of nanotechnology and biomaterials innovation.

The new centre involves leading Australian partners including Sola International, Schefenacker Vision Systems Australia, Research Laboratories Australia, Newmont Australia, AMIRA International, South Australia Research and Development Institute and Monash and Sydney Universities. The partnership also includes nine leading European laboratories across the UK, Finland, Germany, Sweden and Switzerland.

From 2005, The Wark™ will offer a brand new honours program and scholarships in the emerging fields of nano and bio materials, as well as continuing to provide a variety of scholarships for PhD and summer vacation programs.

Professor Ralston said the foundation of the SA Node of Future Materials would have practical impacts in SA. Founding partners in the network are the Australian National University, the University of NSW, UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute, Monash University, the University of Queensland, and the Advanced Manufacturing Technologies Centre at the Central TAFE in WA.

The charter of the SA Node of Future Materials includes a strong interface with industry and a directive to encourage and enhance technology transfer and diffusion.

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From the Vice Chancellor

2004 has been a year of great achievement for UniSA. Years of hard work have been rewarded, major developments have begun to take shape and the quality of the work of our staff has been acknowledged. At the same time contentious issues – a new enterprise agreement and the institutional response to national policy changes in higher education – have been negotiated in a rational and civilised way, the sign of an institution which manages change well.

Good news early in the year was the announcement of the establishment of a Chair in Child Protection at UniSA. The Australian Government will provide \$1 million a year for the next ten years to support research into the causes and impacts of child abuse and the development of national education and training programs.



For many of us, the early months of 2004 were consumed with preparations for our Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) Audit. After intensive self-assessment and preparation, the AUQA audit took place in late March over nine short days including visits to three countries to look at our offshore programs.

During the audit process, we received some excellent news which helped to confirm our quality assurance claims. Our Division of Business and Enterprise secured accreditation from the European Foundation for Management Development (EFMD) under its European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). At the time, the Division was only the second business school in Australia to achieve EQUIS accreditation and the first to have its offshore operations accredited.

From July to August, our focus shifted to the heavens with the hosting of the 2004 Australian International Space University SSP Program. UniSA led a collaboration with the University of Adelaide and Flinders University to deliver the nine week intensive professional development program for space industry professionals. One hundred and fourteen participants from 27 different countries and more than 130 space industry experts from all over the world took part in the program, confirming South Australia's position as a centre for space education and training.

In September the long awaited results of the AUQA audit were released. The audit team found our institution to be innovative, dynamic, flexible, well-governed and sure of itself and its directions. It supported these conclusions with 16 commendations for good practice.

Not long after this significant success, the University won the Education Category of the 2004 Business SA Export Awards. UniSA has had three previous successes at these Awards which recognise South Australia's most innovative export companies. The University will represent the state at the National Export Awards to be held at the Gold Coast in December.

In August our Whyalla Campus won the Community Contribution category award at the 2004 Upper Spencer Gulf Export Awards, in recognition of the significant and tangible contribution the Whyalla Campus has made to the intellectual, social and economic development of the region.

Throughout the year work progressed on our \$135 million Blueprint 2005 project. Staff, students and visitors alike patiently witnessed the construction of buildings on three of our metropolitan campuses, coping remarkably well with the disruptions that major construction inevitably causes. Thanks must go to

the Property Unit for its outstanding management of the project for, despite the obstacles presented by Mother Nature, the project continues to remain on time and on budget. We look forward to celebrating the opening of the new buildings early next year.

As I told Council in October, the best sign we have that we are a successful institution is the high quality of applicants for positions in the University. We have made some outstanding appointments this year. People want to come to work here because they believe we are an institution going places, a place where good ideas are supported. In the end, it is the quality of our staff – academic and general – and their willingness to commit themselves to give their best which makes us successful. We already have great people who are doing great things and every month we recruit more!

I have outlined just a few of our achievements for the year. These should be celebrated in conjunction with the many other successes experienced across the University. My thanks and best wishes extend to all members of the UniSA community for helping to make 2004 such a memorable year. I hope you enjoy the festive season and look forward, as I do, to another successful and enjoyable year in 2005.

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News in brief

Acupuncture clinic open

UniSA has established a new acupuncture clinic under the direction of Associate Professor in Complementary Therapies, Dr Caroline Smith. The traditional Chinese therapy has been used for centuries to treat complaints from arthritis and asthma to rheumatism and migraines, and a range of other problems that cause physical, mental or spiritual distress.

The new clinic will be an important source of knowledge that may help to inform research into acupuncture and how it can be used to improve care and well being. The clinic based at City East campus will be open Tuesdays from 2-6 pm. Treatment is by appointment only to (08) 8302 2541. Consultation fees are \$40 with some of that rebated for those with private health insurance extras cover.

Public policy portal

A new website featuring the latest public policy research on everything from education and health to water and the media has been launched as a joint initiative between South Australia's three universities. A collaboration between UniSA's Hawke Research Institute, the Flinders Institute of Public Policy and Management, and Adelaide University's Australian Institute for Social Research, South Australian Policy Online (SAPO) aims to increase the accessibility of research resources for researchers in universities, the public sector, industry, the media and schools.

Launched on October 27, the site allows researchers and interested members of the public to keep abreast of new research across a wide range of fields by providing a single gateway to research reports, conference papers and articles generated by more than 50 South Australian research centres, institutes and organisations. Log onto www.sapo.org.au



A duck's tale

Building H at UniSA's Mawson Lakes campus is best known as being home to the SA Centre for Water Science and Systems and the UniSA Northern Adelaide Partnerships program – however things became more crowded in October when a Pacific Black duck decided to nest in a pot on the Building H balcony.

Staff kept a close watch on the bird and its eggs, but missed the hatching which occurred on a weekend. While some were concerned about the chicks' ability to make it to the lake from the balcony, it turned out well in the end, the duck and her chicks now happily paddling around the lake on campus.



Creative writing conference

Creative writing postgraduate students from around Australia will gather in Adelaide this month for a one-day seminar on the writing and examining of creative theses. The postgraduate clinic on November 25 leads into the three-day annual conference of the Australian Association of Writing Programs, which has been jointly organised by staff at UniSA, Adelaide and Flinders Universities. UK-based keynote speaker, Professor Graeme Harper, and latest Vogel winner Julianne van Loon are among more than 50 speakers who will be addressing the conference theme: The Practitioner's Art: Juggling Roles. UniSA staff Claire Woods, Ioana Petrescu, David Homer and Sue Page assessed abstracts and designing the program, and

say they are delighted with the variety and strength of the papers.

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Classifieds

For sale

Table and 4 chairs (wood and black metal) \$175; Office swivel chair (dark grey material) \$50; Sharp viewcam 8 mm video camera, 8 mm with all cords and battery \$275; Area rug (medium size) - blue with geometric designs \$75
 Call Nadine 0402 598 580

1964 EH Holden Standard, White 179 HP Auto Hydramatic. Reg VFV-548 (historically registered). 29,869 kms. Included are many premier features eg steering wheel, overriders (8), new tyres, new master cylinder, spats. \$3,800 ono. Call (08) 8302 2192 (Mon-Wed) or email andrea.przygonski@unisa.edu.au

Fleur 3 piece lounge suit, (manufactured in early 80's), two-seater and two single chairs. Re-upholstered 1994 (musk and grey tones). \$450 or reasonable offer. Call (08) 8302 2192 (Mon - Wed) or email andrea.przygonski@unisa.edu.au

Accommodation wanted

Adelaide Hills – WANTED: House to rent in the Adelaide Hills for up to 12 months from Jan 05 for academic moving from Melbourne University to UniSA with her two canine companions. Pref 3 bdrm, unfurn house. A house sitting arrangement might also work. Phone Dorothy Scott on (03) 8344 9400 (w) or (02) 8800 8597, or email dascott@unimelb.edu.au

Inner Adelaide suburbs – WANTED: Visiting professor looking for furn house or apartment from Dec 04 - May 05. Wife is disabled, need place with few stairs and shower. Email georghagglund@cs.com

Adelaide Suburbs – HOUSE SWAP: House swap UW Madison Academic seeks house swap from December to mid-May. Four bedroom house, use of university office if desired. Seeking house or apartment. preferably in the near Adelaide suburbs. Email georghagglund@cs.com

For rent

Salisbury East – 4 bdrm house with ac, BIRs, new carpets and tiles, gas cooking and double length carport. \$240 pw. Close to all amenities and 2 min walk to buses. Email guna.hewa@unisa.edu.au

Stirling – 3 bdrm, 2 bthrm split level home on 13 acres 10 mins from Stirling with BIRs, 2 living areas, separate laundry, combustion heater, undercover parking, veggie garden, chook run and views. \$245 pw. Avail Dec 2004. Call (08) 8388 2654 or email nadia.nairn@unisa.edu.au

Mawson Lakes – New townhouse. 3 bdrms, 2 with built-ins, ac, home management system, garage, courtyard, balcony. Park with BBQ at front gate! \$260 per week. Phone 8447 1420 (AH) or email barbara.rix@unisa.edu.au

Email your classifieds to unisa.news@unisa.edu.au

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Academic board - October 2004

By Peter Cardwell

Division of Business and Enterprise – name changes and restructure

Academic Board approved the change of name of the Division of Business and Enterprise to 'the Division of Business', effective from January 2005. The Board also approved the names 'School of Commerce,' 'School of Management', as well as the change from International Graduate School of Management to 'International Graduate School of Business'.

The changes follow a review of the Division undertaken in 2003 by Prof Peter Booth from the University of Technology, Sydney. The review report was circulated throughout the Division in January 2004, and was followed by the release of a draft structure for the Division.

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Business and Enterprise), Prof Gerry Griffin, then met with discipline groups and staff to discuss the proposals and a final proposal was drawn up. Divisional Board and Senior Management Group (SMG) have endorsed the proposed new structure, and it was noted by University Council at its August meeting.

Prof Griffin reported that the main objectives of the restructure are greater discipline coherence and the creation of a solid foundation on which to build the Division's future teaching and research activities.

Besides the name changes and the disestablishment of the Schools of Accounting and Information Systems and International Business, the new structure will involve the Information Systems discipline becoming part of the School of Computer and Information Science in the Division of IT, Engineering and the Environment. There will be no redundancies as a result of the restructure.

Revised Program Approval Manual

A revised Program Approval Manual was approved. The revised manual comes in response to the review of the former Academic Program Review Committee (APRC) in 2002, recommendations arising from the AUQA Audit in 2004, as well as reflection on the existing program development processes by the recently established Academic Policy and Program Review Committee (APPRC).

The revisions were the subject of an extensive consultation process, and have in principle endorsement from SMG.

The manual provides a consistent framework for the development of programs within the University's policy framework, the most significant change being the approach underpinning program development and amendment. The current manual is essentially concerned with documentation and it is assumed that the developmental processes occur elsewhere. The new approach is fundamentally developmental – it assumes little specialist knowledge by staff undertaking program development since the curriculum and business aspects are built into the sequence of tasks required by the documentation.

Other major changes in the manual include – separation of the curriculum development and business case; strengthening of the business case and a requirement for similar processes for both onshore and transnational programs; refocusing of curriculum development around Graduate Qualities; a requirement for a number of priority curriculum areas (work-related learning, Indigenous perspectives, international perspectives and lifelong learning); greater involvement of stakeholders; budget sign-off by the relevant Pro Vice Chancellor; inclusion of a budget proforma for consideration by APPRC; changes to the amendment process; responsibility for quality assurance processes for coursework and research Professional Doctorates has been separated and now rests with APPRC and Research Degrees Committee respectively.

In order to support the development process, the Flexible Learning Centre is developing a five-phase project management process.

A website is also being developed to ensure all resources associated with program development are easily accessible, and an induction process for Divisional staff is being organised.

Revised Student Fees Policy

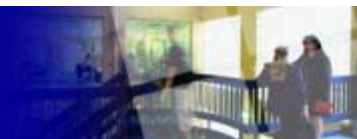
A revised Student Fees Policy and Guidelines were approved. The Student Fees Policy was introduced in 2003 and consolidated a range of policies relating to student fees and charges. The policy has now been amended to incorporate the legislative requirements of the Higher Education Support Act 2003 and general feedback from the University community.

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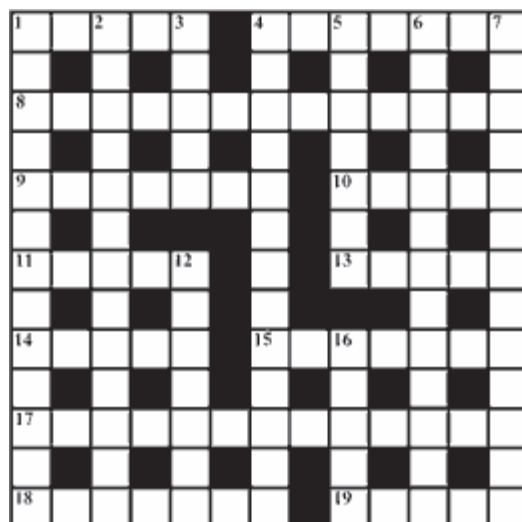
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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword



Across

1. Confused while cruising (2,3)
4. Dirty fellow spotted by machine in marble factory (7)
8. Disease from Paradise Coast, perhaps (7,6)
9. Scruffy Frenchman in derelict surroundings (7)
10. One moves two places forward in step with musical instrument (5)
11. Booth #8? Or next but one? (5)
13. One used to catch and restrain and miss nothing (5)
14. Synthetic hormone secretion in bodily fluid (5)
15. Created havoc as rage enveloped city (3,4)
17. Operation for increasing oil production (5,8)
18. Has rag-and-bone man rung the tip? (7)
19. Heath has top of leaves cut by a garden implement (5)

Down

1. Raised weapons because old king is fooling around (7,6)
2. Hapless end to Mr Ed Hunter's plan of deception (8,5)
3. A ten-plus-ten metre rule (5)
4. Impressive charm exhibited in offertory procession (5,8)
5. Refined almost stretchable implement (7)
6. Planes coming down with no problems (6,7)
7. What does a gardener do in summer? One removes unwanted elements! (5,8)
12. Produce two covers, not one (7)
16. For your health, drink up! So simple! (5)

Solution



Explanations

(C = cryptic part of clue + S = straight part of clue;

or S + S = clue holding answer twice with two different straight meanings;

or POW = play on words.) Note that joining words may or may not be an integral part of the clue.

Punctuation and capital letters are irrelevant.

The art of the setter is to make it non-obvious how and where to split the clue, and to mislead the solver along an irrelevant path.

Across

1. S: confused = at sea S: while cruising = at sea
4. C: dirty fellow (grub) spotted (saw) S: machine in marble factory = grubsaw
8. C: disease (seaside "resort" (anagram)) S: from Paradise Coast, perhaps = seaside resort
9. C: Frenchman (M) in derelict surroundings (inside "unkept") S: scruffy = unkempt
10. C: one (I) moves two places forward in step (advances 2 positions in "stair") S: musical instrument = sitar
11. C: Booth #8 (Tent "H") S: next but one = tenth
13. C: miss (lass) nothing (O) S: one used to catch and restrain = lasso
14. C: synthetic hormone secretion (inside "synthetic hormone") S: bodily fluid = ichor
15. C: rage (rant) enveloped city (around "Rio") S: created havoc = ran riot
17. C: increasing oil production (anagram of "increasing oil") S: operation = large incision
18. C: rung (step) tip (toe) S: rag-and-bone man = Steptoe
21. C: Heath (Ledger) has top of leaves cut (remove "L") S: garden implement = edger

Down

1. C: because (as) old king (Saul) is fooling around (trifles) S: raised weapons = assault rifles
2. C: hapless end (s) Mr Ed (talking horse) S: hunter's plan of deception = stalking horse
3. C: a (a) ten (X) (ten (IO) metre (m) S: rule = axiom
4. C: impressive (great) charm (entrance) S: offertory procession = great entrance
5. C: refined (U) almost stretchable (almost "tensile") S: implement = utensil
6. C: planes (smooths) coming down (ailing) S: with no problems = smooth sailing
7. C: What does a gardener do in summer? (waters oftener) S: one removes unwanted elements = water softener
12. C: two covers (hair, vest) not one (remove "I") S: produce = harvest
16. C: For your health, drink (Evian) up (upwards) S: so simple = naive

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Best friends on show

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

They say you are either a cat person or a dog person, and if that's the case then there's no prize for guessing which category Lisa Vann and Margaret Payne fall into. The two UniSA staffers both love their dogs and they've got the ribbons to prove it.

Margaret, a payroll officer in the Human Resources Unit, first became involved in show dogs 11 years ago when she bought her first pure bred Schnauzer. "My husband said 'if you're going to pay that amount of money for a dog you are going to show it'," she says. Eight dogs and more than 100 shows later, and Margaret's devotion to her growing brood of Schnauzers could fill a room – and then some. "Having no children of my own, my dogs are my children, and believe me having a Schnauzer is almost as big a commitment!"



For Lisa, a business analyst for UniSA's International Prospective Students Office, the step from regular dog owner to show-goer took place after the death of her long-time Rottweiler companion. "When he died I looked around for another dog and liked Dalmatians – they are not too big or small and everyone loves them – people don't cross the street to get away from you when you take them out for a walk," she says. "I spoke to a breeder who was keen to get her kennel name out there, went to have a look at the SA Canine Association and was soon hooked."

For the uninitiated, dog shows fall into either the 'open' or 'championship' category – open shows are judged by trainees, while the championship shows are adjudicated by fully fledged judges. There are different classes for dogs and bitches, and different categories according to their age. Each canine has to run around the show ring, before lining up to be examined by the judge, who gives them scores on a range of traits, including things like temperament, eyes, ears, mouth, body, tail, feet, gait, coat and 'faults'. The winner of each class competes against others of the same breed in the dog (or bitch) challenge – the top dog and bitch then compete for Best of Breed, and the whittling continues – to Group Winner, and then the ultimate, Best In Show.

With a list of wins too long to detail, Margaret's dogs have been wowing the judges this year, picking up a bevy of titles including Best of Breed and Reserve Dog Challenge at the Brisbane and Adelaide Royal Shows. Lisa's best performer so far is Ryder (show name: Ocnylee Jobie Dajka, after the cyclist) who received first place in his class at this year's Adelaide Royal Show.

"My ultimate goal is to take out Best in Show at the Adelaide Royal and the Melbourne Royal," says Margaret, and for Lisa, it's to have fun. "My aim is for them and me to have as much fun as possible – if we're not enjoying it then there's not much point really."

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Our people

Ravi Naidu

Born in a coastal village in Nadi I'm a third generation Fijian of Indian descent, now a naturalised Australian.

Go back two generations and my grandfather was an indentured labourer. My dad was a farmer and mineral prospector who he taught about bio-prospecting – using plants as indicators for certain minerals. He also taught me to pan for gold. So there is no surprise in what I later chose to study.

My three brothers and four sisters were left without parents when my mother and father died in close succession. I was 19 and had considered many career directions. Medicine and teaching were top of the list of respected, valuable careers and when I fainted at my first sight of a blood transfusion – that left teaching.

In 1975 I graduated from the University of the South Pacific (USP) with a double major in chemistry and maths. After a period as a maths teacher, I accepted a junior chemistry lecturer's job at the USP and took study leave in the UK and NZ to complete my post graduate studies.

In 1986 I decided to spend the rest of my life in Fiji teaching and helping our community. My vision was to establish a network of teachers and community workers to help the poor. But the 1987 military coup cut through that dream. Despite an erosion of democratic principles in Fiji, I was determined to keep on working at the uni as Head of the USP's School of Pure and Applied Sciences until one Sunday in 1988 when several soldiers confronted me in my office. It was time to go. I found a job as a research scientist at CSIRO Land and Water (Division of Soils in 1989) and over the next 10 years worked my way up to become chief research scientist and program leader. Some good advice to change my research focus from water quality to environmental contaminants saw my career flourish.

But teaching was calling me back. I was attracted to UniSA's commitment to equity principles and its vision for research and technology. It is rewarding to educate a new generation about environmental contaminants and what we can do today to ensure a sustainable future.

My vision is to grow the Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation into a world class centre for contaminants research involving science, industry, regulators, local, state and federal governments – a facility that solves contamination problems at the same time as graduating professionals with the capacity to develop technology that will make Australia a world leader in environmental solutions.

Now with 300 technical papers and eight books under my belt, I feel it has been a long journey for the grandson of an indentured labourer!

Professor Ravi Naidu is director of UniSA's Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation.

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The new extreme - buying beauty

By Kendall Clarke and Michèle Nardelli

The quest for beauty has crossed cultures and epochs. From the kohl that framed the eyes of the Pharaohs, the whale bone corsets that cinched in women's waists to a breathtaking 12 inches and the fetid foot-binding considered so erotic in pre-Maoist China – pain and beauty have been handfasted across the ages.

And in the 21st century the beauty quest continues; only today we have new technologies and quasi-medical treatments offering 'perfection'.

Once the salvation of burns and accident victims, plastic and cosmetic surgery have become commonplace as we become less and less tolerant of the cards nature deals regarding physical appearance.

Statistics from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that women are still the biggest consumers of cosmetic surgery. In the 2002/2003 financial year 7022 women underwent cosmetic surgery while only 757 went under the knife in the same year. And the stats for the year before are similar – a ratio of one man to nine women.

Having researched body image and its sociological impacts Associate Professor Wendy Seymour says many factors underpin an individual's choice to undergo surgery.

"In the west we live in advanced capitalist societies where the creation of desire and need is a key driver in the socioeconomic system," says Prof Seymour.

"But in order to create a sense of need, capitalism must also create a sense of dissatisfaction. Mass media, modern marketing and other agencies construct and promote an ever-changing ideal of physical perfection. These transitory images are reflected in fashion, 'looks' and in a myriad of other ways that construct prejudices surrounding gender, race, age and disability. These images support huge profit making industries.

"People who believe that aspects of their body preclude them from conforming to contemporary ideas of beauty, may feel that they have no option but to use surgery to change their body. Cosmetic surgery, like other less dramatic forms of body enhancement or adornment, is also part of profit-making capitalist practice."

Senior lecturer in the School of Communication, Information and New Media, Dr Vicki Crowley believes identity and appearance are intense issues in society today.

"We are in a huge intense moment of consuming identities," she says. "I don't consider an extreme makeover to be that different from having braces on your teeth, having a filling, having your ears pierced, wearing glasses, or other things that seem everyday.

"However in a broader sense when people undergo extreme cosmetic surgery, they are probably hoping to achieve the unattainable.

"At the essence of continuous consumerism is the notion that desire is never fully quenched and there



are some very famous examples of people for whom relentless plastic surgery is a way of life.“

And it seems the 21st century quest for beauty has been reconstructed as a modern day fairy story in the new spate of reality TV shows that look at cosmetic surgery and the makeover through the lens of the Cinderella story. The BBC's *Extreme Makeovers* takes plain 'Janes' and 'Johns' and reverses the work of nature using cosmetic surgery and new medical technologies to transform their looks into a movie star mould. Procedures include everything from hair extensions, dermabrasion and a new set of teeth, to liposculpture, rhinoplasty (nose surgery) and blepharoplasty (eyelid surgery). [Before and after results of *Extreme Makeovers* volunteers can be viewed at the following site:
www.abc.go.com/primetime/extrememakeover]

Lecturer in health sciences Dr Grant Tomkinson believes these types of television programs have a huge impact on men as well as women. He says increasingly men are feeling a social pressure to look a certain way.

“Male magazines, male leads in all the hit shows for young people display an ideal body image, body size and shape,” says Dr Tomkinson.

“That ideal is a very triangular shape – broad shoulders and a narrow waist – the classic iron man or Olympic swimmer. Popular media including the reality makeover television programs increase men’s exposure to ideal body types, encouraging them to adopt a physical self consciousness that was not common say 20 years ago.“

The birth of the metrosexual through television programs such as *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy*, also work to promote men’s quest for the new male beauty. The main character of the hit show, Kyan Douglas, along with his team of four homosexual design and food experts, work with heterosexual men to rearrange their lifestyles, including their wardrobes, culture, interior decorating and culinary skills.

While a complete overhaul for the new age guy may seem desirable, Prof Seymour points out that not everyone has the buying power to make the transition.

“This is just one of a number of reality TV programs which are a part of a more complicated system of influence which persuades men and women to hate how they look and live.

“While some men are able to buy the consumer and personal products that will display their status in the world, the majority do not have the financial resources to do more than tinker at the edges of consumer possibilities.

“As long as the media message says that everybody can look good, those people who struggle to survive on little or no money can be blamed for not making the best of themselves.“

For women and now also for men, it seems that in the short term at least, there is a new divide between the beauty haves and have-nots in western societies and it may be widening.

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End of an era at Underdale

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

For the thousands of people who have studied, worked and played at UniSA's Underdale Campus, November and December will be a time both of poignant reflection and celebration. While many will shed a tear as the campus closure marks the end of an educational era, it will also be a time to celebrate the people, the culture, and the enormous contribution that the campus has made to education in South Australia.

Built in the Dunstan era as the campus of the western suburbs, throughout its 27-year history Underdale Campus has been an incubator for progressive teaching methods – producing world-class graduates and lasting contributions to a variety of fields including the visual arts, teacher education, Indigenous studies, nursing, sport science, and distance education.



For people like Jack Cross, Chris Arvanitis, Dave Stuart and Pat Larvin – four of scores of staff whose association with the campus stretches over the decades – Underdale will be remembered above all for its people and their egalitarian spirit.

Now an associate professor in the School of Education, Cross was instrumental in the founding of the campus, and was there when it was opened on March 19, 1976 as the Torrens College of Advanced Education, a day which he describes as “absolute bedlam”.

“We originally invited Sir John Kerr to launch the campus, because at the time he seemed the least controversial figure we could find,” says Cross, “But in the meantime he had sacked Whitlam and became the most controversial person in the country!”

Despite the controversy, the Governor General chose to keep his commitment, and was greeted on the day by a group of angry protesters. The situation was deemed so volatile that sharpshooters were stationed in the library above the amphitheatre, ready to thwart any would-be assassins as Kerr made his speech.

For Chris Arvanitis, now executive officer for the School of Education, the move to Underdale from the Western Teachers College's former premises on South Road was a good one. “I remember being really impressed coming from a pre-fab building at South Road. All the staff were now together in the same building, and we all had the same furniture – there was a real feeling that equity was a priority.”



It is this spirit of equality that Pat Larvin, who has run the staff lounge known as ‘Pat’s Patch’ at Underdale for many years, loves the most. “In this lounge everyone’s the same,” she says. “If you’re a

professor, you don't get treated any differently from anybody else, and I think everyone appreciates that – I get to be myself at work and my customers are allowed to be themselves. It's the talking and the joking and the laughing – that's what makes this place."

A senior lecturer in physical education, exercise and sport studies, Dave Stuart recalls just one of the running jokes at Underdale. "About 15 years ago I gave one of the grounds-men the task of putting down a 400m track. He insisted he knew what he was doing, but when he got to the end it was actually 12 metres short – making it a favourite training ground for athletes who always ran the 400m that bit quicker at Underdale!"



Blint Week – where students got to run amok on campus, including throwing eggs, flour and water on their lecturers – will also be remembered fondly by many long-term staff, as will the staff Christmas celebrations, and legendary wild parties at the bar, the effects of which would sometimes see certain staff members patrolling the grounds as 'anti-copulation police.'



The stories and good times are too numerous to list, but past and present Underdalites will have a chance to reminisce together at a series of events put on by the University to provide a fitting farewell to the campus. (Events planned include exhibitions, end-of-year functions, a Family Day, barbecue, movie night, and a ceramics and glass sale). A special commemorative book detailing the history and achievements of the campus, has also been produced, and is available free from Campus Central or by contacting Shelly Murphy on (08) 8302 0931.

And while the campus itself may be closing, its legacy will live on in the University, as staff from Underdale relocate to new facilities currently at different stages of construction at Mawson Lakes, City East and City West campuses. As Dave Stuart says, Underdale's loss will be the other campus's gain. "They are going to find a vibrant, committed group of people," he says. "Underdale has many great teachers and enthusiastic academics and they will be a huge asset to whatever campus they go to."

The closure of Underdale Campus represents a reshaping of the University of South Australia which will consolidate academic programs across four metropolitan and one rural campus. The proceeds from the sale of the campus (more than \$30 million) will contribute towards the \$135 million Blueprint 2005 capital development program. An extensive range of new, state-of-the art facilities are currently under construction at UniSA's City West, City East and Mawson Lakes campuses. For more information visit www.unisa.edu.au/blueprint/



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A swag of Samstagers

The UniSA Art Museum's 2004 program will finish on a high note with the final exhibition in the museum's current premises, *Kindle and Swag: The Samstag Effect*, on show until December 11.

Curated by Ross Wolfe, the exhibition features work by seven artists who are all past recipients of the UniSA administered Anne & Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarship, Australia's richest and most prestigious visual arts scholarship.

Now in their 13th year and funded through a visionary bequest by American artist Gordon Samstag, the scholarships have enabled almost 100 Australian artists to study overseas for lengthy periods of time.



This exhibition presents a selection of works by high-achieving Samstag artists (Deborah Paauwe, Nike Savvas, Tim Horn, Nicholas Folland, Anne Wallace and Megan Walch) revealing something of the eclectic richness and cutting edge strategies of Australia's hottest artistic talents.

A highlight of the exhibition opening on November 4 was the announcement – by William Thomas, a visiting Samstag trustee – of the recipients of the 2005 scholarships, including UniSA graduate Michael Kutschbach, and also Michael Graeve and Viveka Marksjo (Vic), Jemima Wyman (Qld), and Mikala Dwyer and Edward Wright (NSW).



Kindle and Swag will be the final exhibition at the Art Museum's current home at 54 North Terrace Adelaide, before the gallery closes its doors to make way for the construction of a new building (which will include a new art museum) due to be complete by 2007.

Following the UniSA season, the exhibition will tour to the Queensland University of Technology Art Museum from February 4 – April 24.

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Bringing the science of cycling to TDU

As the countdown to the Seventh Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under begins in earnest, UniSA is proud to be continuing its involvement with the 728km cycling event, to be held from January 18-23, 2005.

While the University will maintain its sponsorship of hometown favourites Team UniSA, it will also present a special forum bringing academics and cycling specialists together to discuss the latest in cycling-related research.

A one-day workshop and seminar program aimed at academics, cyclists, athletes, teachers, students and professionals working in sport, recreation, tourism or transport, *Thinking On Two Wheels* will be held at City East campus on Monday January 17.



Convened by Dr Stu Clement from UniSA's Transport Systems Centre at the School of Natural and Built Environments, the day will feature a diverse array of presentations focusing on recreation, health, tourism and sustainable transport in relation to cycling. Presenters already confirmed include Peter Solly from Bicycle SA, UniSA's Professor Kevin Norton and Dr Ian Radbone, Ian Ker from ARRB Transport Research (WA), and Dr Jan Garrard from Deakin University.

The program includes a workshop looking at cycling as a vehicle for contextual mathematics (aimed at middle and senior school teachers), as well as a social event on January 16, where Dr Clement will host a cross country mountain bike tour around Aldgate in the Adelaide Hills.

Registration for *Thinking On Two Wheels* costs \$50 (including food and refreshments), with forms available at www.unisa.edu.au/nbe/news/twowheels

In other TDU news, UniSA's Marketing and Development Unit will have the latest news on Team UniSA updated throughout the tour, along with merchandise order forms, freebies and much more. Support Team UniSA and log on to www.unisa.edu.au/tdu

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Boost for Italian Studies

by **Charlotte Knottenbelt**

Future generations of scholars will reap the benefits of a recent major donation from the Cassamarca Foundation in Italy.

The Cassamarca Gift, to be shared among nine Australian universities including UniSA, aims to promote Italian culture and language, and is worth 900,000 Euros a year over 13 years (around A\$22.5 million). The gift will fund 50 per cent of a lectureship at UniSA – one of 12 lectureships established around Australia in recent years thanks to the foundation.

Dr Andrea Rizzi, the current Cassamarca lecturer in Italian Studies at UniSA's School of International Studies, said the gift recognised the global reach of Italian culture. "Italy has a population of 60 million, but there are also 60 million Italians living in other parts of the world including Australia," he says. "Italy has links with so many different countries, and they see education as a way to keep in touch, provide services for the offshore Italian community, and boost the economy through closer international links and the trade benefits that ensue.



"Italian culture has taken many forms and directions. There are three Italys really: the ancient, the contemporary and the Italy outside of Italy. Unfortunately, the third is the one we study and know the least about.

"You just have to look around – the cafes, the cars, the fashion – to see that Italians have enriched Australian culture in many ways, but it's not just about food and lifestyle.

"It's about sharing different cultures ... rather than calling ourselves a multicultural society we should be aiming for an intercultural society – where cultures merge, change and grow from being in contact with one another."

Dr Rizzi sees the gift as a way to improve understanding between cultures and sub- cultures, and part of that will include a focus on language.

"Only three to four per cent of books published in Australia are translated from languages other than English, which is really quite shocking for a so-called multicultural society. It's nice that we've now got the resources to be able to work on that."

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Engaging with regional SA

Experienced both academically and in the private and public sectors, Professor Len Pullin has just taken on the role of Director of Regional Engagement and Dean of UniSA's regional campus in Whyalla – and it is one close to his heart.

Former associate professor at Monash University in Gippsland, Prof Pullin held several senior academic positions including head of the School of Business and Electronic Commerce and director of undergraduate teaching.

Prof Pullin says he is looking forward to having an impact through the new leadership role and becoming actively involved in issues that can make a difference to SA's regional communities and people who live, work and study there.

"Rural and regional communities are the heartbeat of Australia," he says. "The country simply will not thrive without the contribution of the regions and I think it is up to people with leadership positions and skills to make a commitment to regional Australia."

Prof Pullin's academic research focus has been in business, labour economics, public management and industrial relations and he has published widely on issues including regional industrial restructuring, regional industrial relations systems, and local government management morality. Editor of the International Employment Relations Review for six years, Prof Pullin has also authored two books and more than 40 refereed journal articles. His business expertise also includes having run a small business and working as a senior executive in a large public transport authority.

Describing himself as a people person, he said he was looking forward to the new challenges of working with staff at Whyalla campus to bring about change, growth, and enjoyment.

"Whyalla Campus exists because it is a contributing, dynamic part of the University and my goal is to enhance and develop that contribution, making UniSA a stronger force in the community."

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Glass goes to good cause

UniSA's South Australian School of Art glass workshop has used the proceeds from a special commission to help improve the lives of children at Li Zi Ping primary school in far western Sichuan Province in China.

The glass workshop was commissioned by the Adelaide City Council to produce a gift to commemorate the visit of Madam Fu Ying, the Chinese Ambassador to Australia who visited Adelaide in October for the opening of the new Gouger Street Chinatown gates.

The glass vase was designed and made by the head of the glass workshop Gabriella Bisetto and honours student Rebecca Hartman Kearns. The transparent cobalt blue and scarlet red vase was blown in the hot glass studio and encased while hot in silver leaf. When it was cool the silver casing of the vase was carved away to produce an abstracted image of spinifex grass revealing the rich cobalt and scarlet colours underneath, symbolising the remote Australian landscape.



The proceeds of the commission were donated to the Australia-China Friendship Society, the Charles Foundation for Children in Need and the Multi Education Department who have been working together to refurbish Li Zi Ping primary school and upgrade dormitories for the 90 children aged between 5 and 12 who live there. The foundation's assistance has helped provide new bedding, solar panels and a shower block for the first time in the upgraded dormitories. The children – who up until now have cooked all their own meals over an open fire and survived without hot water or washing facilities – will also have a local person employed to assist in their day to day living.

Bisetto said she was humbled to have been able to help the children at Li Zi Ping primary. "UniSA has at its heart of education the vision to target communities who experience disadvantage, and through active interaction foster in our students the life long sense of social responsibility and a commitment to building a more just society. Our ability to assist these students to even attend school with the most basic facilities is a humbling experience."

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Engineering tools to expose potential project failures

by Geraldine Hinter

UniSA researchers have developed systems and software engineering tools to solve the problem of poor requirements being a contributing factor in project failures.

Having the right requirements or instructions is crucial to delivering the right system and producing it in the most effective manner, according to DSTO Associate Research Professor Joseph Kasser from UniSA's Systems Engineering and Evaluation Centre (SEEC).

Prof Kasser said that being able to distinguish between well written and badly worded requirements, and to detect missing requirements, could be the key difference between projects that work and ones that don't.



"If we can get the requirements right, we can improve the process that leads to the end product and alleviate the cost and schedule impacts of unacceptable requirements," Prof Kasser said.

With no tools available to alert systems engineers to badly written requirements, Prof Kasser and his team conducted research using object oriented systems engineering to compile a list of attributes needed for good requirements.

SEEC is the only centre in the world that is seriously researching object oriented software in systems engineering, according to Prof Kasser, who has been working with the International Council on Systems Engineering to develop a framework and body of knowledge on object oriented systems.

Prof Kasser has developed a set of Prototype Educational Tools for Systems and Software (PETS) engineering that show how new concepts can be applied and the benefits that can be gained from them. Each tool is a computer program that can be used in the classroom as a teaching aid but is robust enough for the workplace.

"One of the problems with teaching is that some concepts are difficult to get across, for example, writing a requirement. Using the tools in the classroom helps students to gain a better understanding of the concepts and their importance in systems engineering," Prof Kasser said.

During manual assessment of a requirements document, students focused on sentence structure and grammar, but when using the requirements tool, TIGER, to automate what they did manually, the focus of their discussion changed very quickly from grammar to the difficulty of writing good requirements.

"TIGER looks for poor words in the requirements and explains why they are poor – because they are vague, unmeasurable, or complicated by more than one requirement in a paragraph.

"Customers don't always know exactly what they require, especially in projects that span many systems. TIGER helps us meet the real requirements by assisting with that dialogue – is this what you want, how is it different, how does what you want differ – enabling us to make more informed decisions that could save time and money," Prof Kasser said.

"With any list of requirements, we need to be able to show that we've met the requirements. Currently this is not done in engineering. To counter that, we developed the tool, ACE, for acceptance criteria. When

used by students, it led to a change in attitude from not even thinking about acceptance criteria, to writing good acceptance criteria.

“Other tools allow us to document risks, factor in costs and attach a priority to each requirement. This enables high priority requirements to be completed in the early stages of a project and low priority requirements to be cut if there are cost overruns or funding cutbacks.

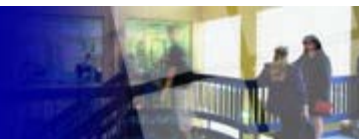
“Because the tools are as easy to use as a slide rule, students can quickly learn how to complete a task or concept that we want to demonstrate.”

“By teaching the different tools separately in the classroom we learn how the students use them in unexpected ways and we get the feedback and put that into the next version.

“Our ultimate aim is to use the tools in industry. For the workplace we would modify the tools and combine all of their functions into one tool because users would be looking at all of the properties at the same time.”

Professor Kasser is undertaking his second PhD at UniSA’s School of Education, looking at how aspects of these tools change the way people work.

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\$18,000 Andrew Knox scholarship

The closing date for the Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship for research into industrial relations or labour issues has been extended until November 30.

The scholarship – worth A\$18,000 a year for up to three years – was established to commemorate UniSA graduate Andrew Knox, a committed unionist who died at the World Trade Center in New York on September 11, 2001.

Knox studied at UniSA in the late '80s and went on to build a career in industrial relations, working in various positions including senior industrial officer for the Australian Workers Union.

The Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship is open to UniSA PhD or Masters by research students who are citizens or permanent residents of Australia, as well as junior academic staff members.

For full application details, visit www.unisa.edu.au/resdegrees/scholarships/australian.asp#knox or phone Andrew Beveridge on (08) 8302 5069.



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Making student feedback count

Providing feedback on their experiences at UniSA has proved fruitful for four students who were recently each presented with a \$500 cheque as part of a competition run by Planning and Assurance Services to encourage participation in the Student Experiences Questionnaire.

All 7840 students who responded to the SEQ were put in a draw to win the money, and the lucky four were William Dim, Melanie Day (both pictured right with SAS director Lucy Schulz), Jacquelyn Conroy and Ben Bayliss.



A confidential online survey conducted every second year, the SEQ this year included sections on program experiences, services and facilities, university life, and questions from the students' association.

Some of the key areas of concern that have come up in analysis so far include printing quotas, range and value of food at campus cafeterias, consistency of marking, equivalency of workloads across courses, and financial support for research students.

The results from the SEQ were referred to the Student Services Advisory Committee this month, with action plans and a communication strategy to keep students informed next on the agenda.

"The SEQ is the University's main student survey, and we take the feedback we get from it very seriously," said Schulz. "It's one of the only ways that we can get a clear picture on where we need to improve and make changes."

For William, the \$500 will go towards a laptop – and quite probably paying some bills. "I like to respond to surveys like this because it's a way to have my voice heard," he said.

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Social workers of the world converge

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

Hundreds of UniSA students, staff and practicing social workers had a chance to broaden their international outlook on October 6, with a day of seminars and panel discussions featuring many of the world's leading social work scholars.

Speakers hailing from 15 countries from Jamaica to South Africa came together as part of the Reclaiming Civil Society @ Magill International Day organised by staff and students from UniSA's School of Social Work and Social Policy.



The program was an offshoot to the Global Social Work conference, and by all accounts was a great success, with professional links and friendships formed that look set to produce lasting benefits for both the individuals involved and the practice of social work the world over.

With a program too extensive to detail fully, some of the topics explored included a Tongan model of social work where a key element is love (discussed by Massey University's Tracie Malfie'o), globalism's effect on social work (Ngho Tiong Tan, National University of Singapore), psychosocial care for disaster survivors (Kasi Seker, National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, India), and using students' accounts of the impact of racism to produce a more relevant social work curriculum in South Africa (Vivienne Bozalek, University of the Western Cape).

Dr Bozalek drew links with a comparable study being undertaken into Indigenous Australian's experience by UniSA lecturer Sharon Gollan – just one of many associations formed on the day, according to social work program director, Peter Lumb.

"Our students grabbed the opportunity to talk social and social welfare issues with such a diverse range of social workers and academics," he said. "A number of students have been invited to visit their guests overseas for field placements, and many are continuing conversations via email ... textbooks rarely create this kind of engagement."

For Bec Cawley – one of 25 social work students who acted as minders for the international guests – the experience was inspirational.

"I learnt so much in the 10 hours I spent with Professor Sanjay Bhatt, and am now planning to spend some time volunteering at the NGO that he established in Jaipur when I travel to India next year," she said. "We're also discussing developing a program together for Australian volunteers in Delhi and Jaipur."

Lumb said another positive outcome was that some of the guests had been inspired to adopt the idea of running a spin-off conference for students from an international conference in the same city – "so the 'UniSA International Day student conference model' is set to be replicated around the world," he said.

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Bringing the body into focus

by **Emma Masters**

Embalmed in ancient Egypt, glorified in the renaissance arts and sciences, the human body has been a source of fascination through the ages. Today, from fashion to body art, dance to medicine, the body continues to provide a point of definition and focus. And now UniSA researchers have made it the centre of attention of a new research group, Cultures of the Body, launched in September at the Adelaide Festival Centre.

The group is comprised of UniSA lecturers Dr Vicki Crowley, Dr Jackie Cook and Dr Susan Luckman (all from the School of Communication, Information and New Media), Jeff Meiners (Education) and Professor Julianne Cheek (Nursing and Midwifery).

The group's launch followed their first public forum Talking Bodies, a free event that allowed the public to engage with four internationally renowned Adelaide-based choreographers and dancers – Helen Omand (independent artist), Kat Worth (Restless Dance Company), Garry Stewart (Australian Dance Theatre) and Leigh Warren (Leigh Warren and Dancers).

On a panel chaired by Jeff Meiners, the artists discussed the ways they work with different bodies, from the classically trained to those with disabilities, and also talked about the ways they approach performance and adopt different dance forms.

Following the success of the forum, the group hopes to continue breaking down barriers between academics, artists working in their practice and the broader community.

"We're interested in supporting performers and arts organisations, helping them interpret their work in the broader community as well as working to expand the academic field of cultural studies and ways of seeing the body," says Dr Vicki Crowley.

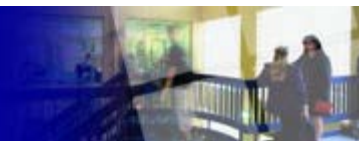
"By looking at different perspectives on the body we will be gauging what practitioners and the public think. Dance is just the beginning."

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Study finds students place happiness over money

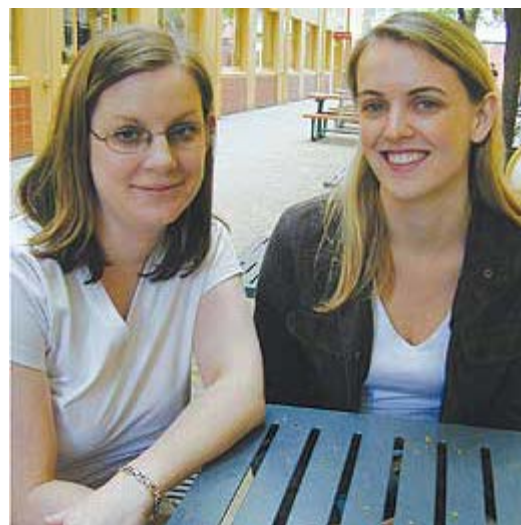
by **Jessica Braithwaite**

A recent survey of UniSA property students has revealed that money is not at the top of the priority list when it comes to choosing an employer.

Edge Recruitment questioned a cross-section of full time, part time, male and female property students, and found that salary ranked as the lowest motivation in choosing to work with a particular employer.

"In my experience, money is not such a big thing, as long as you're happy with your job," says Bachelor of Business in Property student Jeni Armanasco.

So what are UniSA students looking for in a job? "Ongoing training, and a good reputation," says third year student Michelle Larsson. Samantha Knight, a second year student says the important thing is "opportunities for your own career." Others were prepared to take a much simpler approach. "I would be more likely to base my decision on the 'vibe' of an interview," says Armanasco.



National and international organisations ranked as the most preferable employers with most students holding the view that larger companies offer better growth opportunities, support and training.

"It's great to see students focussing on more than salary at this stage of their careers," says Jane Carey, director of Edge Recruitment. "This is a clear indicator that they are thinking longer term, and giving serious consideration to their first full time property role."

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NetLab wins ITEK innovation award

An on-line remote laboratory for engineering students has claimed top prize in this year's ITEK Science and Engineering Innovation Award.

Students Andrew Sprok and Scott Carr were awarded \$500 in prize money from ITEK, the commercial arm of the University of South Australia, for their research enabling students to conduct electrical and electronic experiments via the internet.

The team was presented with their award on October 22 at the School of Electrical and Information Engineering at Mawson Lakes by Head of School Professor Andrew Nafalski and ITEK project manager for commercialisation, Shane Cheek.



"It is great to be recognised as the top of the class in our project. We would also like to think that it provides encouragement for the first year students in terms of what they can achieve in their studies," said Sprok.

Prof Nafalski acknowledged the support from ITEK in sponsoring this award which recognises the project with most commercial promise amongst final year students.

"We had a number of important projects this year related to technology and learning which is testimony to the high quality of entries received," he said.

NetLab replicates a 'physical' laboratory session through an interface with controlled instruments allowing component values to be changed, as well as real-life visual feedback using a remote-controlled camera.

It is anticipated that students accessing NetLab will have increased flexibility in laboratory sessions, with the potential for other universities and institutions to access the on-line laboratory in the future.

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Postgraduate award nominations open

Postgraduate students and lecturers are being invited to submit nominations for the 2004 Postgraduate Awards.

Presented by the UniSA student's association, the awards aim to recognise excellence in postgraduate study and teaching across the University.

Students are encouraged to nominate outstanding staff for the following categories: program director of the year, lecturer of the year, general staff person of the year, supervisor of the year, and associate supervisor of the year.

Staff may nominate students for the 'coursework student of the year', and 'research student of the year' awards – with a prize in both categories to be awarded to students from all four divisions.

Nominations will remain open until the end of the year and can be made online at www.usasa.unisa.edu.au/Educational/postgraduate/awards_frame.htm
For more information contact Melissa Osborne on (08) 8302 2867.

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Singaporean early childhood students visit SA

By Professor Marjory Ebbeck, Dr Sharon Russo and Linda Blackstone

From October 11 to 31 ten students who are completing a transnational BEd (ECE) program in Singapore undertook a field practicum placement in early childhood centres in Adelaide. A practicum placement in Adelaide is a voluntary element of the program and the students who participated paid their fares, accommodation and living expenses to be in Adelaide and experience Australia style early childhood education and care.

The students, staff at the early childhood centres and University staff have been very enthusiastic about the outcomes of this visit and its strong cultural orientation. The students worked with centre staff in planning programs and were able to contribute ideas from their own cultural backgrounds, adding diversity to the early childhood programs in which they were working. Examples of activities they introduced included discussion time answering children's questions as to why some of the students were wearing head scarves, and engaging in discussions about Muslim customs and ways of accepting cultural differences and likenesses in people. The visit coincided with the Holy Month of Ramadan.



The students had prior briefing sessions in Singapore as to what they might share with centres, and brought a range of art and craft activities, books and artefacts representative of elements of Chinese, Malay and Indian cultures. For example, children participated in a variety of activities including Chinese calligraphy, Chinese stencil work and art activities related to selected Chinese festivals. Students commented on how quickly children were singing songs and listening to short stories in Mandarin, engaging fully in these new activities. Under supervision, the children helped to cook rice, chapatis and other Asian foods. One student, who currently works in Cambodia, brought Cambodian artefacts and weavings to share with the children. The emphasis on the aesthetics was valued by both children and centre staff.

In return, some of the centres and hospitality functions organised by University staff in their homes included barbeques with Halal food. Students enjoyed the charm of Adelaide architecture in its many forms and visited sites of special interest to them.

The practicum program was organised with weekly lectures and seminars held in the University. Early childhood staff from the School of Education, with staff from DECS, discussed a range of issues dealing with the challenges and joys of implementing culturally diverse programs, including examining ways of supporting children with special needs, an area in which Singapore is currently investing resources both physical and human.

Visits to UniSA gave students the opportunity to use the library facilities and they were very impressed by the range of available resources and assistance given so readily by Library staff. A special library workshop



was organised for them, again in the orientation period of their stay.

Depending on teaching schedules, some students were able to attend other on-campus lectures and again contribute to discussions bringing in cultural dimensions to topics such as child protection and the issues surrounding this in Singapore. They also attended other professional activities in the community which were available during their time here.

Student evaluations and reflective journal writings have shown overwhelmingly that this kind of opportunity assists cultural understanding in a range of ways and adds positively to both professional and personal understanding of internationalisation of the curriculum, one of the graduate qualities students acquire through undertaking the program. The Singapore system of early childhood is appropriate for that cultural context as it places a strong emphasis on a formal approach and limits curriculum choices for children. However, by contrasting it with teaching and learning approaches in South Australia, the students were able to gain other insights into what might be appropriate early childhood education and care practices. One student remarked "I was thrown when a child said to me 'No, I don't want to do that activity! I'm going to do something else'".

The early childhood centres in South Australia, which function under the auspices of the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS), use the *South Australian Curriculum Standards and Accountability Framework* (SACSA) and this presents a different approach for the students to work in. Key policy makers in early childhood in DECS were able to present both theoretical and practical elements of SACSA early in the students' orientation. Most students commented that they had learned in this relatively short period of time to be more flexible in interactions with children under the age of five, and to focus and respond to the specific individual needs of children. They attributed this in part to SACSA and to the skills and competencies of the teaching teams they worked with in centres.

The accessibility of outdoor space for learning is another difference students commented on. In Singapore, most centres have very limited outdoor space and children learn to live in limited space constrained also by high rise living. To be able to explore the outdoor environment with children on a daily basis was a joy for all students.

At a personal level one student commented that she had been anxious about how people would receive her in Australia, but when she got on a public bus each day to go to her centre there was always someone who smiled or was welcoming in greetings.

The students have given generously of their time, talents and experiential backgrounds, but it has been mutually beneficial and for many positive reasons they will be remembered with affection – the most important element being the relationships they formed with children, staff and parents in early childhood centres.

Finally, thank you to all involved for assisting with this visit!

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Masters Games open to staff, students and graduates

By Rodney Magazinovic

UniSA staff, graduates and mature aged students with athletic talents are being encouraged to consider representing the University in the inaugural Australian University Masters Championships.

To be held over the 2005 Easter long weekend (March 25-28), the championships will be hosted by the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales.

The four day event focuses on the team sports of hockey, rugby union, touch, netball, soccer and will provide a friendly but competitive environment for Australia's masters' athletes in the following categories:

- Mature age students (over 30s for women and over 35s for men)
- University staff (for the first time current or past staff members will have an opportunity to represent their University in sporting competition against other University teams)
- Graduates
- Mature age sports association members.

According to former Australian hockey representative and patron of the games, Vern Turner, the games are an ideal opportunity for players to tests their skills within a social environment.

"Participation in these championships provides an opportunity for people to engage competitively in team sports which, in the highest ideals of sportsmanship, assist in the development of their character and the growth of a sense of fair-play."

Between 1,000 and 2,000 athletes from more than 40 universities throughout the country are expected to attend with UniSA expected to field teams in all sports.

For further information or to register to represent UniSA contact Claire Higgins on (08) 8302 2889 or email claire.higgins@unisa.edu.au

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