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UniSA News

October 2006

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



Water proofing the north

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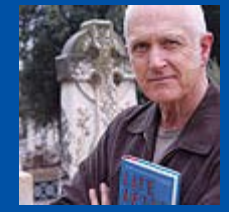
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Water proofing the north

by Rodney Magazinovic

A \$90 million government initiative to recycle stormwater in Adelaide's northern regions will see UniSA take a leading role in the development and implementation of the strategy.

With water reserves in the River Murray and local Adelaide reservoirs pushed to the limit, the focus of the Water Proofing the North scheme recently announced by Prime Minister John Howard will be to try and make use of the estimated 17 gigalitres (about 7500 Olympic swimming pools) of stormwater that flow into Gulf St Vincent every year.

It is expected that up to 12 gigalitres a year of the recycled stormwater can be used for irrigation and by industry in place of the mains water that is currently used.



David Pezzaniti, Senior Research Engineer at the SA Water Centre for Water Science and Systems says a critical part of the research is to investigate the most effective strategies for harvesting, storing, treating and distributing stormwater runoff from catchments in Adelaide's Northern Region.

"Modifying existing drainage systems for stormwater harvesting needs to be carefully designed to ensure the capacity to manage large flows is maintained," he said.

Studies will investigate the average annual stormwater runoff volume generated by catchments that have the potential to be harvested. Techniques for maximising this potential will involve cleansing the runoff to a suitable standard so the abundant winter stormwater can be stored in aquifers (an underground layer of water-bearing permeable rock) and then extracted in the summer months when demand associated with irrigation and industry is generally high. In some instances, where high water quality is not important, harvested runoff can be treated and delivered directly to users as an alternative to mains water.

Initial discussions with a consortium of the three councils involved in the project (the Cities of Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully and Playford) have focused on a locally developed water resources planning model called WaterCress. For several years UniSA has been closely linked with the development of WaterCress, which is also extensively used by the Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation for water resource allocation planning. A formal arrangement to provide ongoing development support to WaterCress through research and training programs has now been planned. The first of these training programs will be delivered by UniSA staff in Sydney in November 2006.

UniSA will also develop a strategic research plan with the consortium that identifies the councils' needs and research projects over the short and long-term future.

"The resulting strategic research plan will strengthen and formalise UniSA's relationship with the three councils and the plan will extend beyond water-related research to include other research concentrations within the University," Pezzaniti said.

The bulk of the project will be funded by the federal government (\$38 million), state government (\$16.4 million) and the three council consortium (\$21 million) with a further \$14.1 million contribution from private

investment.

UniSA has a long history of involvement with water-related research through various Cooperative Research Centres and the establishment of the SA Water Centre for Water Science And Systems – a joint venture between the South Australian Water Corporation and UniSA – at Mawson Lakes campus in 2004.

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From the Chancellery

Leadership is an inevitable function of the way all our businesses, societies and international bodies are structured. We cannot avoid having leaders, so what matters is that leadership is exercised well. Without positive leadership, it is unlikely that our aspirations, both personally and for future generations, will be realised.

Leadership is a risky business. Real leaders ask us to change, to abandon attitudes and behaviours with which we are comfortable. Leaders who don't accept the need for people to behave differently and do not recognise the necessity to confront values and ideas – the commitments of heart and mind – will fail to embed sustainable change. Of course, when that happens, it doesn't resolve the challenge, it just delays the inevitable change and leaves us open to the dangers of catastrophic alternatives.



The 21st century poses major adaptive changes for individuals, for nation states and for the planet on which we all live. What are some of the most serious? I believe they are climate change, balancing economic and social development, and living with our neighbours.

These are all complex issues which require us, whether as individuals, communities or nations, to change and – in changing – to experience loss if these issues are to be effectively addressed. By loss, I mean giving up some of what we value or feel comfortable with, to meet a more important need. All of them, too, require us to work with many other people to identify workable solutions. They require cooperative action across local and national boundaries if we are to see real change.

We have always found such behaviours hard. We find it easier to blame others, to identify a scapegoat or to close ourselves to other views. And yet, in this century, the stakes are higher than ever before. If we don't control greenhouse gas emissions, or intervene in economic arrangements which leave some groups within communities or some nations obscenely wealthy and others desperately poor, or find a way to express our common humanity rather than our different belief systems, then we face terrible consequences.

The challenges of leadership in the 21st century are derived from our position as nations in a global community, where interdependence requires leadership that seeks to achieve more than national self-interest. Ultimately, they include the challenges of showing leadership as a citizen. I ask everyone in the University community to consider the challenge of leadership and trust that you will all contribute to improving the common good of our nations, our business and professions, and of our communities in the future.

Adapted from the speech, 21st Century Leadership – Challenges and Opportunities by Professor Denise Bradley on the occasion of receiving an honorary doctorate Award from Pukyong University, South Korea on September 21, 2006.

VC visit to China

Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley met for more than an hour with the Chinese Vice Minister for Education, Madame Wu Qidi, as part of a recent visit to Beijing. The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues related to the direction of higher education in China and brought the Vice Minister up to date with the activities of both UniSA and the Australian Technology Network of Universities

in China.

The Vice Chancellor, along with Pro Vice Chancellor Robin King and Associate Professor Bo Jin, recently visited two arms of the highly reputed Chinese Academy of Science (CAS) – the Graduate University of CAS and the Research Centre for Eco-Environmental Studies.

These visits built on existing links and identified new areas for research collaboration.

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In brief

Giving Nauru a heart start

Nauru Hospital has a new HeartStart First Aid Defibrillator (heart start machine) and training package after UniSA's Professor of Business Law, Dr Jennifer McKay, donated her prize won in a competition entered while waiting at an airport for a flight.

The company Laerdal Medical, in partnership with St John, funded the HeartStart competition worth more than \$8000 to raise awareness of the importance of early CPR and defibrillation to businesses and consumers. It was displayed by the Qantas Club in Sydney and Melbourne airports.

Prof McKay travels extensively in her role as a recognised world specialist in water and water law and, in addition to her important work role, is an active supporter of several local and international charities.

Surprised when told of her win and being aware of the difficulties facing the health system in the Republic of Nauru, Prof McKay was keen to contribute. She offered the defibrillator to AusAID for donation to the Nauru Hospital. And as part of the prize, St John Ambulance Australia will train hospital staff on how to use and maintain the HeartStart defibrillator.

Work and life balance

UniSA showcased its approach to work/life balance as hosts of the federal government's 2007 Work and Family Awards launched by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, Kevin Andrews (pictured right) last month.

The awards, held since 1992, are the only national awards that focus exclusively on recognising work and family achievements. They acknowledge businesses with outstanding working arrangements that meet the needs of employees with family responsibilities.

Speaking at the launch, UniSA's Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley AO highlighted the University's approach to work/life balance, which has been recognised both internally and externally. This includes being named the winner of the Public Sector Gold Award in the 2005 Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry/Business Council of Australia National Work and Family Awards, and named an employer of choice for women in the 2003, 2004 and 2005 awards by the Equal Opportunities for Women in the Workplace Agency.



"We have not rested on our laurels since winning the National Award in 2005. Our most recent initiatives include the launch of new multi-access suites and our accreditation as a breastfeeding friendly workplace with the Australian Breastfeeding Association (ABA)," Prof Bradley said.

The multi-access suites are modern, dignified spaces that have been created on each University campus to support the needs of breastfeeding mothers, parents, and people with disabilities or medical conditions who need privacy. To date the University is one of only about eight South Australian workplaces to receive this accreditation with the ABA.

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Classifieds

For sale

TV/entertainment unit, Black/beachwood, ex cond. Lge storage capability for DVD/CDs. Accommodates stereo, DVD, video, Foxtel units etc. \$100 ono. Contact Melissa on 0414 893 056 or melissa.alagich@unisa.edu.au

Cat Scratch House, near perfect condition. 70cm square, two levels inside, 3 different level platforms outside, great for cats who like to hide and scratch. Able to email photo upon request. Retail \$400 will sell for \$180 ono. Contact Nic on 0401 289 509 or nicole.kennedy@unisa.edu.au

Solid pine desk, good quality large solid desk with a number of drawers for storage, includes filing drawer. Great for office. \$100 ono. Contact Melissa on 0414 893 056 or melissa.alagich@unisa.edu.au

Giveaway, old stereo (amp, tuner, speakers, cassette deck, turntable), about 25 years old, works OK. Burnside area. Contact gregory.yates@unisa.edu.au

Accommodation

Northgate, person wanted to share with female staff member. Furnished bdrm, own bathroom in large home. \$80-\$100 rent plus share cost of utilities. Contact Janette on 0414 480 132 or janette.trevena@unisa.edu.au

Accommodation required, 3 bdrm house required by visiting academic from Taiwan (around December 5 2006 to July 20 2007), preferably furnished and near Marryatville Primary School. Contact lichang.lee@unisa.edu.au

Got something to sell?

Notices in the UniSANEWS classifieds are free to UniSA staff and students (space is allocated on a first-come first-served basis). Email your notices (keeping them shorter than 30 words) to unisa.news@unisa.edu.au

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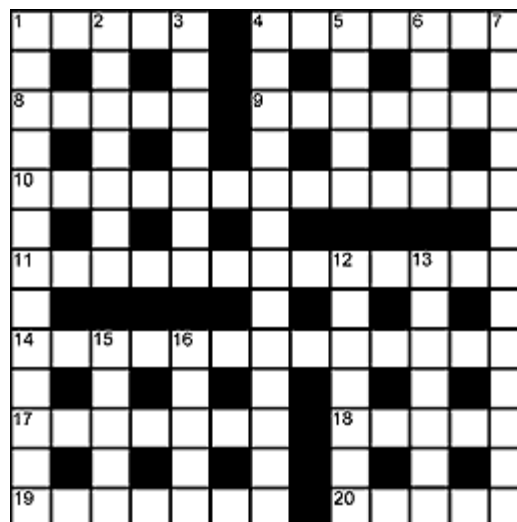
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Colgan's cryptic crossword

Across

1. It's unanimously upheld by Finland (5)
4. Ear's centre has two lumps (7)
8. Telecommunicator's work spread over short time (5)
9. Fellow joins Pre-Raphaelite pursuit (7)
10. Abbreviated sentence: Don't go over this in show jump (4,9)
11. Praising courtesy (13)
14. Pole with loop fit for sports practice session (8,5)
17. Major retailer supports discontinuance of floral designs (7)
18. He was a big hit in Greece (5)
19. Like "The Phantom" with beginning and end of opera switched. Just awful! (7)
20. Possibly miss a header (5)



Down

1. Narrating decisive finish to games? (13)
2. It's best I choose quiet surroundings (7)
3. Set up in block (7)
4. Companion's plea cut short in 1D (13)
5. A low energy-returning component? Start again! (5)
6. To trade too much causes stir (5)
7. It's needed to activate attack upon attack (7,6)
12. Like Lolita (Russian) denying ingesting speed (7)
13. Go towards court (7)
15. Precinct around new ground (5)
16. Find fault with cook (5)

Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, Oct 20.

Solutions published online at www.unisa.edu.au/unisanews/2006/October/colgan.asp on Oct 30.

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Our people - Dr Lia Bryant

I have been the Director of the Research Centre for Gender Studies since February last year, but my association with UniSA began in 1996 as a lecturer in the School of Social Work and Social Policy.

My key research interest has been the sociology of gender and work, and gender and rural places. I examined rural sociology and agricultural patterns of work with economic change occurring in rural communities and agriculture in my doctoral thesis.

My interest in the area was sparked during a two-year stint in the late '80s as a social researcher in the SA Department of Agriculture's Rural Affairs Unit, where I became aware of the impact of drought and downturn in commodity prices for farmers and its social effects at the individual, family and community levels.

Since then, I have published widely about the experience of rural women and work in Australia. Some of this work was the result of a Hawke Fellowship for travel and research, awarded by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre in 1999.

I have also played an active social policy development role in the area of women and work, largely as a member of the SA committee linked to the federal standing committee on agriculture and resource management.

But my research also focuses on gender and the relationships between constructions of gendered meanings about work, space and place.

While the eight competitive grant projects I've overseen as chief investigator have covered topics ranging from women in the wine industry and gender relations among young farming couples to research on rural youth and ageing, I have also initiated a number of international multidisciplinary collaborations.

With Dr Mona Livholts at the Centre for Women's Studies, University of Umea, Sweden, I have worked closely on memory, sexuality and social space. Late last year, I explored Indigenous women's writing with Dr Dominique Jouve at the University of New Caledonia. And I am soon to commence work with Dr Susan Halford from the University of Southampton on information and communication technologies (specifically telemedicine), gender, rurality and health.

I am currently working on two books. *Gender and Rurality*, with Dr Barbara Pini from Queensland University of Technology, is a study of gender in rural spaces.

The other, *Walking on the Grass: Women Writing Theses*, is about work I feel passionate about, namely, mentoring PhD students and early career researchers. The book aims to explore and reflect the myriad of experiences and emotions that intersect and occur in everyday lives when writing a doctoral thesis.

Lia Bryant is the Director of the Research Centre for Gender Studies, a part of the Hawke Research Institute for Sustainable Societies.



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Sporting moments live on and on

by Michèle Nardelli

Around this time 26 years ago two teacher's college students, Wendy Piltz and Jenny Williams, formed a student-based lacrosse club.

A few weekends ago the pair played in the grand final for the same club – and they played alongside their daughters. The University of South Australia (formerly College of Advanced Education) Women's Lacrosse Club has been competing since 1980, winning many club premierships (nine in A grade), producing numerous state and international players, and participating in national championships as well as winning the 1986 World Cup.

In all those years Wendy Piltz, now a senior lecturer in human movement and education, has been putting sports theory into practice on the field and introducing many students to the game.

"Involvement in team sport is a rich experience and while some of the reasons for playing may change over the years, there are other values that stay the same. It's about being active, participating with friends and helping others to learn and enjoy the game," Piltz said. "The B grade team provides the opportunity to bring in novice players mentored on field by those with more experience."

Today the team has a player age range from 11 years (Kelsey Piltz) to 50 years (Wendy Piltz, who celebrated her 50th birthday the week before the grand final). Williams' daughter Ellen (13 years) also plays in the team and two daughters (Chelsea Roberts and Meg Gibbons) of other UniSA graduates are also playing in the team this year.

"Everyone in the team is a UniSA student, graduate or the daughter of a graduate," Piltz said.

"The whole inter-generational experience is good too. People almost do a double take when I tell them that the team has such a mixed age range – but it really works and I think there is a message in that. Sport can make some things possible that would not apply in other settings – like engagement between parents and children and Gen X and Y with baby boomers."

Piltz's buddy from college days, Jenny Williams, (from the famous Port Adelaide Football club family) has been the driving force in the formation of the mother daughter team.

Williams, who is a member of the Physical Activity Council, believes there could be huge advantages in encouraging mixed age sporting teams or at least looking at organising sporting hubs where the whole family can take part.

"When you think about it, parents spend a lot of their spare time driving their children from sport to sport and get very little time to get into any physical activity themselves. For me the experience of playing in a team with the family is fantastic."



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Academic board

August 2006
by Peter Cardwell

Building research capacity and research performance based funding

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Prof Caroline McMillen, introduced a paper outlining the need to realign internal research funding mechanisms with changes foreshadowed in the external funding environment, and recommending changes to the current internal research funding allocation mechanisms.

Academic Board noted that the University had a track record of significant achievements in research including: a 50 per cent increase in research funding from \$19.3 million in 2001 to \$30 million in 2005; active participation in 13 Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs); a consistently high success rate in the Australian Research Council (ARC) Linkage Grant Scheme; and a highly effective approach to research training, with a more than 25 per cent increase in higher degree completions over the previous five years.

It was noted that given the critical role of divisions in building research capacity, it is proposed that Division Research Performance Based Funding will be allocated on the basis of measures that reflect growth in the research activity of the divisions, including the proportion of staff who are supported researchers, research income earned, and the volume of research outputs.

It is proposed that total research income, including a weighting of 2.5 for all ACG grants will be averaged across two years (50 per cent allocation).

The proportion of staff in the divisions who are supported researchers, may include researchers who have been appointed within the division in the past two years, and who earned the appropriate level of income and Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) points at their previous place of employment. In addition, weighted research publication scores will be included based on shared authorship, and using a restricted set of publication categories averaged across two years.

Research Centres also play a critical role in building research capacity, and measures such as income earned and research outputs are important indicators of the research activity profile in Centres. It is therefore proposed that total research income, including a weighting of 2.5 for all ACG grants be averaged across 2004 and 2005 (50 per cent of allocation). Weighted research publication scores would be based on shared authorship, and use a restricted set of publication categories averaged across 2004 and 2005 (50 per cent of allocation).

In relation to research institutes, it is proposed that for 2007 a total of \$2.5 million will be given to each institute. A base allocation of \$150,000 will be given to each supported research institute. Total research income including a weighting of 2.5 for all ACG grants will be averaged across 2004 and 2005 (50 per cent of allocation).

A research institute research output quality score (50 per cent of allocation) will be calculated based on the inclusion of the four best research outputs from up to 20 members of the respective institute selected from a three-year production period for funding allocation in 2007, plus assessment of the research outputs by external discipline based reviewers, and a categorisation of the quality of the research outputs using an A-E rating and a non-linear scale.

The research output quality score will be based solely on the nominated research outputs, and will be assessed by external assessors, using criteria based on the five point scale outlined by the RQF Expert Advisory Group.

In order to ensure funding stability, no division, centre or institute will be allocated less than 80 per cent of

the average of their 2005 and 2006 funding for 2007. A full implementation strategy detailing timelines is being developed by Research and Innovation Services.

Coursework program approval manual

Academic Board noted that at its meeting held on August 11, the Academic Policy and Program Review Committee had endorsed the revised Coursework Program Approval Manual.

It was further noted that the change of name to the Coursework Program Approval Manual reflects the removal of research degrees. The Board agreed that the revised procedures will reduce and simplify the amount of work required in preparation for program approval while retaining the integrity of the process.

Academic Board welcomed the revised Coursework Program Approval Manual as a comprehensive document, which will reduce duplication and unnecessary detail in program approval submissions.

Welfare to Work legislation

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Organisational Strategy and Change), Prof Hilary Winchester, reported on the commonwealth government's Welfare to Work legislation, which came into effect on July 1, 2006.

Prof Winchester reported that the changes amounted to a significant disincentive for people on a Parenting Payment (Single) or a Disability Support Pension to undertake tertiary study. In total, the move from Disability Support Pension or Parenting Payment (Single) to Austudy could represent a cut of up to \$155 per week for students in the two equity groups.

In South Australia, the demography indicates that the number of school leavers available to take up university places will be very much reduced in coming years. The Welfare to Work changes will further discourage mature age students who were single parents, or had a disability, from seeking university study.

The problem is particularly acute for the University of South Australia, which currently has 12,000 students older than 25 years of age. Some 17 per cent of these are from low socio-economic groups, and include a significant proportion of single parents, with around 10 per cent having some form of disability.

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Are we there yet?

by Vincent Ciccarello

In its own, uniquely Australian way, the Great Ocean Road rivals the legendary French Riviera and Amalfi Coast as one of the most photogenic coastal drives in the world. For those with the time, it has much to offer the self-drive tourist with attractions such as Apollo Bay, Port Fairy and the Twelve Apostles.



But between Adelaide and Melbourne, the Great Ocean Road is only one of a number of much-travelled routes explored by holidaymakers. Just why travellers choose one route over another is the subject of a comprehensive research project about to be undertaken by UniSA's Centre for Tourism and Leisure Management (CT&LM).

The project is funded by the South Australian Touring Route Inc Regional Touring Partners (a consortium of travel industry partners including Travellink) and the federal government.

The project builds on previous work that UniSA's Associate Professor Gary Howat and Professor Graham Brown have completed with industry partners. Other CT&LM staff involved in the project include research assistants Rosie Roberts and Heather March.

Data will be obtained from some 1500 travellers at different points over spring, summer and autumn to find out how visitors to the area feel about their travel experiences.

Associate Professor Gary Howat said the aim of the project, initiated by UniSA recreation planning and management graduate and Travellink business manager Paul Victory, is to better understand the reasons why people drive on a certain route, stop at certain attractions and seek specific experiences.

"The sort of variables we will be examining are extensive, ranging from understanding the major features and attributes of the drive route itself, through to the range of activities to engage in during the trip that collectively help yield unique experiences," Prof Howat said.

Researchers will ask about the quality of roads, signage and facilities en route, as well as whether fishing, wine-tasting, whale watching or just spending time with the family had a role in the choice and experience of a certain journey.

"These things can be measured in terms of unique experiences," Prof Howat said, "which in turn can be measured as a range of benefits such as escaping and relaxing, socialising and enjoying the company of others, enjoying nature and the natural environment, enjoying the local culture and history, or improved health and wellbeing.

"Understanding these sorts of issues allows tourist operators, local councils and government departments to consider the types of facilities, attractions and activities that might be available on particular drive routes."

Prof Howat said that by having a strong industry advisory group such as SA Touring Route Inc ensuring the methodology and the research questionnaires are relevant, the research will have direct implications for member organisations.

Trained UniSA personnel will ask self-drive tourists at Hamilton, Pt Fairy and the Wellington Ferry to take 15 minutes to complete the questionnaires. As an incentive to take part, the travellers will receive free maps and "value packs" for future travel. The data will be collated at the end of each season and reported to the industry partners.

But the comprehensive nature of the questionnaire will also allow the Centre to publish the research in a number of journal articles.

"We feel this will be among the most comprehensive data on drive tourism in Australia," Prof Howat said. "Some of the material could also give rise to postgraduate tourism projects and could lead to similar research along other self-drive routes, such as Adelaide to Darwin."

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Pure art history

by Michèle Nardelli

The year 1856 was one of the most significant in the development of South Australia, when the farsightedness of political developments in the new colony were to make a powerful impact on the wider world.

That year, South Australia was the first Australian colony to grant full adult male suffrage, giving every male over 21 – including Aboriginal men – the right to vote. (It was another 40 years before the right was extended to women but SA was still at the vanguard of women's suffrage).

In the same year, the Bureau of Meteorology was founded, providing vital weather information for the growing number of agricultural adventurers in the colony.

And it was in 1856 that the South Australian School of Art was founded, the first public art school in Australia.

It says something about the core nature of the emerging state that art stood side by side with democracy and science as a priority in the evolving community.

Housed in the former Exhibition Building on North Terrace, for many years the school was known as the School of Design, then the School of Arts and Crafts. Always progressive, it was the first art school in Australia to employ a female teacher of painting, Elizabeth Armstrong in 1892, who remained with the school until her retirement in 1928. Armstrong joined Jessamine Buxton, Ethel Barringer and Marie Tuck on the staff where, by the 1920s – and in contrast with the trend elsewhere in Australia – the majority of the staff were women. In the '30s and '40s, other women teachers including Mary P Harris, Dorrit Black and Jackie Hick were instrumental in introducing students to modernism.

Among the School's graduates and students are renowned artists Margaret Preston, Hans Heysen, Jeffrey Smart, Barbara Hanrahan, Mandy Martin, Aleks Danko, Hossein Valamanesh and Zhong Chen.

Portfolio Leader at the School, Andrew Hill, says the innovative tradition that characterised the School of Design at the turn of the century is still very much a part of the character of the school today.

"Our graduates continue to win prizes, awards and wide acclaim for their art, design practice, arts writing and curatorship," Hill said.

"I think we have maintained an element of the vanguard spirit and optimism on which the school was founded and a boldness about the place of art in the wider community."

Celebrations of the 150th anniversary will begin with a major exhibition at UniSA's South Australian School of Art (SASA) gallery in the Kaurana building at City West campus from October 12-26.

The exhibition, curated by Linda Marie Walker, is entitled *Given the Face* and explores the relationship between surface, appearance and meaning, and features artists who are SASA graduates and staff including John Barbour, Linda Lou Patterson, Andy Petrusovics, Katie Moore, Akira Akira, Aldo Iacobelli and Angela Valamanesh. The opening of the exhibition at 6pm on October 11 will feature a special



The Bridge, Dorrit Black (1891-1951), 1930, Sydney. Oil on canvas on board, 60.0x81.0cm. Bequest of the artist 1951. Art Gallery of South Australia, Adelaide

retrospective address looking at the evolution of the school.

The traditional end of year exhibitions for visual arts and visual communications graduates on November 29 this year will also pay tribute to the 150th anniversary.

"Perhaps one of the most significant projects to come out of the celebrations will be the launch of a research project that will delve into the history of the school and its role in Australian art and the life of the state," Hill said. "That promises to uncover much more for us to be proud of and fascinated by."

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Self defence

by Vincent Ciccarello

Tall, trim and well-groomed, Ian Falconer (pictured) has the demeanour of a military man. But while his days are taken up with electronic warfare, Falconer's not a member of our defence forces. He is both a UniSA student and senior systems engineer with defence industry business BAE Systems, which has teamed up with SAAB, ASC and the University to develop the new Masters Degree in Military Systems Integration (MSI) program.



Falconer is one of 20 employees from the three companies in the first student intake of the program designed to fast-track systems engineering skills – which turn a customer need into a functioning system – in the military environment.

"If I describe systems engineering as people, processes, tools and the environment in which it all happens, that's my day-to-day job," said Falconer, who is currently working on the Defence Materiel Organisation's Project Echidna to equip Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters with electronic warfare self-protection systems.

Every Tuesday, Falconer and his fellow students meet at Mawson Lakes for lectures and to work on assignments aimed at boosting their existing engineering experience.

"While I have a very good empirical background in practical systems engineering in the automotive industry, I need the formal 'wrapper' of the MSI program so that I can go into a project as a senior systems engineer," he said, adding there is a synergy between the way the MSI is delivered and the nature of the defence business today.

"It is very rare for one company to do a whole project," Falconer said. "We have to partner in business. So the MSI does two things. It encourages informal networks and it promotes consistency across the businesses, so that as we work together and these people doing the MSI think alike. It gives us efficiencies in partnered projects."

Associate Professor David Cropley said the MSI program is concerned with the process of creating complex systems in a military environment and is a response to the federal government's substantial investment in defence projects.

"There's basically a very long shopping list worth in the order of \$10 billion over the next 10 to 15 years where the federal government has identified the need for new destroyers, armoured vehicles, aircraft and the like," Prof Cropley said. "All of those things are good examples of large, complex systems that involve people, hardware and software."

While the program is currently open only to employees of BAE, SAAB and ASC, Prof Cropley said the program partners have agreed to make it available to the public in 2007.

"The companies that bid for these projects are always under pressure to have enough of the right people to be able to do these things," he said. "Because of this bow wave of projects which have been approved by the Federal Government, there's a distinct shortage of skilled engineers who are able to do this work."

"The Masters in MSI aims to take engineers who have a few years experience in that sort of environment and accelerate their development. Under normal circumstances, when they join a company, do the work and learn through experience, it might take 10 or 12 years for those people to reach a level where they can function as a systems engineer. We hope to compress that period of time to maybe half."

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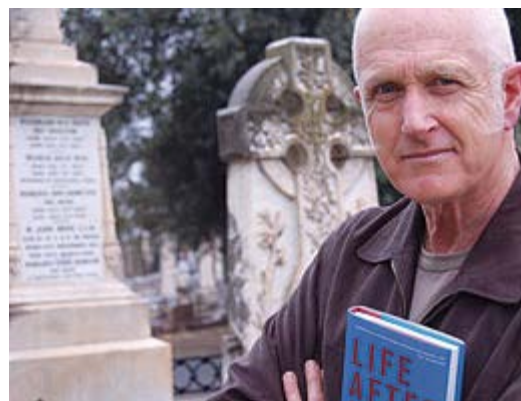
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Resurrecting a lively art form

by Rebecca Gill

Obituaries, once considered the lifeless backwater of newspapers, are making a comeback. *Life After Death: The Art of the Obituary*, the first book by globetrotting researcher of all things deathly literate and international authority on the art form, UniSA's Dr Nigel Starck is leading a revival in the obituary.



Dr Starck's fascination with the necrological began when, as a fledgling reporter, he was assigned to write an obituary for his local paper. The editor sent him back to rewrite the story. Twice. Despite this less than auspicious beginning, Dr Starck is now an expert in these "time capsules in print".

"Obituaries are the best and richest form of journalism, an instant biography. They are beautifully written, elegant, witty, powerful and persuasive," Dr Starck said.

His research took him to the UK and US to interview "obit" editors and trawl through archives dating back centuries.

Dr Starck says the obituary underwent many "sign of the times" transformations during its very rich history. In the late 18th century, obits were often graphic and grotesque, recounting death with blood and guts imagery.

The obituary all but died in the 1920s, and Dr Starck says many believe the Great War simply put people off death.

The 1980s signalled the beginning of the robust writing style we see in obituary pages today. A 1986 obituary for Sir Robert Helpmann, former artistic director of the Australian Ballet, was seen as a catalyst for change.

"The Times in London described him as 'a homosexual of the proselytising kind' and a man of unimpressive appearance. 'Strange, haunting and rather frightening'," Dr Starck said.

"This was highly controversial and set the pattern for a new form. The rule that you couldn't speak ill of the dead no longer applied."

While most obituaries today are not as blunt, Dr Starck says the most entertaining ones don't see the subjects through rose-coloured lenses.

"Candour is refreshing. I think it's perfectly fair to reflect and offer informed criticism. It's a celebration of life."

In *Life After Death*, Dr Starck explores how the obit page, once reserved for royals or the rich and famous, is now frequented by janitors, bus drivers – anyone with a good story to tell.

"These two shifts, from elitist to egalitarian, and from effusive to objective, have greatly contributed the obit's resurrection," he said.

Starck, affectionally known to some as "Doctor Death", also teaches obituary composition to his students at UniSA.

"I teach my students three main things, accuracy, because obituaries are retained and valued; Capturing the spirit of the person, because it's a character study; And you have to extract some anecdotes to do that, to give it humanity and warmth.

"When you write an obit, you feel like you're writing something for history, it's permanent, something that matters. It doesn't have the ephemeral quality that so much journalism has," he said.

"I hope I have inspired students to appreciate obituary writing. It's the fastest growing form of journalism in Australia. Since 1993, eight papers have launched a dedicated obituaries page. And, Australia's most prominent obituarist, Philip Jones, just died last month, so there is a real opening in the market."

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Loyalty rewards

by Vincent Ciccarello

In the era of the portfolio career, when five years in one job is considered a long time, the notion of spending 50 years working for the same organisation is unthinkable.

And so it is with more than a touch of admiration that UniSA News salutes Beverley Schutt, research and academic administrator in the School of Management, who this month celebrates 50 years as an employee of the University and its antecedent institutions.

Bev, who also has the distinction of being the longest-serving employee, will join four staff members who've been employed at UniSA for 40 years and 17 others who've worked in the organisation for 25 years, at a University-wide celebration in October to formally recognise their continuous effort and commitment.

Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley AO will extend a big "thank you" on behalf of the University.

"Bev Schutt's 50 years with UniSA is a remarkable achievement! I am amazed and delighted by her service and loyalty to the University and its founding institutions," the Vice Chancellor said. "The significant number of long-serving staff at UniSA is an indication that we are considered by our toughest critics, our people, to be a flexible and generous employer working in a dynamic and challenging industry."

For her part, Bev owes her first job as junior typist in the School of Mines on a salary of £750 a year to her mother, who applied on her behalf.

"I didn't want to work," Bev said. "Mum objected, 'You've gone to business college, you've got to get a job now'. I said, 'If you want me to work, you get me the job!'."

Bev has worked in various administrative roles across most of the Uni's campuses and has witnessed changes in technology, policies and people over the years but does many of the same things she's always done.

"I seemed to have coped with all the changes, just gone with them and learnt things from them. For me the changes were great, when you consider I was using a big black LC Smith typewriter," she said.

Those who have worked with Bev recall her in earlier days as "the fashion guru, always in stilettos with the painted finger nails and smoking a cigarette" who had prodigious typewriting skills.

"Before PCs and photocopiers, we would have to do multiple carbon copies," one colleague said. "Bev's



last page was always as good as her first, whereas our last few pages were illegible!"

Bev cites one of her career highlights as once again meeting Chancellor David Klingberg – who she knew when he was a student of maths and physics here – at a ceremony for employees who'd served more than 25 years.

"It was just brilliant," Bev said. "It was really my night. I don't care if I never get another farewell or party."

Of course, her colleagues paid no attention, and organised a suitable celebration last weekend.

For those wondering, Bev won't disclose her age, except to say retirement is a vague notion in the distant future.

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Healthy approach to mental illness

by Michèle Nardelli

UniSA is offering an innovative new mental health study option in 2007 which will better prepare a wide range of health professionals for the increasing impact of mental illness in society and the workplace.

Program coordinator at UniSA, Associate Professor Eimear Muir-Cochrane says increases in the incidence of mental illness in the community are making an impact in a wide range of health and care settings.

"Estimates show that more than 20 per cent of the adult population will confront some kind of mental health problem in their lifetime," Prof Muir-Cochrane said. "And for young people that can be as high as 10 to 15 per cent in any one year.

"Given those sorts of statistics it is clear that professionals across a range of health care settings will often find themselves at the 'front-line' in dealing with mental illness. Increasingly they have to consider mental health issues in the treatment and care mix for many patients and clients."

The new Graduate Diploma in Mental Health has been designed specifically to prepare nurses, midwives and a wide range of health service providers from podiatrists and physiotherapists to social workers and occupational therapists to care for clients experiencing mental health problems.

This program is one of only a handful of similar degrees in Australia and Prof Muir-Cochrane says it provides students from diverse health disciplines with a chance to study, collaborate, research and analyse issues together as they would do in their daily work environment.

"Students will engage with a range of issues from prevention strategies and the rights of people with mental illness, to the impact on families and the community," she said. The one year external program is supported by online and teleconference discussions, workshops and a comprehensive package of study materials. Nurses studying the program will undertake a clinical component that can be undertaken in their current workplace.

More information is available from Assoc Prof Eimear Muir-Cochrane on (08) 8302 2751 or via email on eimear.muir-cochrane@unisa.edu.au



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Contemplating competition

by Vincent Ciccarello

It will be strictly business when seven Federal Court judges, prominent lawyers, business people and academics visit the Novotel Barossa Valley Resort this month for the fourth Annual University of South Australia Trade Practices Workshop.

The two-day event, presented by UniSA's Centre for Regulation and Market Analysis (CRMA), is an opportunity for delegates to hear about and discuss current competition, consumer protection and regulation issues.

CRMA Director, Professor David Round, said that by attracting high level presenters, an international guest speaker and representatives from companies affected by competition issues, the workshop has quickly gained the reputation of being the best of its kind in Australia.



"The workshop appeals to judges, lawyers, barristers, regulators, various competition authorities and academics," Prof Round said. "The papers are of an academic, practical and judicial nature.

"We try and get a program that reflects what the key issues are at the moment, but we do have reflective and international comparative pieces as well."

Among this year's guests are Andrew Taylor, a former student of Prof Round and now inquiry director of the UK Competition Commission, and Dr Bob Edgar, senior managing director of ANZ Bank.

Prof Round, a member of the Australian Competition Tribunal and former associate member of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, said previous workshops have attracted speakers from Queensland energy company Energex, international mining company Xstrata, and Qantas, which continues to support the event.

"The workshop has also brought UniSA to the forefront among the legal fraternity," he said. "I think there's no doubt about that. So it's been good for the University."

The UniSA Trade Practices Workshop enjoys the support of Barossa Valley Estate and the Business Law Section of the Law Council of Australia.

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Govt showcases diabetes research

by Vincent Ciccarello

The pioneering research of Professor Robyn McDermott and her team into diabetes in remote Indigenous communities is being showcased in *10 of the best*, a booklet highlighting 10 successful research projects funded by the commonwealth government through the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

With NHMRC Strategic Research and Development Committee award funding of \$414,000 over two years, Prof McDermott and her team worked in partnership with the Torres Strait Health Council, Apunipima Cape York Health Council and Queensland Health to improve primary level diabetes care.

Reductions by up to 40 per cent in serious diabetes complications such as infections, heart, kidney and eye diseases were achieved by establishing a system of chronic care registers, evidence-based care plans, check-ups and referrals managed locally by Indigenous health workers.



Prof McDermott said the research results, which have been published in the Medical Journal of Australia and the British Medical Journal, provide useful data and a framework to further improve the quality of services and clinical outcomes for chronic disease in remote and disadvantaged communities.

"It further demonstrates that a great deal of highly effective routine diabetes care can be provided by local health workers (rather than doctors and nurses) provided they are appropriately trained and supported," she said.

"The project's inclusion in *10 of the best* is great recognition of the team's work over many years," Prof McDermott said.

"This is a unique collaboration between researchers and health workers in challenging remote locations and resource-poor settings. It demonstrates what can be achieved when the best international evidence is adapted to the local situation inside a culture of quality improvement. It also highlights the limits of a purely clinical approach in improving health outcomes.

"Clearly now there is need for action to improve food quality and also physical activity of remote Indigenous communities, if the epidemic of type two diabetes is to be halted."

10 of the best is available on the NHMRC website at www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications

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Technical training aids skill back home

by Rodney Magazinovic

The introduction of a new curriculum at her Sri Lankan university has prompted a lab technician to visit UniSA to learn to teach in a new discipline.

For the past six months, the School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences has hosted a technical officer from Sri Lanka. Shamalie Swarnalatha arrived at UniSA in March as part of a World Bank funded project, which supports educators to travel overseas for study or work placements to develop skills and training that will enhance the development of scientific professionals in developing countries.

Swarnalatha is a technical officer with 20 years' laboratory experience from the Department of Botany at the University of Kelaniya, just outside Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo.

The new discipline of molecular biology and biotechnology was introduced at her university in 2004 and Swarnalatha is in charge of developing the practical side of the course. She says factors such as the availability of limited resources mean the curriculum back home needs to be adapted.

"There is a vast difference between facilities and infrastructure at my university and those at UniSA," she said, "so we will have to make some modifications to how we teach the course in Sri Lanka."

Swarnalatha said she has very much enjoyed working at UniSA and being in Adelaide, where her sister also lives and works.

"Working here has been very good. The people have been friendly and have gone out of their way to help me," she said.

"The facilities here are excellent as is the organisational structure of educating students, so it's been an ideal place to learn."

Swarnalatha will return to Sri Lanka later this month.

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Catching a chaotic cycle

by Rebecca Gill

Many rejoice at the hot weather that summer brings, but few are fond of the mosquitoes that come with it. And while an itch or a buzz can be annoying – the tiny pests are also notorious for something more serious – transmitting diseases.

South Australia periodically suffers outbreaks of two mosquito-borne viral diseases – the Ross River Virus (RRV) and Barmah Forest Virus (BFV) – also known as arboviruses. In 2006, SA has already seen more than 340 cases.



And while most of us will spend our summer dousing ourselves in insect repellent, Dr Craig Williams, from the Mosquito Research Laboratory at UniSA's Sansom Institute, will be trying his best to get among as many mosquitoes as he can.

He and fellow researcher Dr Michael Kokkinn have been funded \$57,000 by the SA Department of Health to investigate the transmission of arbovirus in SA.

"Although arboviruses aren't fatal, they can be very debilitating conditions. In regional areas particularly, RRV can cause enormous social and economic impact," Dr Williams said.

Transmission cycles for arboviral disease varies from state to state. Dr Williams aims to develop a predictive tool for SA outbreaks.

"We are working on a computer based simulation which acts as an early warning system. Historical data will be analysed before going out into the field and gathering mosquitoes, so that the blood in their stomachs can be analysed," he said.

But because of the unusual characteristics of arboviruses, tracking the disease is no easy task.

"Unlike many other mosquito-borne diseases, which have a human-mosquito-human cycle, RRV and BFV are animal-mosquito-human. So to understand how outbreaks occur, we need to know what animals are carrying them, and which of SA's 48 mosquito species are responsible for transmitting them."

Transmission cycles generally vary between states, due to climate and species variation and Dr Williams said it's likely cycles could also vary within SA. This means that in different regions there will be different carriers and transmitters of the virus.

Dr Williams said that the ability to determine where and when an outbreak will occur would be hugely beneficial to regional economy and the social fabric.

"It allows time to undertake preventative mosquito control, even before there is any disease. Interventions can be planned and budgeted for.

"These can be chemical interventions, such as treating the water where the disease-causing species lay their eggs, or it can be as simple as public education," Dr Williams said.

"If you can break the cycle before transmission is out of control, you can save the health system a lot of money."

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Sharing the warmth

by Michèle Nardelli

St Vincent de Paul Society (SA) Inc. and the University of South Australia have joined forces to help warm things up for disadvantaged South Australians who may be living rough.

The project, established by UniSA's Golden Key Honour Society chapter has seen the arrival of Vinnies Clothing Bins in each campus library as part of the 2006 Vinnies Winter Appeal.

Debbie Hooper from the Golden Key UniSA chapter said she believed students would really get behind the effort.

"This is a prime opportunity for uni students to think about what it means to be deprived of basic rights such as warmth and comfort," Hooper said.

Students are being asked to donate winter clothing, blankets and other apparel.

"Each year, thousands of South Australians turn to Vinnies for blankets and warm clothing as part of their battle against the harshness of winter. We are proud to be working in collaboration with Golden Key and UniSA in this project," Christian-Paul Stenta of the St Vincent de Paul Society said.

During the 2006 Winter Appeal, Vinnies aims to raise \$300,000. He said SA support for the appeal had been strong and the student support at UniSA was a great example to others.

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Hawke Centre's 21 big ideas

With 21 presentations on offer this year, attended by an estimated 7000 people and with many more online visitors, the Hawke Centre has been at the forefront of the community engagement agenda of the University of South Australia, working with expert and community partners.



A number of these events have heralded the considerable expertise of our own UniSA staff – from social work lecturer Ann Killen on women and development in the International Alert Series, through to Pro Vice Chancellor Professor Caroline McMillen chairing the impressive lecture of thinker-in-residence Stephen Schneider.

The success of the Adelaide Thinkers in Residence public lectures jointly presented by the Hawke Centre was noted by Premier Mike Rann during his recent UniSA honorary doctorate acceptance speech.

Director Elizabeth Ho says that the Hawke Centre's focus on challenging and topical issues is attracting a loyal audience and the remaining 2006 program will "deliver more to those who really want to know".

On October 3, the hugely successful International Alert Series, presented with World Vision Australia and AusAID, will conclude with Bob Hawke, Tim Costello and Charles Tapp sharing their wisdom on Keeping the peace: avoiding the cost of conflict in humanitarian aid and examining the huge impost wreaked by war and natural disaster on aid programs.

Nuclear energy is back on the agenda. But can we really expect nuclear power to replace fossil fuels as a source of energy? Two opposing experts will debate this question at an event on October 25 co-presented with the Australian and New Zealand Solar Energy Society and chaired by media identity Terry Lane.

Adelaide Parklands: a balancing act, co-presented with UniSA's Centre for Settlement Studies and the Adelaide Parklands Preservation Society from November 10 to 12 features an expert symposium, public lecture and tours.

The Centre will also turn the lens on terrorism on November 9, co-presenting with Issues Deliberation Australia/America the Australian premiere screening of *Beyond Fear: Finding Hope in the Horror*. Based on an expert international assembly, *Beyond Fear* explains the aftermath experienced by terror victims and questions the community's preparedness to deal with the deeper impact of terrorism. The audience will also hear from Jason McCartney, former AFL footballer and 2002 Bali bombing survivor.

On November 20, ACTU Secretary Greg Combet (pictured right) makes the case for a new Australian consensus for the 21st century at the Annual Hawke Lecture.

For event bookings and information visit www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au



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