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UniSA News

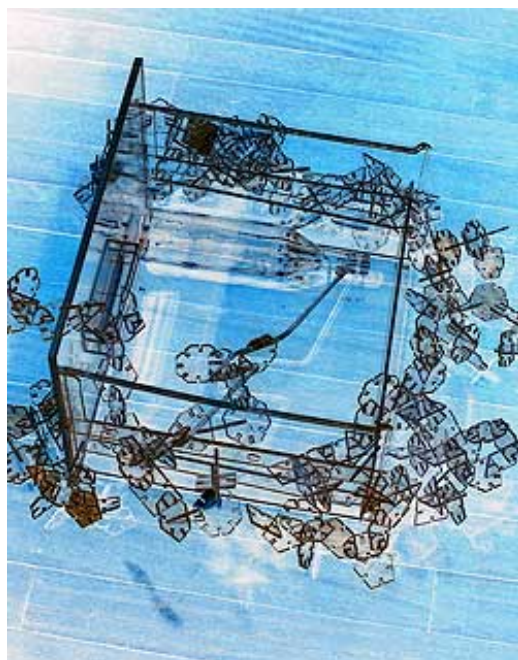
A newspaper of the University of South Australia

November/December 2003

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Main stories



Samstag scholars set for success

Don't get caught up in the pursuit of success at the expense of your imagination. That was one of the messages that British visual arts personality Matthew Collings sent to the six recipients of the 2004 Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships when he announced the awards on October 31 at the Art Gallery of South Australia. [Full Story](#)



Hair analysis reveals lifestyles of ancient and modern peoples

Cheating, copying, or making a mistake

Team UniSA to take on tour



Unlocking the secrets of bone disease

Australia spends about \$6 billion a year directly and indirectly on osteoporosis and related fractures.

Breakthroughs by researchers at UniSA in understanding the basis of this disease could lead

UniSA will host the nation's first conference to look at the controversial issue of plagiarism and aspects of integrity in education.

to dramatic improvements for the nation's two million sufferers.

Extras

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[2004 UniSANews schedule](#)

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From the Chancellery

by [Professor Denise Bradley AO](#)
Vice Chancellor and President



Reflecting on a successful year

As the year draws to a close, it is time to look back as an institution and remember all that has been experienced and achieved. Globally, 2003 has been a year of turbulence and uncertainty. As a University, we have been focussing on how we can contribute to making the world a more harmonious place – through our own example of living together and respecting each other in an environment of racial and cultural diversity.

This focus on harmony was expressed in a number of ways throughout the year, particularly through events such as the School of Social Work and Social Policy's

celebration of cultural diversity at Murray House; cross-cultural Friendship Lunches presented by Learning Connection and USASA on each metropolitan campus; UniSA's 2003 International Food and Cultural Festival; and the Annual Hawke Lecture where the Hon Gareth Evans AO QC, President and CEO of the International Crisis Group spoke on 'Waging War and Making Peace'.

At a local level, the issues at the forefront of our minds throughout 2003 included the outcomes of the Nelson Review of Higher Education, preparation for our quality audit by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) in early 2004 and the start of a new round of bargaining to establish an Enterprise Agreement.

Although we are still awaiting the outcomes of all of these processes, I believe we are well placed to meet the challenges ahead. This

view has been supported by an independent Readiness Assessment Report produced in May by David Phillips, of Phillips Curran Ltd of what we thought then would be a more deregulated system! This concluded UniSA is organisationally ready for any increased deregulation and competition.

Also in 2003, UniSA reviewed its 'over the horizon' document developed in 1999, UniSA2005. Following an extensive consultation process, UniSA2010 was approved by Council. The document set targets for students and staff, academic profile, research, teaching and learning, the learning environment and services. The targets established in UniSA2010 are not fixed but may be altered through the annual corporate planning and environmental scanning process.

The new UniSA corporate website went live in August this year.

In addition to redesigning the corporate webpages, the project produced new information architecture, web accessibility compliant templates, publishing tools, author support tools and new processes and technology to support it. The project led to the updating of some 1000 pages and the deletion or replacement of countless others. The new site meets Priority 1 compliance of the Web Accessibility Initiatives issued by the World Wide Web Consortium.

2002 saw the retirement of a well know University character – Professor Kym Adey. More than 160 staff and external friends of the University attended his farewell in February. Chancellery also farewelled Dr Alan Bundy, University Librarian, who acted in Kym's position for a number of months and then was Acting PVC: Organisational Change and Development. With Alan's departure, we welcomed Associate Professor Rigmor

George into the role of PVC: Access and Learning Support. We also welcomed Professor Hilary Winchester as the new PVC: Organisational Change and Development. Hilary's major task for the year has been leading UniSA's preparation for the 2004 AUQA Audit.

2003 was also a year of launches, openings and celebrations. Some significant events included:

- A number of property-focussed events including the opening of the new Learning Connection building at the Magill campus and the launch of the first development in the University's \$100m Capital program, Blueprint 2005 at the City East campus in March.
- Opening of a number of centres, in collaboration with industry and

government including: the South Australian Centre for Tourism, the Centre for Environmental Risk Assessment and Remediation, the Raytheon Australia Geospatial Acquisition Centre, the SA node of the Distributed Systems Technology Centre (DSTC) and the official launch of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Enterprise Distributed Systems Technology. The Helping Hand Aged Care Centre at Mawson Lakes was also officially opened.

- Several significant inaugural alumni events including the launch of the Pt Augusta Alumni Chapter by the three SA

Universities, the first gathering of the UniSA Indigenous Alumni Chapter in May and the official launch of the new UK Alumni Chapter between the three SA Universities held in London in September this year.

My very best wishes to all members of the UniSA community for the festive season and for 2004. I have no doubt you will help to make it another year of achievements and successes.

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News in brief

Economics conference call for papers

Organisers are calling for submissions for papers to be presented at a major international economic education conference to be hosted by UniSA's Centre for Applied Economics in July 2004.

The conference, What We Teach and How We Teach It: Perspectives on Economics from Around the Globe, will focus on the teaching of economics at tertiary level around the world. Keynote speakers already confirmed include Ted Bergstrom (University of California), Edward Chen (Lingnan University, Hong Kong) and Avinash Dixit (Princeton University).

Abstracts no longer than 300 words are due by February 27, 2004 and should be emailed to kellie.wright@unisa.edu.au. For more information visit the conference website at www.ecoed.unisa.edu.au

A well kept secret

Most people are not aware that the UniSA library has an archival collection which includes material about the University or written by members of University staff. The Deposit Materials (DM) collection contains staff publications, as well as theses and university publications such as annual reports and research reports. Some examples of staff publications in the collection are Bodily alterations: An introduction to a sociology of the body for health workers by Wendy Seymour, One foot on the ladder: Origins and outcomes of girls secondary schooling in South Australia by Alison Mackinnon and With Lane in Paraguay: Harry Taylor of "The Murray pioneer", 1873-1932 by Don Gobbett. If you have a publication you would like to donate to the DM collection, contact your liaison librarian to discuss it.

UniSA wins gold

UniSA has won the Electronics Industry Association's Gold Cup for excellence in taking its turbo coding technology for satellite modems through innovative product development and manufacturing processes to commercialisation in national and global markets. This is the first time that the EIA Cup, awarded for excellence in engineering and commercialisation of a product or service within or for the electronics industry in SA, has been won by a group other than a

'traditional' industry, according to Jeff Kasparian, business manager at UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research.

"Together with UniSA's commercialisation incubator, ITEK, the ITR has the resources to combine new research in turbo-like codes with extremely cost efficient implementation, backed up by a good engineering team. This has resulted in the performance of our satellite modem being significantly better than the competition, enabling us to successfully compete on the global market," he said

UniSA email card available soon

An animated email version of the corporate greeting card will be made available to all University staff for the first time this year. The email version has been designed to complement the paper greeting card, and will be sent to all staff for distribution in early December. It will be made available free of charge.

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Five to nine

by [Thel Krollig](#)

Search for inner beauty a passion for artist

If May Walker-Jeffreys is running late, it may well be because she's pulled off the side of the road somewhere and found herself just breathing in the beauty of her surroundings.

As a project officer for the Spencer Gulf Rural Health School in Whyalla, May makes time to stop and reflect on life's inner beauty through the eyes of an artist.



"I have always had a passion for visual arts but about five years ago I had a wake up call that made me realise that to achieve things in this lifetime you have to be committed to achieving your dreams, so I took up painting with the local art group," says May.

Now she finds herself juggling work, study, family and a commitment to her artwork, aiming to contribute towards two exhibitions per year at the local gallery, as well as being involved in other community arts programs. She says her approach to life has changed since she has been painting.

"I see beyond an object and look to the inner beauty, the light and shadows that bounce off the object, the natural hues of the object, the intensity of the object, whatever it may be. My painting medium varies from oils to watercolour depending on what I am painting and the mood I am in at the time.

"I like to think that some of my work is a little abstract, in that I use vibrant colours and I enjoy producing work that shows my first impression – what caught my eye, rather than looking like a photograph."

One of May's greatest achievements has been her contribution to the community through

applying and winning grants to further develop local artist's skills through workshops with renowned artists, challenging local artists to look outside the square.

She recently obtained a grant through Country Arts SA and OneSteel, Whyalla to enable local artists to receive tutoring from SA artist Harry Sherwin, which accumulated in an exhibition, Still Life in Oils, held during SALA week.

“The significance here is that Whyalla has finally been included in the SALA week program and will hopefully continue to grow, through the arts. This project has resulted in an increased networking of artists both within and external to the city, hence decreasing social isolation that is so common within the rural/remote communities.”

As vice president of the local art group May aims to continue to provide the opportunity for aspiring artists to come along to the group and discover their hidden talents.

“I find time in my busy schedule to continue to paint and record my impression of the fantastic environment in which we live.”

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Browser Briefs

by [Karen Williams](#)

A national treasure trove

This site holds a veritable wealth of information about Australian history, Australian society and the Australian people. Did you know for example that Harold Holt was the first prime minister to employ a speech writer? Or that you can view a list of theses, journal articles and books on each prime minister since Federation in 1901? The collection covers areas as diverse as family history, cabinet, defence, federation, foreign relations, indigenous records, prime ministers, security, and transport. While most records in the collection are files, National Archives of Australia (NAA) also holds significant posters, maps, architectural drawings, films, playscripts and musical scores. The aim of NAA is to care for valuable commonwealth government records and make them available for present and future generations to use. The website states that thousands of people use the site each year – including academics, genealogists, local historians, hobbyists, journalists, lawyers, students, and so on. So if you'd ever like to see an early draft of the Australian constitution or trace the 46 final entries in the design competition for Canberra, or you'd like to trace an ancestor who served in either of the World Wars, this site is a good starting point. www.naa.gov.au

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Classifieds

Advertising in the classifieds section is available to staff of UniSA. Email classifieds to unisa.news@unisa.edu.au.

For sale

Boat – the School of PMBS has for sale a 3.6 m Dynous inflatable boat. Features: boat and trailer registered till Jul 04; a 2001, 15Hp Mercury outboard motor that has had only 3-4 hours use. Extras include an electric motor, 4 x PFD's, EPIRB and flares. Price \$4000. Any queries phone Richard on 8302 2360

Mitsubishi Magna TJ Executive V6 Auto Black sedan with sports pack, CD, Air bags, trip computer, low kilometres, many extras including in car mobile phone kit. Exc cond with balance of factory warranty. \$19,995. Phone Mary on 8302 0471 or mobile 0412 054 966

Accommodation wanted

Housesitters – former UniSA staff member and partner available for housesitting while their house is undergoing renovations. Have mastered all household/gardening chores and both have been well trained by an assortment of pets! Any area considered. Refs available on request. Avail Nov/Dec 2003 and from March 2004 for 2-3 months. Contact Chris or John on (08) 8332 4474, (08) 8172 9275 or 0421 547 544

Housesitting service available March to May 2004. Moving from interstate in 2004, tidy, love for animals, able to attend to their needs. Refs available. Phone Leanne on (03) 6393 1050 or email leanne.hoffmann@mvc.tas.gov.au

Wanted to rent: small fully equipped house, unit or apartment, suitable for couple visiting UniSA from mid-February to the end of June. Prefer inner eastern or close to city. Phone 8302 3196 or email david.panton@unisa.edu.au

For rent

Holiday rental in Sydney – studio garden flat in Randwick, eastern Sydney available for Dec-Jan at \$180 per week. Next to Centennial Park, close beaches. Suit single person or couple at most. Call Shelagh on 0402 142 117

Kensington Park – private 2br colonial homette, fully furnished and appointed. LU garage, garden entertainment area. Suit visiting academic. Available Dec/Jan 2004 for one or two semesters. \$190 pw. Ph/fax (08) 8331 9628 email john_shorter@yahoo.com.

Victor Harbor 2br bch apartment in historic building. Balcony, bbq, aircon, computer/internet, pool, minutes to the beach. Sleeps 4. \$140 per night (UniSA discount available). Phone 0414 239 784 or email ingrid.day@unisa.edu.au

Wanted

10,000 old books required for church charitable bookshop. Proceeds help youth support services. Email david@kazoo.net.au

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Academic Board

by [Peter Cardwell](#)
Executive Officer

The following was noted at the September 2003 meeting of the Academic Board.

Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) trial audit

The Pro Vice Chancellor (Organisational Change and Development), Prof Hilary Winchester, provided an update on the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) trial audit, which was undertaken between October 16-17, 2003. The draft performance portfolio had been completed, and feedback on the document from the University community was excellent.

The Pro Vice Chancellor expressed her thanks to all those who had offered suggestions and comments on the draft, and those who were involved in reworking and rewriting parts of it. Numerous changes had been made, and the second draft provided a comprehensive picture of the University, what we are trying to achieve and how we manage progress towards our goals.

Doctor of Business Administration

Academic Board approved a Category 3 Submission from the International Graduate School of Management (IGSM) seeking to revise the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program.

The proposal emanates from an IGSM Review of the DBA program, and is consistent with the Division of Business and Enterprise's commitment to continuous quality improvement, as well as IGSM's commitment to ensuring that changing business and stakeholder needs are reflected in its programs.

In addition, the proposal reflects the need for a shift in marketing emphasis for future intakes to incorporate an exit award, the Master of Advanced Business Practice, for those candidates not proceeding beyond the coursework phase of the program.

Committee terms of reference

The Board discussed proposed amendments to the Research Degrees Committee (RDC)'s terms of reference, and following discussion it was agreed to refer them back for further refinement.

Part of the rationale behind the proposed changes is to move the focus of RDC more explicitly towards strategic issues, and away from a primary focus on the administration of research degrees.

The changes involve the inclusion of professional doctorates within the terms of reference, as well as specific reference to Research Degree Graduate Qualities and quality assurance mechanisms. At the same time, the amendments seek to clarify the membership of RDC.

Changes to the existing terms of reference and membership of the University Teaching and Learning Committee (TALC) were approved in principle, subject to the outcome of the current review of Academic Board and its sub-committees being undertaken by the Directors of Planning and Assurance Services and Council Services and Chancellery.

The changes to the terms of reference are designed to assist TALC to better fulfil its role in leading the implementation of the University's teaching and learning agenda, and to strengthen the committee's reporting relationship to Academic Board. The proposed membership changes will see the addition of a Head of School to the committee and the Manager of Aboriginal and Islander Support Unit.

It was agreed that the Chair of Academic Board, Assoc Prof Adrian Vicary, will facilitate a meeting between the Chairs of the Board's four major sub-committees with the review team to ensure consistency in the committees' terms of reference. Assoc Prof Vicary will also be speaking to Divisional Pro Vice Chancellors in the near future with a view towards improving the reporting relationships between Division/Whyalla Boards and Academic Board.

[Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship](#)

The Andrew Knox Memorial Scholarship was approved. Andrew, a former UniSA student, was tragically killed at the World Trade Centre in New York on 11 September 2001. The scholarship valued at \$18,000, which is open to PhD, post-doctoral and Masters degree by research students, has been funded by the State Government and the Australian Workers' Union.

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Research Update

www.unisa.edu.au/orc/

Below is a list of new grant and fellowship opportunities that have become available in the last month. If you would like details of other current grant or fellowship opportunities please visit our website:

Current grant opportunities

www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/grants.htm

Current international funding opportunities

www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/international.htm

Current research fellowship and award opportunities

www.unisa.edu.au/orc/grants/fellowships.htm

For further information please contact the grants officer on (08) 8302 5229 or email Natalie.Thorpe@unisa.edu.au

New grant opportunities

Australian Research Council

Linkage-Projects Round 2

Linkage Projects supports research and development projects which are collaborative between higher education researchers and industry, which are undertaken to acquire new knowledge, and which involve risk or innovation. www.arc.gov.au/grant_programs/linkage_projects.htm

Applications forms for Linkage-Projects Round 2 will be available on GAMS shortly.

Internal closing date 14 Nov 2003

External closing date 28 Nov 2003

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Research grants

Invites applications to support research relating to the Australian fishing sector under three

research programmes: natural resources sustainability; industry development; and human capital development.

www.frdc.com.au/research/applicants/

Internal closing date 16 Nov 2003

External closing date 1 Dec 2003

Diabetes Vaccine Development Centre (DVDC)

Expressions of interest

The DVDC is seeking Expressions of Interest from groups requiring support for projects aimed at immune intervention therapies for type 1 diabetes.

www.dvdc.org.au

Internal closing date 20 Oct 2003

External closing date 1 Nov 2003

Bonnie Babes

Grant application

Supports research into stillbirth, miscarriage and prematurity. The support is generally for the purchase of equipment essential for the research or for maintenance funds or PhD scholarships for new, innovative research. Funding from \$2,000 to \$20,000.

www.bbf.org.au

Internal closing date 5 Nov 2003

External closing date 14 Nov 2003

International funding opportunities

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)

Research grants

Research grants are awarded to investigators conducting clinical, biological, or psychosocial research on the problem of suicide. Grants can be directed towards research on suicide from a variety of disciplines – psychiatry, medicine, psychology, genetics, epidemiology, neurobiology and many others. Grant applications compete in five categories: pilot grants; young investigator grants; standard research grants; distinguished researcher awards; and postdoctoral research fellowships.

www.afsp.org/research/grants.htm

Internal closing date 1 Dec 2003

External closing date 15 Dec 2003

Fellowship and award opportunities

Harvard University

Centre for Ethics and the Professions – Faculty Fellowships in Ethics

Supports outstanding teachers and scholars who wish to develop their ability to address

questions of moral choice in such areas as: business; education; government; law; medicine; and public policy. Applicants must hold a doctorate or professional degree.

ethics.harvard.edu/fellowships_faculty.php

Internal closing date 20 Nov 2003

External closing date 4 Dec 2003

World Health Organisation

Postdoctoral Fellowship for Training in Cancer Research

Applications invited from junior scientists wishing to be trained in those aspects of cancer research related to: epidemiology; biostatistics; environmental and viral carcinogenesis; cancer prevention; molecular cell biology; molecular genetics; biochemistry; immunology; molecular pathology; and mechanisms of carcinogenesis. Applications are encouraged from epidemiologists and laboratory scientists for interdisciplinary training that will facilitate the conduct of genetic and molecular epidemiological research.

www.iarc.fr/pageroot/EDUCATION/postdoc_abroad.html

Internal closing date 16 Dec 2003

External closing date 31 Dec 2003

Searching for a scholarship?

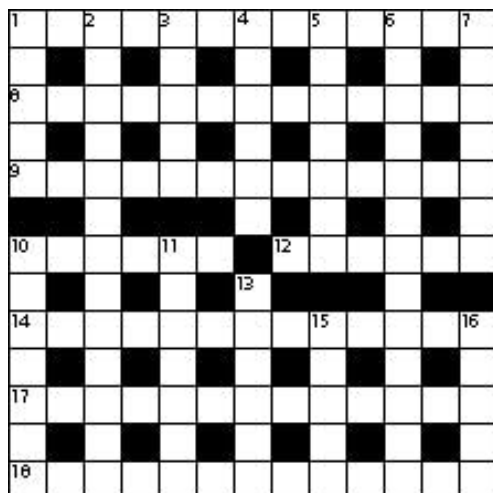
The Joint Academic Scholarships Online Network (JASON) is a national online system of postgraduate scholarships. Load your own profile.

www.jason.unimelb.edu.au/

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Colgan's Cryptic Crossword



ACROSS

1. One aiming to succeed, seafarer captures a siren (6,7)
8. Under consideration is where to put tobacco stock (2,3,8)
9. Martyr's tragic setback at home (6,1,6)
10. Open accusation (6)
12. Smart family's end to penny-pinching (6)
14. Aspidistra found in Whyalla, possibly (4-4,5)
17. Tour leader muddles up a large sequence of overseas trips (7,6)
18. Police device, an instrument to go after drugs (5,8)

DOWN

1. A Dickensian end to the story? (5)
2. Told to make correction of article on graduation process (4,2,7)
3. Used to purge content of obscene magazines (5)
4. Red rug making centre (6)
5. Expose to extreme temperature, expelling hot pig out (7)
6. George VI, possibly, gives a colourful rendering of a soliloquy (8,5)
7. There's no good in inexperienced judge making a comeback (7)
10. Creates a frenzy about it, almost too much! (7)
11. An allowance provided in forward pay (7)
13. It's used on the hair of an animal, they say (6)
15. Spaniard named to play Balboa, oddly enough (5)

Solution and explanations

T	A	R	G	E	T	S	H	O	O	T	E	R
W	I	N	H	V	H	E						
I	N	T	H	E	P	I	P	E	L	I	N	E
S	E	M	R	R	N	N						
T	H	O	M	A	S	A	B	E	C	K	E	T
	F					Z	A	I		R		
E	X	P	O	S	E		S	T	I	N	G	Y
X	A	T	M									
C	A	S	T	I	R	O	N	P	L	A	N	T
I	S	P	U	A	L	U						
T	R	A	V	E	L	S	A	B	R	O	A	D
E	G	N	S	L	U	O						
S	P	E	E	D	R	E	C	O	R	D	E	R

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

- C: seafarer (tar) captures (gets) siren (hooter) S: one aiming to succeed = target shooter
- C: where to put tobacco (in the pipe) stock (line) S: under consideration = in the pipeline
- C: tragic setback at home (anagram of "setback at home") S: martyr = Thomas a Becket
- S: open = expose S: accusation = exposé
- C: smart (sting) family's end (y) S: penny-pinching = stingy
- C: found in Whyalla, possibly (cast-iron plant) S: aspidistra = cast-iron plant
- C: tour leader (t) muddles up (ravels) a (a) large (broad) S: sequence of overseas trips = travels abroad
- C: instrument (recorder) after drugs (following "speed") S: police device = speed recorder

DOWN

- C: end to the story? (twist) S: a Dickensian = Twist
- C: told to make correction (homonym of "right") of (of) article (passage) S: graduation process = rite of passage
- C: content of obscene magazines (part of "obscene magazines") S: used to purge = enema
- S: red = shiraz S: rug making centre = Shiraz
- C: expose to extreme temperature (overheat) expelling hot (remove H) S: pig out = overeat

6. C: George VI, possibly (thin king) a (a) colourful (loud) S: rendering of a soliloquy (thinking aloud)
7. C: there's no good in inexperienced (remove "G" from "green") judge (try) S: comeback = reentry
10. C: about it, almost too much (around "it" is "exces") S: creates a frenzy = excites
11. C: allowance provided (tip) in forward (inside "send") S: pay = stipend
13. C: an animal, they say (homonym of "moose") S: it's used on the hair = mousse
15. C: play Balboa, oddly enough (only letters 1,3,5,7,9) S: Spaniard named = Pablo
16. C: 500 (D) inhabit up-beat (inside "rout" upwards) S: house = Tudor

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Samstag scholars set for success

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Don't get caught up in the pursuit of success at the expense of your imagination. That was one of the messages that British visual arts personality Matthew Collings sent to the six recipients of the 2004 Anne and Gordon Samstag International Visual Arts Scholarships when he announced the awards on October 31 at the Art Gallery of South Australia.

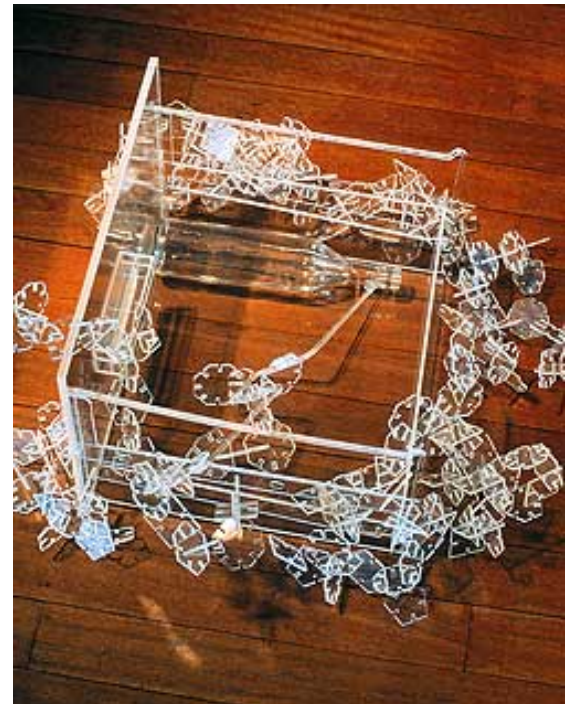
"I urge you all to think beyond the art scene," he said. "Read books about the history of art, have some points of reference beyond whether or not your name appears in the art magazines."

"If you can, get outside of the mental prism of the success stream, then you will be more able to make a contribution to art and society."

It will probably turn out to be valuable advice for the 2004 Samstagers – Julie Henderson, Tim Sterling, Guy Benfield, Louisa Bufardeci, Simone Slee and TV Moore – who will spend a year studying art overseas as a result of their awards.

Being named a Samstager is in itself a huge success – the scholarships are widely regarded as a gilt-edged passport to professional success in the visual arts.

Established 12 years ago thanks to an extraordinary bequest by Gordon Samstag (an American artist who taught at the SA School of Art in the 1960s and 70s) the UniSA-administered scholarships offer recipients a 12-month living allowance of US\$28,000 as well as covering travel expenses and institutional study fees.





It's a once in a lifetime opportunity that SA-based artists and UniSA graduates Julie Henderson and Tim Sterling intend to grab with both hands – with both planning to head to the UK next year.

“It's just a thoroughly exciting proposition to have that period of time to not have to think about anything else except developing your body of

work,” Henderson said. “It's great both for

Adelaide artists and people Australia-wide, to be able to have that lift – I really couldn't be happier.”

Samstag director Ross Wolfe says the true dimensions of Gordon Samstag's vision are inestimable and will only grow clear with time. “Mr Samstag's scheme has proved quite shrewd, because it has securely embedded these emerging artists in the creative milieu of an art school, surrounded by mentors, support systems and colleagues, whereas the usual destination of Australian artists heading overseas these days is a studio – by comparison an isolated and disconnected experience.”

For more information about the Samstag scholarships visit the website at www.unisa.edu.au/samstag/

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Hair analysis reveals lifestyles of ancient and modern peoples

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

UniSA researchers are applying modern technology using hair analysis to reveal new information about the lifestyles of people from ancient and modern times. Their findings include information on the dietary habits of ancient Peruvian communities and lead contamination levels in hair from smelter workers at Port Pirie.



The interest in hair analysis began following collaboration with the South Australian Forensic Science Centre on detecting narcotics and other drugs, according to Dr William Skinner, senior research fellow at UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute (IWRI). Using surface analytical techniques, PhD student Ivan Kempson was able to detect very low levels of mineral and organic contamination within hair structures and on the hair surface.

That work has since expanded because the potential for testing other aspects of hair was realised.

"Our collaboration with Professor Ron Martin from the University of Western Ontario over a number of years on various environmental research projects led to us answering a global email request for selected people with analytical expertise to look at tissue samples from a 550 year old 'Iceman' found in a glacier in the Yukon in Canada," Dr Skinner said. "By combining our analysis with conventional techniques we found evidence of fossilisation, which helped to interpret some of the results found previously by other investigators.

"Professor Andrew Nelson, also from the University of Western Ontario, invited us to be involved in analysing hair and clothing fibres from ancient Peruvian communities. Analysis of hair from mummies up to 1,500 years old shows that the burial environment has a much greater effect on the hair constituents than previously believed. Work is continuing to improve how we analyse hair, with the aim of separating these environmental effects from the true hair biology," Dr Skinner said.

Another UniSA study to determine lead levels in hair from smelter workers at Port Pirie confirmed that hair surfaces contained much higher levels of contamination from the environment than was present within the physiological makeup of the hair.

The majority of the lead measured was on the surface of the hair, which meant that most of the lead was from environmental contamination, rather than from the bloodstream. Conventional methods of whole hair analysis would yield results heavily biased by this surface contamination. The testing of lead smelter workers is continuing to compare results of UniSA's hair analysis with blood test results.

Other findings using hair analysis have identified the dietary habits of individuals, allowing investigators to determine whether they were part of a predominantly cereal, meat or fish/marine eating community.

“Hair analysis can give us indications of nutritional deficiencies, diseases, exposure to toxins or pollutants, potentially exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, and even products used to dye hair. We are investigating methods of monitoring the use and abuse of prescription and illicit drugs, including drugs like cocaine and marijuana or their metabolites.”

Why use hair analysis? Hair is much less invasive than a urine or blood sample, no qualifications are needed to collect samples, it has the potential to do very large surveys and is less expensive than conventional analysis.

Dr Skinner believes hair analysis has a big future in forensics to detect drugs such as narcotics or pharmaceuticals; monitoring toxic metals in large populations; and anthropological and archaeological research. “Possibly the most lucrative potential application is in professional sports, where hair analysis may reveal banned substances,” he said.

“Hair care manufacturers have also expressed interest in our hair analysis to gain an understanding of what is happening at the hair surface, because not that much is known about the chemistry of the surface of the hair. If manufacturers know more about hair composition, they could develop products that work effectively without damaging or degrading the hair.”

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Cheating, copying, or making a mistake

National conference opens debate on plagiarism in education

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

UniSA will host the nation's first conference to look at the controversial issue of plagiarism and aspects of integrity in education on November 21 to 22.

For the first time delegates from universities, colleges and schools around the country and overseas will come together to take a good look at cheating and plagiarism its prevalence, the differences between deliberate and unintentional plagiarism and the systems educational institutions can put in place to detect and minimise the incidence.

Leading Australian researcher in the field, Helen Marsden says while the topic has been controversial in the media in Australia recently, plagiarism is definitely a worldwide phenomena and the conference will present some of the latest international research dealing with the issues.

Guest speakers include US Professor of Organisational Management at Rutgers University, Donald L McCabe.

McCabe's research includes a survey of 25,000 students over a 12-year period examining trends in cheating and plagiarism.

Visiting specialist Jude Carroll works at Oxford Brooks University as an academic but now also runs workshops around the world on topics linked to adult learning. In the past four years she has been researching deterrents to plagiarism and in 2001 she took part in a national project in the UK to look at the effectiveness of electronic detection systems in higher education that led to the foundation of a Plagiarism Advisory Service now available to all universities and colleges in the UK.

Another highlight of the conference will be a hypothetical to be hosted by Stuart Littlemore QC looking at plagiarism in Australia.

Marsden says she hopes the conference will open up new information and strong debate on how to battle plagiarism, improve the systems to deal with cheats but also educate students in how to

use the research and knowledge others have developed in ways that are legitimate and encourage learning.

For more information go to www.unisa.edu.au/educationalintegrity/index.htm

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Team UniSA to take on tour

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

New team jerseys, some fresh faces and some perennial favourites, but the same determination to burn up the track. Team UniSA will continue to offer home crowds something to cheer about in this season's Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under to be held from January 20 to 25.



Team UniSA has taken on the mantle of the 'South Australian team' garnering support from across the state for its up-and-coming riders. Since the University came on board as a sponsor of the team in 2001, cycling enthusiasts have seen Gene Bates emerge from his status as a promising 17-year old junior to one of Australia's leading riders in the under 23 years rankings.

According to team manager Michele Primaro, Bates is a name to watch in Australian cycling and hopes are high that he will soon join one of the elite European teams.

At the other end of the spectrum, local hero Patrick Jonker will make the 2004 tour his cycling finale.

Primaro says Jonker is looking to make this last tour his best.

"Patrick has been one of Australia's premier riders for almost 10 years, finishing 11th in this year's Tour de France," he said. "At 34 he is looking to move on to new things but like any athlete who has spent years devoted to his sport, he wants to go out on a high note. We have big expectations of him for the Tour Down Under – it will be so special for him in so many ways, that it will provide added incentive to take it up a notch."

Primaro says Brett Aitken will also be looking for a peak performance in the lead up to the 2004 Olympic Games.

Other riders to watch will be Luke Roberts, another SA local who has consistently performed well

in the Tour Down Under and who ran second by a hair's breadth in the Sun Herald Tour held in Victoria in October 2003.

So if talent, determination and purpose have any influence on the race outcomes, Team UniSA may well be one of the most dynamic to watch in the 2004 Jacobs Creek Tour Down Under. Primaro says they are hoping the team will gather huge support this year from local cycling fans.

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Unlocking the secrets of bone disease

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

Australia spends about \$6 billion a year directly and indirectly on osteoporosis and related fractures. Breakthroughs by researchers at UniSA in understanding the basis of this disease could lead to dramatic improvements for the nation's two million sufferers.

UniSA's Centre for Biomolecular Studies led by Professor Allan Bretag has made one of the biggest contributions worldwide to understanding how chloride channels work, and how chloride ions permeate the channels.

Chloride channels are proteins that occur in the membranes of all cells, allowing chloride, part of common salt, in and out of cells, according to Prof Bretag.

"In all people, osteoblast cells deposit bone, while osteoclast cells dissolve it in a continuously balanced fashion that favours bone deposition while growing but frequently favours dissolution of bone (osteoporosis) during ageing. Bone is dissolved because osteocytes secrete hydrogen ions and chloride ions (through chloride channels) and, when combined, these make hydrochloric acid," Prof Bretag said.

"The opposite happens in a disease called osteopetrosis, where bones become so dense that blood vessels cannot pass through. It occurs because the chloride channels don't work and so osteoclasts are unable to produce hydrochloric acid or to dissolve bone."

Armed with his knowledge of how to produce chloride channel proteins by genetic engineering (and of the kinds of drugs that block or open the channels) Prof Bretag says he will be able to slow down the rate of dissolving bone to treat osteoporosis. He anticipates the research will help find solutions for a range of other medical conditions including epilepsy, several different kidney and muscle diseases, as well as being implicated in infertility, brain abnormalities, at least one kind of blindness and some very aggressive brain tumours.

"Interestingly, the importance of ion channels, of their structure and of their involvement in disease has been recognised this year by the award of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Professor Roderick MacKinnon of the Rockefeller University, New York", he said. "Rod and I have been

sharing our discoveries on ion channels for several years.”

“Our group at UniSA has a wealth of knowledge on how to produce channels in cells, so we can study the kinds of drugs that might block or open them. We can work out where in the DNA is the part of the gene known as the promoter region, which has to be activated in order for the gene to make protein. By interfering with the promoter region, we can interfere with how a gene makes a channel protein and how much is made, adjusting the levels up or down – down to treat osteoporosis and up to treat osteopetrosis.”

Prof Bretag is leading the study with UniSA researchers Associate Professor Bernie Hughes, Dr Paul Bartley, three PhD students and one honours student, along with colleagues at IMVS, the Hanson Centre and Adelaide University, and internationally, in Genoa and Hamburg.

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UniSA students get active with special kids

More than 170 children with disabilities had a ball on November 6 when they travelled to the Mawson Lakes oval complex for a day of fun and physical activity with UniSA students.

Coinciding with physical education week, 'Out and About in the North' brought together students from 13 different special schools in the northern district with 90 UniSA students, mostly from the human movement and education programs.



With the event incorporated as part of the curriculum in the 'coaching principles' course, the UniSA students planned sporting activities appropriate to the needs of students with disabilities and provided hands-on support at each station.

Activities included dance, wheelchair sports, games, throwing, gymnastics, athletics, volleyball and kicking.

Event organiser and UniSA senior lecturer, Dr Graham Dodd, said the event was designed to "encourage and empower" students with disabilities who had limited access to organised activities.

"And the UniSA students loved it as well. It's an opportunity for them to put what they're learning about coaching in class into practice."

Out and About in the North was organised by Joanna Seymour (Disability Services in the Department of Education and Community Services) Kerin Cross and Aimié Ellis (SPARC Disability Foundation), Rebecca Avery (Recreation SA) and Graham Dodd (UniSA).



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Fun and frivolity in the mud at Whyalla

by Cathy Hughes

While Adelaide has embraced the World Cup rugby event with great enthusiasm, Whyalla recently offered its own unique version of rugby...in the mud.

Friday November 7 was the day that teams of university students forgot their end of year



exams and cavorted around in mud for an afternoon of rugby fun and excitement.

The annual Mud Rugby competition got underway with teams of 10 people playing a round robin series to decide the eventual winner of the prestigious Avaschit award.

UniSA student association spokesperson Teresa Holland said the competition was keenly attended, with a couple of Adelaide based students, including student association president Scott McFarlane, making the trip to join in with the game and celebrations.



“Each year it gets bigger...with this year being particularly popular, given the current media coverage about the world rugby competition,” she said.

The fun started at about 12.30pm with a quick tug-o-war competition before competitors braced themselves for the real action – which was followed by an after match party at the Uni bar,

and recovery breakfast the following morning.

The Mud Rugby competition has been running for the past nine years, although in recent years the competition has been played under touch football rules because of insurance and safety issues.

The competition originated in 1968 as a football carnival between the various schools on campus when it was part of the SA Institute of Technology, but it stopped in 1984, and it wasn't until the original and distinctively shaped trophy was discovered by the then Whyalla branch director of the students association in a back shed in 1994 that interest was re-ignited.

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Women and ICT: Experiences in India and China

by E-Ling Liaw and Kate Leeson

The Hawke Research Institute held a successful international forum from November 5-7 with researchers from India and China sharing their work on women and information technology.



Titled *Women, Information and Communication Technology in India and China* the interdisciplinary forum was hosted jointly by UniSA and the Institute of International Studies at the University of Technology, Sydney and was held at Magill Campus.

“We’re here representing two very big revolutions of the 21st century: that of ICT and the empowerment of women in all parts of life,” said host and Hawke Research Institute director Professor Alison Mackinnon at the opening. The forum was also hosted by Adjunct Professor Eleanor Ramsay, who has a longstanding involvement in education and women’s leadership in China.

Twenty women from India, China and Australia presented thought-provoking research from anthropological, socio-cultural and economic viewpoints, drawing examples from the grassroots and the business and academic worlds. They debated tough questions that prompted their research, such as: is IT the great enabler and gender neutraliser? What is its role in the emancipation of women, and how does one measure it?

Subbiah Nirmala from the Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation in Tamil Nadu, India studied women in rural communities. When they were provided with internet access they were able to educate themselves, access telemedicine and e-governance facilities, and earn a living running village internet kiosks. Educating women was found to be particularly effective

because the women then passed on their education to their children.

The case studies from India and China highlighted similarities between the two cultures: women still fight great pressure to follow traditional gendered roles and they lack a nurturing, mentoring external environment. But there are great differences among women, too. Curtin University of Technology's Dr Wanning Sun described a huge divide between professional Chinese and Indian women IT users and their maids and nannies. Regional differences within the two countries are also stark. As Dr Anne McLaren of the University of Melbourne pointed out, internet use in the more developed eastern cities of China is six times higher than in the other regions.

The presenters were optimistic about the future of women and ICT overall. The growth in female literacy in both China and India means tradition will be less of a hindrance in the future. As R Rajalakshmi, director of Software Technology Parks of India, said, mind power is not gender-specific.

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Applications sought for travel scholarship

Applications are being sought from academic and industry partner duos keen to take up a scholarship to attend the Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Teaching Exchange in Victoria next year.

The InnovationXchange Network is offering two \$1,000 scholarships to attend the event, to be hosted by the Australian Graduate School of Entrepreneurship at Swinburne University of Technology from February 25-27.

Participation in the exchange is limited to two-person teams consisting of an academic and an industry/business colleague. The scholarships cover registration costs for two sets of participants, where the academic and industry or business participant is an InnovationXchange Network member or member of a Network Leader (UniSA is a member – for a full list, go to www.innovationxchange.com.au).

The Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Teaching Exchange provides an entrepreneurship education and teaching program to stimulate links between the academic and business worlds. The program aims to help colleges and universities develop creative and innovative entrepreneurship curricula, increase teaching effectiveness and develop the teaching skills of entrepreneurs.

The Teaching Exchange will be held over two and a half days and the registration fee of \$500 covers handout materials, morning teas, luncheons and a formal dinner. For more information see www.swin.edu.au/agse/research/conferences.htm

Online scholarship applications are available at www.innovationxchange.com.au/swinexchange.html

Applications close on January 21. For more information email Emily Byrnes at ebyrnes@ixc.com.au

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Scholarship to study urban innovation in Japan

Applications are being sought from South Australian and Japanese students keen to participate in the Mawson Lakes Fellowship Program.

The program, which began in 1998, is designed to encourage innovative urban environmental management and planning approaches and to strengthen collaboration between South Australian and Japanese universities. Scholarships are offered to PhD, post-doctoral, Masters and Honours students from both countries to study abroad for six months. Junior members of academic staff with research interests in relevant will also be considered.

Japanese students can study at the University of South Australia, Flinders University or the University of Adelaide, while South Australian students study at the University of Nagoya, the University of Tsukuba or Waseda University.

Since its inception a total of 13 students have participated in exchanges under the program, with more to leave for exchanges in 2004. The scholarship offers A\$13,000 per student to cover accommodation and subsistence costs, with a further \$2,500 available to cover return airfares to Japan.

For more information visit the website at www.flinders.edu.au/international/links/mawson.html contact the Mawson Lakes Fellowship executive officer on (08) 8201 2727 or email study.abroad@flinders.edu.au

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UniSA staff join in Nganampa Health Council celebrations

Visiting the Pitjantjatjara Lands is exciting at any time, but the invitation to join Nganampa Health Council in celebrating their recent 20th birthday was a real privilege for two UniSA staff members.

Helen Bradley from the School of Nursing and Midwifery and Zai Marshallsay from the School of International Studies were expecting to travel to the Lands by bus. When the bus broke down before they left, Helen helped by driving a party of renal patients from Alice Springs to the Lands by 4WD. The rain made travel a little muddy and very interesting, but it couldn't dampen the spirits of the Anagnu people.

The celebrations, which had been planned for months, spanned most of a week and were opened by Yami Lester, a prominent Aboriginal spokesman and author. A strong advocate of self-managed Aboriginal health services, Yami lost his sight through exposure to the testing of Atomic bombs at Maralinga in the 1950s, when there was little in the way of medical assistance for Aboriginal people. Nganampa Health Council has provided a degree of access and equity to primary care services for those who do not want to leave their land just to visit a health clinic.

For Marshallsay it was a valuable experience for the cross cultural studies in which she lectures. Bradley has been running exchange programs for Aboriginal health workers and student nurses between the Lands and Adelaide for more than 10 years.

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McKay mixes with world water experts

Director of UniSA's Water Policy and Law Group, Professor Jennifer McKay, was a guest of the World Bank and the Ministry of Water Resources PRC at a recent workshop on dam management at the National Hydraulic research Institute in the Chinese city Nanjing.

Held on October 23 and 24, the workshop featured the work of Dr John Pisaniello and Prof McKay on dam safety laws but also

looked at broader issues in water management. The workshop was addressed by China's vice-minister of water resources, Zhai Haohui, as well as World Bank senior director Rahul Raturi, and the World Bank's director of the Department of Construction and Management, Alessandro Palmieri, and was attended by 100 water managers from all Chinese provinces.



Pictured above is UniSA's Professor Jennifer McKay with Zhai Haohui, Alessandro Palmeiri, Li Xaiokai and David Watson.

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EASS staff handbook launched

More than 70 academic staff enjoyed collegial interaction along with fine food and wine at a function on October 9 at Magill to launch the Division of Arts, Education and Social Sciences' Sessional Academic Staff Handbook and Resource Website.

Launched by Dean of Teaching, Learning and International, Associate Professor Ingrid Day, the handbook and website provide sessional academic staff with information to help them in the first few weeks of employment and beyond.

The resources provide one-stop access to information on topics from employment arrangements, administrative resources, teaching and learning resources and policy, to email and IT, University policies and procedures, and staff development. The handbook is in such demand that already the first print run is almost exhausted.



UniSA lecturers Jane Lawrence (from the Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design), Helen Cameron and Peter Lumb (from the School of Social Work and Social Policy) then presented a lively and informative panel discussion addressing assessment and marking practices and responding to questions. The Flexible Learning Centre's Margaret Hicks facilitated the discussion.

Carol Sutherland and Diana Quinn from Learning Connection hosted a booth to acquaint sessional staff with professional development and support services available, while Learning Connection also provided show bags of information to the many guests interested to know more.

UniSA sessional academic staff have considerable teaching and research responsibilities and the creation of the handbook and resource website is one aspect of a University and Divisional commitment to recognising and supporting their role and assisting them as they provide academic leadership to UniSA students. The winners of a further EASS initiative, the Sessional Academic Excellence in Teaching Awards, will be announced by the Vice Chancellor on December 19.

Convened by the EASS Sessional Academic Staff Advisory group, the event will become a

regular feature in the Division's calendar of events.

Copies of the handbook are available from Kate Greenfield by phoning 8302 4105.

For more information visit the website at www.unisa.edu.au/easdeanteaching/easssessional.htm

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It's business as usual at the service centre

While international tourism was left reeling following a year of global unrest that saw the Bali bombings, the outbreak of SARS and the war in Iraq, it was not the only industry to be affected – there have been some very real implications for an Australian university sector increasingly reliant on attracting international students.

However in UniSA's case, disruptions have been kept to a minimum and international student numbers are on the increase, due in no small part to a range of systems set in place at the Service Centre for international recruitment.

UniSA's involvement in the Melbourne-based Service Centre – where UniSA and seven other Australian universities have pooled money and resources to provide information to international prospective students – has helped international student recruitment continue despite travel restrictions and terrorism scares.

“Service Centre staff provided timely advice via phone calls and emails that allowed us to respond better to the many SARS-related concerns that were presented by prospective students earlier this year,” says UniSA international e-project officer, Penny Richards. “And with our freecall numbers in China, Taiwan, Indonesia and Japan and with staff that speak Mandarin, Japanese and Indonesian, we were able to give a better level of service.”

UniSA ensures a high quality of service through the Service Centre Quality Group, which is made up of staff from UniSA International and the Divisions who provide feedback to Service Centre staff on quality improvement.

While UniSA will close between the Christmas and New Year break, the Service Centre will remain open (on non-public holidays) responding to emails and calls from students who may not be celebrating Christmas in their part of the world.

Online technology maintained by the centre is also helping UniSA expand into new markets, says Richards, pointing out services such as a brochure builder (www.unisa.edu.au/brochurebuilder) where prospective offshore students can view customised information via the internet. “The Service Centre is increasing the diversity of our international student base beyond our traditional markets,” says Richards.

“Through the centre we can send out email broadcasts to potential students overseas, letting them know for example if one of our representatives will be visiting their country.”

Although all data within the Service Centre is owned by each university, the centre is owned by Hobsons, better known for the Good Universities Guides series of publications. Last week, the Service Centre won the 'International Product of the Year' Award at the Global Hobsons award night in Cincinnati (US).

For more information about UniSA's involvement in the service centre, contact Penny Richards on (08) 8302 9051 or email penny.richards@unisa.edu.au

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Shearing research goes global

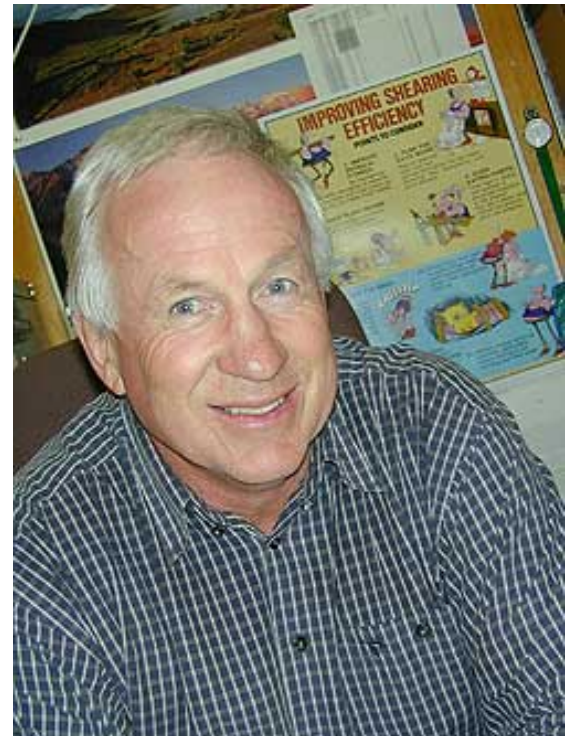
by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

Growing up on a sheep and cattle farm near Naracoorte in the 1950s, Dave Stuart and his siblings had the dubious honour of crutching (shearing the nether regions of) the sheep before they were sent to be fully shorn by shearers. That early exposure must have given him a good start, because half a century later, Stuart – now a senior lecturer in physical education, exercise and sport studies at UniSA – is part of a team enjoying global exposure for their research into sheep shearing.

Stuart and the team (including John Culvenor, Jack Harvey, Wayne Payne, Steve Cowley, Michael Lawrance and Robyn Williams) were awarded the Ig Nobel Physics Prize in October this year for their paper, *An Analysis of the Forces Required to Drag Sheep Over Various Surfaces*, and since then have been fielding media enquiries from all over the world, from the BBC and CBS to *The New York Times* and *New Scientist*.

A spoof on the Nobel Prizes, the Ig Nobels are intended to honour scientific research that “first make people laugh, then make them think”. (Other research projects to win over the years include Scrotal Asymmetry in Man and in Ancient Sculpture, Injuries Due to Falling Coconuts, and Farting as a Defence Against Unspeakable Dread.) Despite their tongue-in-cheek approach the Ig Nobels are also highly sought-after, the awards presented at a Harvard University ceremony each year by Nobel laureates.

“We think it is a fantastic honour, even though our research is more than just a novelty,” Stuart says. “We wanted people to know about the research and this award has certainly helped get the message out.”



And what is the message? “In a nutshell we’re looking at low cost changes to shearing shed design that can make them a safer workplace,” says Stuart. “Shearing is without a doubt the most physically demanding occupation in the world, and we’re looking at how we can make things easier on the shearers.”

Dragging tonnes of ‘uncooperative mass’ each day, Australian shearers suffer injuries at six times the all-industry average, according to Stuart. Automation has been tried – “Australia has pumped \$25 million into trying to develop a robotic sheep shearer to no avail” – so the only alternatives left are to a) improve the fitness of the shearers themselves and b) improve the design of the workplace.

To this end, Stuart and his fellow researchers set up a replica shearing shed in a lab and tested the force required to drag a sheep over various surfaces at different angles. The best floor was one constructed of timber battens parallel to the path of the drag, sloped at 1:10, which resulted in a mean dragging force 15 per cent lower than the worst combination.



That study was just the latest chapter in an ongoing process for Stuart, who first became involved in shearing research in 1977 at the request of the Department of Agriculture. Over the years many UniSA students have been involved, travelling to pastoral properties across South Australia to test the fitness of shearers and survey their workplaces.

“We’ve done fitness tests in temperatures of up to 47 degrees Celsius. One man lost nine litres of sweat in two hours – so these are pretty tough conditions that these guys are working under,” he says.

“I have worked with a lot of athletes, including the Australian cycling team that won gold at the 1984 Olympics, and I maintain that the fittest person I have ever tested was a sheep shearer.”

As for the future, Stuart says he doesn’t see all that much changing on the shearing landscape. “I see the shearing industry looking virtually the same in 50 years time as it does now. There will be some changes – the sheep will grow more wool, and I hope our research will have an impact on the way the sheep are presented to the shearers – but the shearers will be required to remove the fleece just as they do now.”

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In the deep end

by [Michèle Nardelli](#)

It's a frosty five degrees outside in Murray Bridge and UniSA lecturer in Mental Health Nursing, Associate Professor Nicholas Procter, is more than grateful that the pool at the local swimming centre is heated. He is not there to battle middle-aged spread. From the edge of this pool he is actually making an academic leap between research and practice.



Working with more than 30 refugees from Afghanistan, Procter is using swimming as just one aspect of a program to reach across the divide of culture and experience and stem the flow of some of the deepest depression he has ever witnessed.

"The pool work is a healthy diversion but there are some real metaphors about trust and security in what we are doing here," Procter says.

"We are dealing with men who perceive their world at the moment as a living death. They have come from a country where the environment was brutal and lawless. They have taken an enormous gamble in coming to Australia as refugees and in many ways they have lucked out.

"They have been 'free', many of them, for three years but the temporal nature of that freedom – the three year Temporary Protection Visa – is just another form of torture. If someone says to you 'I free you from prison but at any time I may change my mind', most people would find that pretty hard to take. These men know that what they will return to is more of the same – a dangerous society with no rules, no guarantees and not much of a future."

Early in 2003 a 46-year-old Afghan refugee hung himself from powerlines in Murray Bridge after receiving a letter from the Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) requesting he return to Afghanistan. In the media flurry and genuine shock that

surrounded the suicide, questions were asked. Why didn't anyone reach out to this man? – could his death have been avoided? – how would it impact on others also living in Australia on borrowed time?

What has evolved in response to this trauma is a combined UniSA consultancy with the South Australian Department of Social Justice and Country designed to prevent more suicides, build trust, and engage local health service providers in a learning process that will ensure better mental health support.

For Procter this is another step in a journey of understanding and communicating mental health issues for marginalised groups – survivors of war, victims of torture or trauma, migrants and most recently refugees. Author of *Serbian Australians in the Shadow of the Balkan War* (2000) and the soon to be published *Speaking of Sadness and the Heart of Acceptance: Reciprocity in Education. A Model of Interactive Learning Between Migrant Communities and Mainstream Mental Health Services*, Procter has concentrated much of his research on finding the right relationship models to support mental health work with people who have barriers to understanding.

The model outlined in his most recent book focuses on reciprocity – establishing a context for mental health treatment that requires a “boots and all” involvement by practitioners.

“This is not a quick fix approach and nor should it be,” Procter says. “We’re dealing with people who have often spent much of their lives in brutalised circumstances. We cannot expect to fix it with a chat and some prescribed medication. Their problems are complex and their treatment therefore requires a level of sophistication that is not easily found in mainstream health services.”

And according to Procter half the battle is developing a relationship that holds enough trust to get to the heart of the sadness and pain that these refugees feel.

“The most common Western understanding of these feelings is to tag them as depression and treat accordingly – but what we are dealing with is sadness, loss and isolation all compounded by large gaps in culture and language,” he said.

Procter outlines three key barriers to understanding: Fear and stigma – a fear of seeking help outside their own community groups because it may lead to a refugee failing the government good character test on the basis of a clause that talks about ‘unsound mind’. Loss of control – a fear that they may be hospitalised for mental illness against their will if they are reported as ‘depressed’. Loss of a means of survival – fear that the medication they take to treat that depression will be discovered by their employer and lead to their dismissal.

Part of Procter’s approach is to spend many hours listening to feelings, stories of torture, deep and abiding fears of death. From these interpreted sessions, Procter writes a representative

story – using commonalities to develop an experiential profile as a tool for understanding.

”The stories are invaluable because while they don’t identify any one individual, they give voice to the experience of many refugees, which broadens the perspective of my research” Procter says.

When Procter began his work in Murray Bridge about six TPV holders attended the first meeting – today some 30 men regularly attend.

Outwardly the impact has been promising. A refugee support network has been established locally and the Department of Human Services is now developing a website in Farsi and English which will offer practical support and advice for refugees and for the people who are caring for them.

“In a country that has embraced so many people from diverse cultural backgrounds we really have no room in our health system for holding stereotypes based on race or religion that act as barriers to equitable health treatment,” Procter says.

“From an academic perspective I’ve found this personal involvement challenging but also highly significant. It has mapped a way of delivering health care that goes beyond the textbook to the very heart of modern best practice by seeking to validate the individual.

“I have become involved because I can help people who are suffering, but more importantly I can help to build and apply new knowledge that will give others the opportunity to do the same.”

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Vice Chancellor's Teaching and Innovation Awards 2003

Teaching Award Winners

Teaching Excellence Award



Dr Raj Thalluri School of Pharmaceutical, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences



Professor Andrew Nafalski, Jan Machotka and Zorica Nedic School of Electrical and Information Engineering

Commended Certificates

Helen Cameron School of Social Work and Social Policy



Occupational Therapy First Year Teaching Team – Susan Gilbert Hunt (Program Director), Angela Berndt, Brenton Kortman, Christina Boerema, Mandy Seyfang, Mandy Stanley, Mary Russell, Penny Westhorp, and Sue Hartshorne School of Health Sciences

Scholarly Teaching Award Winners

Tracey Bretag School of International Business

David Badenoch School of Education

Carol Collins School of Education

Jane Hiscock School of Communication, Information and New Media

Dr Raj Thalluri School of Pharmaceutical, Molecular and Biomedical Sciences

Jan Machotka School of Electrical and Information Engineering

Professor Andrew Nafalski School of Electrical and Information Engineering

Jill Slay School of Computer and Information Science

Innovation Award Winners

Product Improvement Award

The Wearable Computer Laboratory in the School of Computer and Information Science, Dr Wayne Piekarski and Associate Professor Bruce Thomas for the Timth Augmented Reality Project

Special Commendation Award in the Product Improvement Category

David Pezzanitti of the Urban Water Resources Centre for the CleansAll Gross Pollutant Trap

Process Improvement Category (joint winners)

The School of International Business Team of Associate Professor Martin Shanahan, Professor Eric Meyer and Ken Adams for the Process Improvement Learning to Learn in Economics.

The Corporate Web Development Team for the Corporate Web Development Project. Team

members: Philippa Gallagher, Siang Tay, Dianne Van Eck, Damien Ellis, Jenny Clift, Andrea Rankin, Simon Behenna, Richard Lamb, Luke Lim, David Gardiner, Gary Quick, Robert Moller and Mark Wittervan.

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Counsellors' fear of failure puts kids at greater risk

by [Thel Krollig](#)

Australia's school counsellors and psychologists are shying away from helping students with addictions for fear of failure and under-confidence in their knowledge base, in what a leading UniSA counselling academic says is the optimum environment for identifying and fixing addiction problems.

Dr Nadine Pelling, senior lecture in counselling and psychology, says that despite the fact that the school system provides the most logical place to identify and assist young people experiencing addiction problems, reticence on the part of some counsellors and psychologists in dealing with addiction equates to devastating missed opportunities.

"According to recent statistics, Australian students aged 12 – 17 years use both illicit and licit substances on a par with, and in some cases exceeding, the general population. What more ideal place to address this trend than in the environment where these kids spend most of their waking hours?" says Dr Pelling.

Unfortunately, according to Dr Pelling, many school counsellors and psychologists feel unable to deal with the problem and tend to refer school students to specialist agencies, rather than try and help them in the school environment.

"The danger here is that many kids will fail to take up the option of a referral and slip through the cracks in the system," said Dr Pelling.

"While I can understand in part why there is reluctance by school counsellors to deal with addiction issues, I believe they should show more confidence in their basic skills, behavioural knowledge, and ability to empathise – core knowledge in counsellor and psychology training – to



turn around addiction problems.

“Schools provide ready and continuing access to students, and regular and sustainable support can be provided by school counsellors and psychologists to aid in substance addiction recovery and relapse prevention.”

Further, according to Dr Pelling, many students feel unable to address these problems in the home environment and are unable to access specialist agencies outside of school hours, making the school environment the most ideal place to get help.

There exists then, says Dr Pelling, a widespread need for education and training for school counsellors and psychologists regarding addiction, which could form a part of ongoing professional development.

“From a high level of painkiller and marijuana use to a low level of steroid use, it is clear that many school students are using a variety of substances. Substance use disorders are arguably the most frequently occurring mental health problem, and as such, our school counsellors and psychologists are well placed to deal with this problem.”

Dr Pelling is keen to encourage school counsellors and psychologists to take up the challenge of opportunistic intervention, which she believes can lead to promising outcomes for school-aged kids, who might otherwise fall through the cracks.

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Smart packaging to boost food export market

by [Geraldine Hinter](#)

Australia's fresh food export market is set to expand following an Australian Research Council Linkage grant won by UniSA researchers to develop packaging material that can be tailored to extend the shelf life of different food products.

Polymer scientists Dr Naba Dutta and Dr Namita Choudhury from UniSA's Ian Wark Research Institute will conduct the

research in partnership with Poly Products Company Pty Ltd, which has invested more than \$2 million in specialised machinery and ancillary equipment to produce a packaging film in a continuous process called co-extrusion.



A controlled oxygen barrier is an important requirement for extending the shelf life of various food products because they must be kept in a certain atmosphere to protect and preserve them for transport and efficient delivery, according to Dr Choudhury.

"Our aim is to develop a product with controlled oxygen and moisture barrier properties for cost effective applications using a unique nanotechnology composite approach (combining nanoparticles and polymer).

"Our choice of polymer material is also unique. No one has used this type of material and because we have extensive knowledge and expertise on polymer and nanocomposites materials within the IWRI, we know that our material will be able to perform. With our formulation, we will be able to vary the moisture and oxygen content and the barrier properties. It will be based on cheaper raw material," Dr Choudhury said.

The polymer research project is one of two ARC Linkage grants worth \$347,000 awarded to UniSA. The second grant will fund research into a mechanical system to improve the productivity and quality of medical products of microscopic dimensions such as glass pipettes.

UniSA was also successful in winning ten ARC Discovery grants worth \$2.06 million and funding for Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities totalling \$696,093.

ARC Discovery and Linkage grants totalling \$3.1 million will support UniSA's research activities over the next three years.

Professor Ian Davey, UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor Research and International, was pleased to see some significant ARC grants for research in social sciences. These include a study looking at whether social mix, planned for public housing estates to reduce the concentration of disadvantaged households, will result in benefits for low income residents in those places. Also funded is the first major study of the workplace culture in Australian engineering.

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OT students in community collaboration

by [Charlotte Knottenbelt](#)

More than 100 occupational therapy students, staff members and industry representatives came together on October 22 during National OT week for an exhibition of work by final year students.

On display were more than 30 posters and portfolios, in what was the culmination of a year of work for the students.



Groups of OT students were matched up to different human service agencies – ranging from disease support groups to Indigenous and ethnic organisations – and asked to develop a sustainable solution to address an identified need in the organisation.

For example, one group worked on a campaign to address the lack of culturally appropriate information about HIV/AIDS for the African communities in Adelaide, while another project saw the development of an activity program designed to help rebuild relationships between mothers and children recovering from domestic violence. Visual Communication students were also involved, collaborating on some of the poster and resource designs.

OT program director Sue Gilbert-Hunt said the exercise was a way for the students to take control of their own learning.

“The students had a great degree of autonomy, and at the same time a huge responsibility,” she said.

“They saw the projects through from conception to implementation, and had to use their initiative to prepare funding proposals and set in place ways of continuing the program after their involvement ceased.”

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Our People - Nadia Nairn

People have said to me “you must have the worst job in the world”. I’m not quite sure why because I actually really enjoy my job – that’s why I’m still here after two and a half years (a record for me!).

I have the unusual pleasure of attempting to ‘get inside’ Denise Bradley’s head a few times a day, with the odd visit to David Klingberg’s. Writing speeches, letters, articles etc for the Vice Chancellor and Chancellor is a fascinating ride. I’ve become an expert on boasting about UniSA, launching incredible initiatives, thanking very clever people for their work and introducing jaw-droppingly talented speakers.



The thing I love most about my job is almost everything I write about is positive. This makes it easy to feel passionately warm and fuzzy about the organisation I work for. As an idealistic, sensitive Taurean, I’ve always needed that – but have wandered from the path on occasion like the time I was marketing manager of a law firm. I like to think of that indiscretion as boot camp for my current role. Working for one Vice Chancellor is a walk in the park compared with 30 partners of a law firm!

I began my career as a science student at Adelaide, eager to do brilliantly and transfer into medicine. A few weeks of 80 cent Unibar beers soon made my ambitions more realistic. I eventually transferred into commerce and majored in marketing and genetics (don’t ask).

My first job was at Horseland Saddlery Store. My retail experience and equestrian accomplishment (I came sixth at a pony club one day event once) secured me the job. My ‘bad attitude’ helped me to lose it and move to Melbourne to become a marketer for Deakin Australia (the commercial arm of Deakin University).

Two years of fun, hard work and plentiful promotions were rudely interrupted when I returned to Adelaide for love and family. Following a couple of years with Minter Ellison, I gained a position as Marketing and Alumni Officer with UniSA's Division of Information Technology, Engineering and the Environment. Seven months in I eloped to Chancellery and have been smitten with the people ever since.

My other great passions in life are traditional medicine, sesame oil massages, my partner, family and friends, yoga, swimming, walking and karaoke.

With the help of my faithful job-sharing partner in crime, Carole Lydon (also ex-Minters), I've scaled down to four days a week to study Ayurveda, a traditional system of medicine from India. I'm very excited about UniSA's venture into complementary and alternative medicine and look forward to becoming a guest lecturer in Ayurveda one of these days – that is, if I don't start up a health retreat in Tassie first!

Nadia Nairn is the executive officer: corporate communications in the vice chancellor's office

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Feb/March (with *The Graduate*)

Advertising/copy deadline

Distribution

April (with *Students@UniSA*)

Friday Jan 23

Tuesday Feb 17

May (with *The Graduate*)

Wednesday March 17

Thursday April 1

June (with *Students@UniSA*)

Friday April 16

Monday May 3

July (with *The Graduate*)

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August (with *Students@UniSA*)

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Tuesday August 31

October (with *Students@UniSA*)

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Monday October 25

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