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June 2004

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



Wireless security under scrutiny

The convenience of wireless computing is fast finding favour with home users and businesses big and small, but just how safe from intrusion are the growing number of wireless networks around Australia? [Full Story](#)

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Wireless security under scrutiny

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

The convenience of wireless computing is fast finding favour with home users and businesses big and small, but just how safe from intrusion are the growing number of wireless networks around Australia?

Not very, according to a UniSA study comparing wireless networks and their security features in seven capital city CBDs.

The study – conducted by Mathew Hannan and Ben Turnbull from UniSA's Enterprise Security Management Laboratory – has found that encryption is lacking in at least 54 per cent per cent of the 729 networks detected, while more than 15 per cent of the networks are failing to make use of even the most basic security measures.

Showing how easy it can be for potentially malicious users to access wireless networks, Hannan and Turnbull drove around in a car using basic computing equipment to identify networks in the Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney CBDs.

Surveying the radio frequency most widely used by wireless networks, 802.11b, the researchers counted the number of active wireless networks, and looked at a range of security indicators, including Service Set Identifiers (SSIDs) and the standard security mechanism, Wire Equivalent Privacy (WEP).

SSID is a unique identifier broadcast by each wireless access point to allow network users to connect. Each wireless access point comes with a default SSID determined by the manufacturer, which users are advised to personalise as a security measure as part of the network's initial set up. WEP is used to protect wireless communication from eavesdropping and prevent unauthorised access.

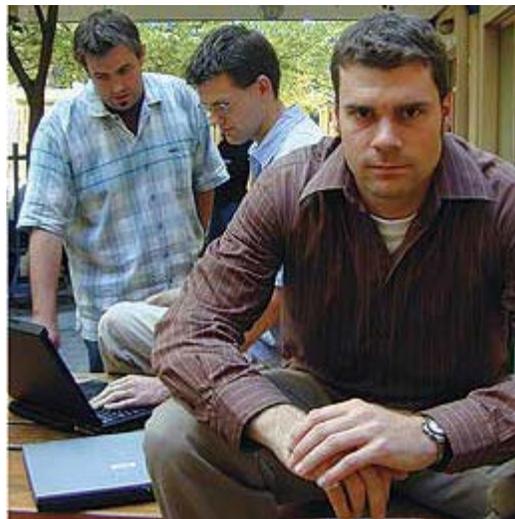
"If an access point has both a default SSID and doesn't utilise WEP encryption, it is unlikely that a high-level third party protection such as Virtual Private Network (VPN) is in place, in fact it's highly probable that no security measures have been taken to protect the network," says Hannan. In other words, 'plug and play' devices where users have not changed the default SSID and haven't enabled WEP are most vulnerable to attack.

Overall about 26 per cent of wireless networks detected used default SSID settings and 54 per cent did not have WEP activated, with 15.3 per cent failing to make use of either security measure. Hobart was the most insecure of the cities surveyed, with 24.1 per cent of wireless networks using default SSID and no WEP encryption, while Canberra was the most secure, with only 2.4 per cent lacking the two security measures.

Hannan, who before joining UniSA worked for the Tasmanian police specialising in cyber-crime, says the results should be a wake-up call to all wireless network users.

"As wireless technology becomes cheaper, more people are adopting it as an alternative to traditional wired solutions. Many of these users have little security knowledge so there is an increased likelihood of insecure wireless networks," he says.

"Home users are attracted to the technology but retailers aren't necessarily informing them of the security



risks and what measures should be taken to protect their network.”

“My advice would be to use a reputable operator with relevant qualifications and up-to-date knowledge to install your wireless network – and make sure you adhere to normal security guidelines like regularly updating software including Microsoft security fixes and anti virus programs.”

And while many large organisations are better protected with more costly encryption devices – UniSA's wireless network, for example, is protected using the more advanced VPN protection – Hannan says there are still risks associated with any wireless network.

“Legitimate users can set up their own wireless access points and link to their company's network, but unless specific measures are taken this can open the network up to attack - where hackers use the 'rogue access point' as a way to get in and gain confidential information.”

“This research has demonstrated the need to maintain vigilance over security risks as wireless networks become increasingly popular among commercial and private users.”

Headed by Dr Jill Slay, UniSA's Enterprise Security Management Laboratory is working on a number of wireless security-related projects, including a study to determine the frequency and type of security attacks taking place in wireless networks in Australia, and a comparative study with the University of Plymouth in the UK. For more information, visit www.acrc.unisa.edu.au/groups/security/

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From the Vice Chancellor

Since late 2003 a small group of us has been attempting to work through the implications in the medium to long term of our commitments to the use of online technologies in teaching and learning and to e-business strategies in service and in administration. As we have discussed our considerable progress in these areas in the last decade and the international literature about innovations and developments in moving online we have come to realise that we face some major strategic decisions.

One critical decision is about capital development. As the Blueprint 2005 program moves to its conclusion we must begin to plan for 2005-2015. This time, however, we must confront more directly the balance between investment in IT infrastructure and in capital stock. In particular there are major implications for our capital planning of our commitments to student centred approaches and to flexible delivery.



We must also confront the question of how to get most value from the use of IT in teaching and learning. Too often, IT has been simply added to existing teaching practices without consideration of how best to use the new developments to lighten academic workload and improve learning outcomes for students. UniSA needs to consider what steps should be taken to ensure both qualitative improvement and labour-saving outcomes. We cannot be satisfied with changes that are simply 'as good as' existing approaches. Our experience in the last few years in our administrative systems shows that we gain most from applying IT developments when our processes are re-engineered to gain the full benefits such developments can offer.

Finally we must face the challenge of using online approaches in teaching and learning to improve course quality and contain costs. We cannot afford to reinvent the wheel every time a course is taught, particularly as we typically deliver a course in a range of contexts and with numerous staff.

A paper is being drafted to allow us to have a discussion about the implications of developing an online strategy which brings together the institution's educational and administrative future needs, the existing online systems available within the university, international standards for online products available in the marketplace, and staff work practices, in such a way that an ongoing online development process can be described. The strategy must be a roadmap for the online environment for the entire university, not just a listing of separate digital services, and it must include the implications for resource allocation and capital development.

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In brief

New PVC appointed

After 14 months acting in the position, Associate Professor Rigmor George has been appointed UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President: Access and Learning Support.

Prof George (pictured right) has been with the University for 15 years, and some of her previous positions include Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences, Coordinator of Academic Development in the Flexible Learning Centre and Program Director of the Master of Distance Education.

"The University's commitment to equity and teaching and learning are things that I care passionately about, and I'm pleased that I can have a real impact in those areas in a position like this," she said.



UniSA and JamFactory to stick together

On the job training for young artists and designers in Adelaide is about to receive a boost as UniSA teams up with the JamFactory Contemporary Craft and Design. The JamFactory associate scheme is an internationally renowned training ground for young artists and designers. The SA School of Art and Louis Laybourne Smith School of Architecture and Design have agreed to collaborate to extend the associate scheme into new areas of study. The scheme will be enhanced by two new programs – Graduate Diploma in Visual Art and Design (specialisation) and the Master of Visual Art and Design (specialisation) – that will offer training in design concepts, project management, small business practice and contemporary art and design history. The programs, the will begin later this year. The deal was sealed with a formal signing ceremony at the JamFactory April 28.

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Browser brief

Watchdog with bite

by Karen Williams

It's nearly tax time again, so if you're thinking of investing your hard-earned tax return, you might like to check out this site before you do. The Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) administers the regulatory system of consumer protection for financial services, including shares, insurance, managed funds, superannuation, derivatives and foreign exchange contracts (and more). The Fido site contains a host of information including financial tips, warnings, resources, and information about schemes that have been less than honest. You can check these lists for a range of information including companies and investment schemes, unclaimed money, lists of known

unlicensed overseas callers, and even 'banned people' - people who have been banned from giving financial advice or directors who have been banned from managing a company. You can also check out that tempting prospectus that you received and see if the issuer has lodged the prospectus with ASIC. One of the best reads is the 'Pie in the Sky' (PITS) award. The annual PITS award goes to the most outrageous financial scheme that's too good to be true. My favourite is the PITS winner for 2003, but that's a separate story - you'll have to read that yourself. Guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

www.fido.asic.gov.au/fido/fido.nsf

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Classifieds

For sale

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

2001 Nissan Pulsar Ti, sedan, 5 sp manual, 58,000 kms, 1.8L, registered to Feb 2005, CD player, airbags, air con, central locking, alloy wheels, tinted windows, power windows/mirrors, colour-coded bumpers, immobiliser, remote boot release, silver, \$18,500 ono, 0438 653 842

Flymo electric lawnmower with instructions, as new \$140. Phone Bianca on (08) 8340 7690 after hours 10 speed bike. silver \$30 Call Paula on 0401 300 266.

Accommodation available

Beulah Park – My family and I are overseas from mid-August 2004 to mid-January 2005, while I am on study leave. We would like to rent our furnished (or unfurnished) 4 bedroom + study + 2 bath-room house at Beulah Park (just off Magill Rd) for the duration. Perhaps you know of a visiting academic who is looking for a house 2 kms from Magill and 4 kms from the city? Phone Rick Sarre (08) 8431 4879 or (08) 8302 0889 or email rick.sarre@unisa.edu.au

Free

Cubby house, solid but needs boards to complete backing. FREE. Call Paula on 0401 300 266

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

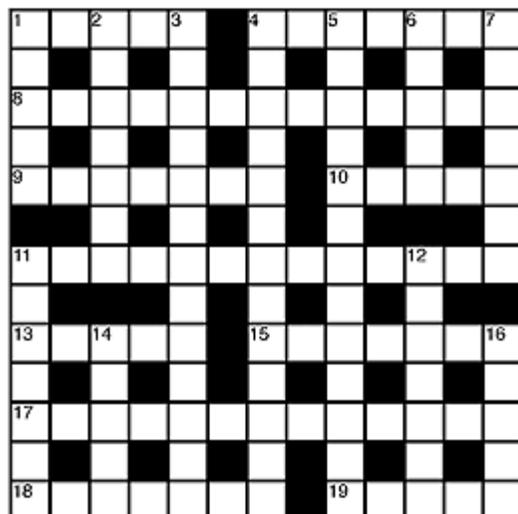
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Colgan's cryptic crossword



ACROSS

1. Item of intubation lacks the supply (5)
4. Welsh selection is automatic (7)
8. Quite an appearance if styled in hair-place (13)
9. Assumed the presidency of rage-filled country (7)
10. A diacritic note (5)
11. Nick Thackery ending to produce final version of manuscript (4,1,4,4)
13. High-flyer with large corporation (5)
15. It's used by swingers to seduce at French Riviera town (7)
17. A result of marathon effort put into needlework (7,6)
18. Huddled together and shot in recent times (7)
19. Fulfil a need for authority (5)

DOWN

1. One likely to stand up and strip (5)
2. It nails down the truth of the matter (almost) (7)
3. To raise means to teach discipline (13)
4. The underprivileged can be accomplished when holding down position of superiority (13)
5. Amazed, placing fatty tissue on solid ice while dry (13)
6. Flat tyre's final hitch! (5)
7. Hear girl entering. Hide plant! (7)
11. Whale pack is seen rising to the top from island (7)
12. Clearly, too much time is consumed (7)
14. Food delivered in Indo-China uprising (5)
16. Boy seen in gas centre (5)

Win a bottle of wine

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to Len Colgan at (08) 8302 5785 by Tuesday, June 15.

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Fred's driving force

by Charlotte Knottenbelt

Fred Stace likes making things work. Whether he's creating scientific instruments as part of his work as a technical officer at UniSA's School of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, or restoring old cars in his garage at home, the satisfaction upon seeing the end product is what drives him.

When it comes to restoring old vehicles, it's Rugbys all the way for Fred. He first became interested in the Rugby (a cheap and reliable automobile manufactured by the Durant Motor Company around the 1920s) as a schoolboy when his dad would drive him around in the car his grandfather had bought back in 1928.

That particular vehicle – a 1924 Rugby Tourer with a rare California hardtop – is today still in the family, after more than 70 years and countless hours of restoration.

"I took it out of my grandma's shed when I was 18 and decided I was going to drive it," Fred recalls.

"The brakes had rusted and the motor was in pretty bad shape, so I did some work to free up the brakes and bought a motor from a guy at Myponga for \$20. That motor's still going today."

With spares for such an old vehicle virtually impossible to come by, Fred has had to be creative over the years.

"A lot of the parts have been degreased, sandblasted, repaired and painted ... I've done everything on it from the mechanics to the panels to the upholstery," he says with pride. (To fix the upholstery he even used the same pedal-powered sewing machine that was used by his grandfather, a vehicle trimmer who worked on some of the first Holdens to come off the production line at the Woodville factory in the late 1940s.)

Fred has taken the vehicle to Broken Hill and back – it survived a hailstorm on that trip – as well as to Stawell in Victoria, and over the rugged terrain of the Flinders Ranges (where Fred was amused to notice a four wheel driver's jaw drop as the little Rugby crossed a rough creek-bed that had stopped the larger vehicle in its tracks.) It was even in the inaugural Bay to Birdwood run in 1980.

Fred has now restored "one and a half" Rugbys back to their former glory and though it's not the most lucrative hobby he could have chosen (he recently sold one vehicle upon which he'd worked for thousands of hours to a fellow enthusiast for \$5,000) there's no doubt that it's all been worth it.

"I've learnt a lot from the cars over the years and I can now apply those skills at work," says Fred, whose day job has seen him build everything from a wind tunnel for mosquito research to a giant Chinese lantern for an international students' party. "It's about keeping alive skills that would otherwise die out."

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Our people - Damien Ellis

It seems another world away back in 1989 when I began working in external studies (now the Flexible Learning Centre) madly rushing about getting the correct study materials into the correct envelopes with hopefully the correct addresses to enable the always eager external students to get started.

I started on a three week contract at Underdale campus with the then SA College of Advanced Education and it was a nice change of pace from my other previous work experiences which ranged from the messy role of a production line powder coater just around the corner with Underdale metal processing to a three night soul destroying stint as a chicken catcher!



Powder coating is a bit like spray painting but with a fine dry powder that is electrostatically charged and sticks to everything including you but mostly to the item that needs coating. This item is then baked in a giant oven at something like 180 degrees Celsius to seal the coat. Of course newbies such as me were the ones required to hop into the oven to retrieve fallen items and one particular 30 degree summer day after doing one of these retrievals I decided enough was enough. If you need a description of what is involved being a chicken catcher you will have to give me a call as the experience is too horrific to commit to paper ...

My current role with Information Strategy and Technology Services in the e-Business solutions team involves corporate web administration. Now how does a one time chicken catcher/powder coater get to be the UniSA corporate web administrator? Well when you see a role advertised that asks for expressions of interest then consider it your doorway to self improvement and possible advancement. Combined with some study and numerous secondments I have found that my calling is indeed information technology, although the greater part of my time with UniSA has been in student administration. Although my poor supervisors and managers sometimes found my numerous secondments a bit of a challenge to the area's staffing needs, I always had something new to bring back to my substantive role upon my return which made it worthwhile for everyone.

Damien Ellis is an information technologist at UniSA's with Information Strategy and Technology Services unit.

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Getting to the core of insomnia

by Geraldine Hinter

Insomnia affects up to a quarter of the population in Australia and can have a severe impact on the health and quality of life of long term chronic sufferers, who often cannot stay alert enough to remain in the workforce.

A breakthrough at UniSA's Centre for Sleep Research is helping to get to the core of sleep problems, with the discovery that body temperature has a vital role in the onset of sleep. New research shows that the body needs to drop its core temperature in order for sleep to initiate normally, according to research fellow Dr Cameron Van den Heuvel.

"About one to one and a half hours before falling sleep, the body starts to lose heat from its central core and that brings on increased feelings of tiredness in normal healthy adults. These physiological changes happen well before going to bed and may be occurring before people realise them," Dr Van den Heuvel says.

"Temperature regulation is a significant factor in each of the two types of insomnia. The difference is when the insomnia occurs. People with sleep onset insomnia have difficulty initiating sleep at the beginning of the night, taking two to four hours each night in the worst cases; while people with sleep maintenance insomnia fall asleep easily but have trouble staying asleep, waking up multiple times during the night. Sleep onset insomnia is most common in the 20-30 year age range whereas sleep maintenance insomnia affects mostly retirees and the elderly. In both types of insomnia, sleep is not restful and sufferers are tired during the day.

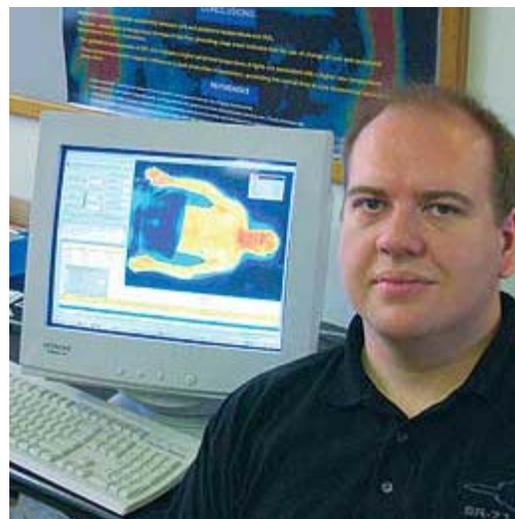
"Studies of sleep onset insomniacs show that they consistently have a warmer core body temperature immediately before initiating sleep, when compared with normal healthy adults. This results in a state of heightened arousal that prevents them from falling asleep when they go to bed, probably because they have to wait for their bodies to lose the heat that's keeping them awake. We're only talking about a half to one degree but that small temperature change can result in significant differences in arousal between insomniacs and people without sleeping problems," Dr Van den Heuvel says.

"While sleeping tablets are effective in some people some of the time, many insomniacs have impaired thermo-regulatory systems that limit their ability to lose heat and affect their responses to commonly prescribed drugs that would normally increase sleepiness.

"When used by healthy young adults these drugs cause them to lose heat, become sleepier and fall asleep. This temperature change is important for the drugs to work successfully and is consistent across a range of drugs that we've investigated.

"To drop the core temperature, the body needs to act like a radiator, with heat from the central core transferring to areas such as the hands, face and feet, causing the peripheral skin temperature to rise and then lose heat to the surrounding environment," Dr Van den Heuvel says.

In a significant breakthrough, UniSA researchers have discovered that the failure by insomniacs to regulate their core temperature sufficiently can be narrowed down to an inability to lose heat from their



periphery.

“The exciting part of this research, funded by the National Health & Medical Research Council, is that these results may provide a new therapeutic target, whether it is by drugs or another mechanism that we can potentially exploit,” Dr Van den Heuvel said.

One mechanism called biofeedback being researched by UniSA psychologist, Dr Kurt Lushington, involves training people to raise or lower their hand temperature by visualising images such as lying on a beach. Some 75-80 per cent of those studied successfully raised or lowered their temperature by one and a half degrees or more. The next step will be to enrol insomniacs in a similar study to determine its suitability as a treatment.

Dr Van den Heuvel says thermoregulatory changes are not always the main cause of insomnia. Conditions such as pain, anxiety and depression could also cause disturbed sleep and when these were treated, normal sleep was typically restored.

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Eco-friendly resources from food industry waste

by **Geraldine Hinter**

Organic materials from food industry waste streams will be converted into energy and value-added products using innovative technologies being developed by UniSA's newly established Water Environment Biotechnology (WEB) group.

Taking the leading role in setting up and managing the WEB group is senior research fellow, Dr Bo Jin, who recently joined UniSA from the University of Queensland.

An internationally experienced researcher with expertise in biochemical engineering, biotechnology, waste treatment and applied chemistry, Dr Jin brings with him two Discovery grants from the Australian Research Council worth \$645,000 for environmental biotechnology projects.



Dr Jin also holds a joint position at SA Water as Research Leader of a new section of Wastewater Science and Technology. SA Water is funding research and development projects being undertaken by UniSA's WEB group.

The aim of the WEB group is to develop an integrated production and treatment process using industry wastes to regenerate valuable bio-products such as organic acids and biodegradable plastics. This integrated process will be the key to a green circle program in the WEB group.

"Another project involves the use of nano-materials/ technology for wastewater treatment and reuse. A nano-photocatalysis process developed with University of Sydney researchers removes organic pollutants and micro-organisms in treated wastewater. These nano-materials improve the oxidation efficiency and quality of treated wastewater, making it suitable for reuse," Dr Jin said.

"Through our research we have been developing a strong collaboration with national and international institutions, government organisations and industries including the South Australian wine industry, which is keen to find effective solutions for its waste problem."

Dr Jin believes that the commercial applications of this processing technology will have huge potential for industry and the University.

"It will enable us to recycle raw materials very cost effectively for food production and other value-added products," he said.

"We are confident that our biotechnological processing capability will lead to an environmentally friendly and economically sustainable new technology for the food industry."

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Tough guys?

by Noel Towell

South Australia's Rann government has yet to back away from a fight to prove its law and order credentials. The state administration has scrapped with former Director of Public Prosecutions Paul Rofe to ensure that offenders are locked up and tussled with Parole Board Chair Frances Nelson to keep them locked down. Premier Rann and Attorney General Michael Atkinson have taken on bikies, bouncers, street brawlers and house breakers in their efforts to get tough with the bad guys and put victims first.

The 2003 Attorney General's Department annual report says that legislative reform has "strengthened law and order, including the areas of sentencing, bkie gangs, carrying of knives, home invasions, penalty provisions for bushfire arsonists and improved treatment for victims of crime."

The 'get tough' approach has certainly earned Labor some political capital but has won few friends in the senior ranks of the legal profession, where Rann's drive to bring justice and sentencing into line with community expectations is seen as political interference with the judicial process.

Following Rofe's resignation, the Premier added another dramatic flourish by announcing that the ideal new DPP would be in the mould of Eliot Ness, the legendary US revenue agent who ended gangster Al Capone's reign of terror over 1930s Chicago. Rann told *The Advertiser* that the concept of such a prosecutor might be "abhorrent" to some senior people in the Law Society "but fortunately, they won't be choosing the next DPP".

UniSA Associate Professor Rick Sarre, who has written extensively on justice issues, believes that the chase for votes is clouding the issue. "Law and order is seen as an election winner after Bob Carr's Labor Party won three elections in New South Wales with a tough-on-crime stance," he says.

Prof Sarre believes that this race to get tougher than the opposition leads to a lack of meaningful political dialogue. "In relation to law and order, there's never any real debate," he says. "If the government says that 'we're going to get tough on knives', then the opposition says, 'we'll get tougher'. The debate only moves in one direction."

Nor is Prof Sarre convinced that the public is always in favour of longer sentences: "Overseas studies reinforce the view that, when the public has all the facts of the case available to it, and when they are aware of the sentencing options available, they usually agree with the judge's decision."

Tough policy talk and action is not always translated into safer communities according to Prof Sarre. "While [Attorney General] Michael Atkinson was talking up longer sentences and bigger jails, he cut the crime prevention budget," he says. "With the money that's to be spent on a new jail, thousands of people could be put through a drug rehabilitation program."

Most crime is committed by repeat offenders. According to the Department for Correctional Services, more than 45 per cent of ex-prisoners are back before the courts within two years of their release. Researchers have long argued that a reduction in recidivism rates could go a long way toward a safer



community.

UniSA psychology researcher Karen Heseltine believes that offender rehabilitation is a key crime prevention strategy.

“A growing body of literature shows that offender rehabilitation can work but we need to be selective about the methods that we use and to target treatment programs that have proven to be effective,” she says.

Heseltine stresses that the long term benefits of rehabilitation are worth the effort. “Studies have shown that that the benefits, both financial and emotional, in a reduction in crime far outweigh the costs of offender rehabilitation.”

In early May, correctional services minister Terry Roberts announced that an offender rehabilitation program worth \$1.5m annually over four years which aims to tackle re-offending rates among violent sexual offenders is soon to be implemented. Some of the money has been earmarked to address recidivism among indigenous prisoners, grossly over-represented in our jails.

Victim Support Service CEO Mike Dawson is a supporter of such moves and believes that the state has been moving in the right direction in services for victims of crime. “Progress has been made each year for the past seven years in terms of recognising their rights in legislation, money spent and services provided for victims of crime,” he says.

But, Dawson says, there is a long way to go and services for the victims of crime are still inadequate. “We believe that there should be better and more information for victims from diverse and Aboriginal communities,” he says. “We need improved guidelines for victim input in negotiating charges and pleas, permanent funding for victims of crime in rural areas, a reduction of unnecessary delays in court proceedings, more restorative justice options and improvement in vulnerable witness protection.” Last but not least Dawson calls for, “less sensational and more victim-sensitive reporting of crime by the media.”

“There are few votes in offender rehabilitation and methadone treatment doesn’t sell well on talkback radio,” he says. “But there are growing calls from experts for a more balanced approach to justice in South Australia. The search for that balance could be the next challenge in Rann and Atkinson’s war on crime.”

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East meets west and starts a family

by Noel Towell

A UniSA researcher is exploring how an unlikely pairing of the ancient art of acupuncture and that most modern of fertility treatments, IVF, can help childless couples to conceive.

UniSA's Associate Professor in Complementary Therapies, Dr Caroline Smith, together with the University of Adelaide's Meaghan Coyle and Dr Sarah Robertson, hope the project will determine if acupuncture increases the pregnancy rate in women receiving IVF treatment.

The therapy has been used to treat gynaecological and obstetrical problems, morning sickness and difficulties during labour and delivery so the possible benefits to fertility treatments are no great leap of the imagination.



According to Dr Smith past studies suggest that acupuncture may have a role in improving pregnancy rates among women undergoing embryo transfer. "But these research efforts have had their problems including the use of diverse forms of therapy, problems with blinding of subjects, small studies and a lack of agreement on an appropriate endpoint to the study," she says.

The growth of complementary and alternative therapies in this area has underlined the need for rigorous scientific research into the benefits of these therapies. "The medical profession is demanding greater scientific scrutiny of methods and outcomes in the field of complementary medicine and the study may also encourage health care providers to integrate complementary medicine into fertility treatment," says Dr Smith.

Acupuncture has been around for 2,500 years. Although classical acupuncture refers to the practice of inserting fine needles into specific points of the body, today the term embraces many forms of therapy such as acupressure, ear acupuncture and laser acupuncture.

The team feels that there is a need for a larger randomised and controlled trial to determine the effectiveness of the treatment. They believe that a single, larger, well designed and randomised controlled trial will do much to advance the understanding of the effectiveness of acupuncture on women undergoing fertility treatment.

The initial treatment takes place at the time of egg retrieval and subsequent treatments are administered 25 minutes before and after the embryo transfer. The acupuncture points are selected according to individual diagnosis. All the women are followed up for 10 months after therapy for assessment of the effect of acupuncture on the live birth rate.

According to Dr Smith the key to this research is the non-invasive acupuncture needle which is a convincing simulation of real acupuncture treatment. Placebo acupuncture involves the insertion

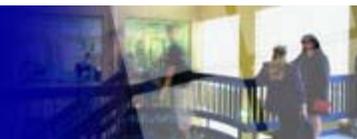
of the placebo needle into points close to the true acupuncture point.

The study could have major benefits for women undergoing fertility treatment, according to Dr Smith. "Sub-fertility is a major health concern for adults aged 25-44. Up to 15 per cent of couples seek medical advice on getting pregnant according to the World Health Organisation and IVF remains the most effective treatment for those having difficulty conceiving," she said.

The trial is looking at pregnancy and live birth rates in a sample group of 228 women.

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Good science makes for good medicine

Previously unimagined insights into human biology and an array of remarkable new technologies will revolutionise medical outcomes for patients through new approaches to drug therapy.

A new lecture series, *Body of Knowledge*, from UniSA's Division of Health Sciences will look at some of the most pertinent health issues facing the community. The first presentation, by Associate Professor Ross McKinnon, examines the implications of the landmark Human Genome Project as we move toward a new era of individualised medicine.

According to Prof McKinnon, the sheer volume of new biological information is daunting and harnessing it to yield real medical advances poses considerable challenges.

"The science already exists, in part, to deliver personalised drug therapy that predicts and moderates the side effects a patient might expect from a particular medication," he says.

Working together with colleagues in the Centre for Pharmaceutical Research and Quality Use of Medicines and the Pharmacy Research Centre, McKinnon is leading the South Australian Clinical Pharmacogenomics Initiative, a new research program which aims to harness recent technological advances to improve medical outcomes for patients.

To register to attend the June 9 public lecture at City East, visit the website www.unisa.edu.au/hsc/bok



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Kids step into the virtual world

The next leap in computer technology may make sitting around playing onscreen games a thing of the past. UniSA's School of Computer and Information Science (CIS) gave SA kids a taste of things to come at this years' Super Science Sunday held at the Investigator Science Centre recently.

The work being done in the school on wearable computers and virtual reality was on display with kids and some curious parents taking the opportunity to step into the virtual world.

A version of *Quake*, reprogrammed for a virtual format, was certainly a hit on the day, but it is not only the fun of the new technology that counts – it is being used in a range of innovative new ways and contexts that are much more than child's play.

A recent trial of the technology with children undergoing extremely painful physiotherapy found that if they used virtual reality games during therapy, their experience of pain was reduced. The joint trial of *Medical Quake* was undertaken with UniSA's School of Health Sciences, Physiotherapy.

The potential of augmented reality technology is to make interaction with computers a much more active, educational and developmental experience. And with leading researchers such as recently awarded PhD Dr Wayne Piekarski and a recent grant from the Virtual Reality Centre to extend its E-world Lab, CIS is hoping to further extend its capability and its research frontiers.



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Information access in an unequal world

Next time you get frustrated with your computer taking too long to download, spare a thought for those who aren't as well off. According to the *Star Tribune*, half of the world has yet to make its first telephone call.

In 1990 India had only about five million telephones for its population of about 850 million people – and modern Latin America doesn't fare much better.

This type of cultural gap is just one aspect of the divide between the 'haves' and 'have-nots' in the information age.

Addressing the issues of the battle for the provision of and access to information was the subject of a paper by UniSA reference librarian Karen Williams which won the 2004 Jean Arnot Memorial Fellowship.

The fellowship honours the life of Jean Arnot, a former staff member of the State Library of NSW who retired after a 47-year career. Arnot was active in women's organisations and a pioneer in the campaign for equal pay.

The award was presented by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, at Parliament House in Sydney on April 30.

University librarian Dr Alan Bundy said it was an honour for one of the University's graduates to win such an award. "We are delighted that Karen has won such a prominent national award," he said. "There needs to be a greater awareness of what is happening in the world of information, particularly with regard to information being treated increasingly as a commercial commodity."

The paper, *A call to arms: what in the world is happening to information?* is on the web at www.library.unisa.edu.au/

The *Star Tribune* article mentioned above is available at www.startribune.com/stonline/html/digage/drkside.htm

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Sustainability a priority

UniSA has signalled its commitment to continuing to develop sustainable environmental solutions with the establishment of the School of Natural and Built Environments and the appointment of its first Head of School, Professor Patrick James.

Prof James comes to UniSA from the University of Adelaide where he worked in various positions for almost 30 years, including most recently as deputy head of the School of Earth and Environmental Science.

With a strong research record in geoscience, including tectonics and geological education, and extensive teaching and administrative experience, Prof James says he is looking forward to the challenge of leading the new school, which brings together earth and environmental sciences, park management, civil and water engineering, construction management, geoinformatics, planning, and project management disciplines.



He says some of his priorities will include strengthening links with industry and government, expanding the school's international profile and developing new learning technologies.

"I think it's a visionary grouping of disciplines, as they are all built around trying to develop more sustainable environment systems," he says. "In the past we have been used to seeing two diametrically opposed lobby groups – environmentalists versus mining/development groups – but I think more and more people from all areas including government, planners, corporations and the general public, are realising that there has to be a balance in the way we use our resources.

"There are always going to be confrontations over issues like logging and uranium mining, but at the same time there's a growing awareness of sustainable development and the need to preserve the biodiversity of the natural environment for future generations."

In a true display of walking the talk, Prof James says he's planning to make use of public transport systems as he divides his time between Mawson Lakes and City East campuses – his only complaint is that commuters have to pay extra to bring their bikes on the train during peak hour. "If there's one thing I'd really like to do it's to help the Transport Systems Centre improve the quality of public transport in Adelaide," he says.

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Food and exercise interplay under the microscope

by Michèle Nardelli

So too much butter is bad for your cholesterol and is it better for your heart to run for an hour each day or to spend 20 minutes pumping iron at the gym?

The advice comes thick and fast over the airwaves but how much of it is substantiated and what do we really know for sure about the interplay between nutrition and exercise?

A new research facility based at UniSA's City East campus is devoted to examining food and exercise, focussing on what aspects of diet and lifestyle will help to sustain a healthy heart, minimise inflammatory diseases and reduce the onset of diabetes. Launched on May 12, the Nutritional Physiology Research Group is a collaboration between UniSA and Adelaide University.



Group leader Professor Peter Howe says he hopes the research will help to empower people to make the right decisions about diet and lifestyle.

"I think there is a lot of conflicting information bandied about and people sometimes feel confused about managing their own health," Prof Howe says.

"We are working closely with other research organisations and the food industry to engage in the kind of research that will build consumer confidence in making healthy decisions about diet and exercise."

"The uniqueness of the facility is that we will be researching the combined effects of nutritional and exercise interventions on cardiovascular and metabolic health parameters."

The research facility has been established with support from the Australian Research Council and already the team is collaborating with CSIRO Health Sciences and Nutrition, the Universities of Western Australia and Wollongong, RMIT and the Institute for Food, Nutrition and Human Health at New Zealand's Massey University.

Returning to Adelaide just two years ago from his role as scientific director of the Smart Food Centre at the University of Wollongong, Howe says he has been delighted with the growing interest in human nutrition research at the University of Adelaide and UniSA. "There are fruitful collaborations developing across institutions and disciplines which will underpin a strong research base in the State contributing to better health for the whole community," he says.

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Samstag wins swag of industry awards

UniSA's Samstag Program is celebrating an award-winning streak after their promotional products were applauded in two prestigious national awards.

Samstag's annual catalogue (incorporating a DVD and an animated postcard) and its promotional calendar and poster produced to publicise the Samstag Scholarships were announced the winners of two separate categories in the Museums Australia Publication Design Awards on May 18.



This is the second year in a row that Samstag has won the MAPDA awards. The distinctive calendar also received a Silver Award in the recent National Print Awards. David Zhu, the UniSA graduate who designed the products, says winning the awards was recognition for all the people involved in Samstag.

"It's great to achieve this kind of recognition," he says. "What we've achieved with a modest budget is sensational."

In a further accolade for the University, the UniSA Art Museum received a highly commended award from MAPDA for its promotional brochure.



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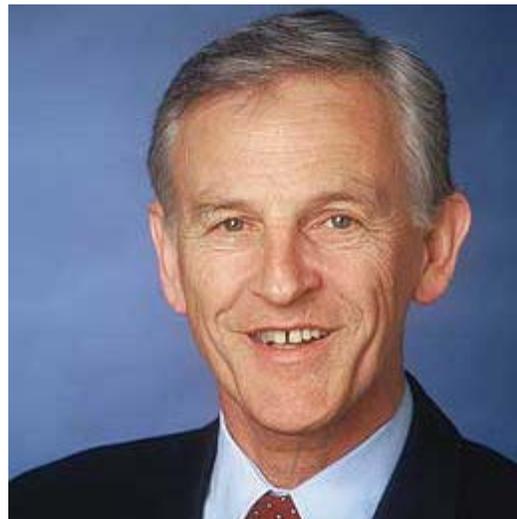
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Fellow to focus on food processing

UniSA's Professor of Marketing Management, David Corkindale, is one of three academics who will work with CSIRO under the new Flagship Visiting Fellowships scheme.

The fellowships are designed to give academics working in Australian universities the chance to work in the CSIRO with a National Research Flagship.

Prof Corkindale (pictured right) will explore a potential development in a way of understanding and forecasting the likely community, industry and market adoption of innovations and, in particular, non-thermal processing of foods. This technology has potential to extend shelf life and safety of foods, while retaining the qualities of foods.



"I admire our science community and I look forward to doing what I can to help capitalise on their work for the speedier community and industry benefit," Prof Corkindale said.

Joining Corkindale are Flagship Visiting Fellows Professor Deborah Turnbull and Dr Neville Hicks, both from the University of Adelaide. They will work with the Food Futures and Preventative Health National Research Flagships.

"I'm very pleased that all three inaugural Flagship Fellows are social scientists," says Dr Michael Barber, CSIRO's executive director for science planning. "This is evidence that the Flagships are not just about science but are about science making a difference, which means working with other disciplines particularly from the social sciences."

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City meets country in Whyalla

More than 70 UniSA academics and Whyalla community and business leaders attended the recent inaugural Town and Gown Dinner in Whyalla.

Even the rain wasn't enough to dampen their spirits as guests assembled in a marquee on the Foreshore to celebrate Whyalla as a university town.

UniSA's vice chancellor Professor Denise Bradley said she was delighted to attend to help celebrate.

"As South Australia's only regionally based campus, the Whyalla campus is a significant expression of our determination to provide access to higher education to rural and remote communities," she said.

Speaking on the evening before the Whyalla graduation ceremony, Prof Bradley made mention of the graduate employment outcomes as another positive contribution the university makes to the city and region. "It is pleasing to know that close to 100 per cent of the students graduating at tomorrow's ceremony will secure employment within four months of completing their degree program," she said.



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Graphic images taking toll

by **Thel Krollig**

Children are increasingly at risk of distress from exposure to graphic images of war zones, terrorist attacks, and speculation about Australia as a target for terrorism, according to a leading UniSA academic.

Senior lecturer in education Dr Susan Howard says speculation about Australia as a target for terrorist attacks, together with violent images coming out of the Middle East, could easily increase children's sense of insecurity about their own safety – especially with young children up to the age of five or six years.

Dr Howard said that in a five-year study titled *Somewhere to call home? Schooling and a sense of place and belonging in an increasingly globalised world*, (coauthored with Judith Gill) upper primary school children identified being safe, proud and free as key factors high on the list of what being Australian meant to them.



"While 'proud' and 'free' might have been anticipated," she said, "the strong emphasis on safety surprised us. It was clear from the children's discussions that their sense of Australia being a safe place was principally drawn from a comparison with other countries where violence of all kinds is reported and graphically depicted on the nightly news.

"The persistent chain of terrorist attacks since September 11, 2001 has left the global community feeling vulnerable – but none more so than our children. They have been bombarded with images and reports about terrorism, the War on Terror, the war in Iraq, the Bali and Madrid bombings and now graphic pictures coming out of the Middle East conflict," said Dr Howard.

Even young children are quite capable of discriminating between degrees of reality in television images, according to Dr Howard.

"Five year olds judge TV reality on a continuum with cartoons (totally unreal) at one end and the news (totally real) at the other," she says. "The extent to which media images disturb or distress young children will depend on how 'real' they judge the images, how close they perceive the violence to be and whether the violence is occurring to someone they may know or someone like them."

Dr Howard said recent war images that would have had a strong potential for causing fear and anxiety in children were those depicting the young, distressed Palestinian 'suicide bomber' shown in the media several weeks ago. The age of the boy and his evident distress would have been uncomfortably recognisable for younger children.

It is important then, says Dr Howard, to protect young children from detailed or graphic information about terrorism and war zones, particularly images which offer strong points of identification for the child viewers. Older children, however, should be given plenty of opportunities to discuss what they see and to debrief after particularly distressing material. Teachers, parents and carers have an important role to play in sharing information and explaining the causes of conflict and war.

"It is important that they place these events in a global perspective and try to give a simple straight

forward explanation, free of prejudice and subjective opinion.

“Older children are certainly in a position to understand and think about the issues but we did find in the study cited above that perceptions of violence and oppression were frequently linked to irrelevant points of 'difference' between Australians and other people (e.g. styles of dress). Here we have fertile ground for the development of prejudice and we need to take firm action to avoid this.

“Children need to understand that life is full of dangers, but they should also put those dangers in perspective so that they can engage in every life without fear.”

Since this interview was conducted photos of prisoner abuse in Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq have been made public. Dr Howard says that while many war photos don't provide young children with points for identification, these images – naked bodies being piled in pyramids in what could be a game; terrified men being threatened with fierce dogs – are of a different order. How do we explain to children what we can barely understand ourselves? “I think the answer must be to tell the truth but keep it as simple as possible,” says Dr Howard. “These are soldiers and they are supposed to be guarding these men who are prisoners but they are hurting and frightening them instead. This is wrong and now we know, we expect that they will be punished.”

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ATEM call for members

Following recent elections, UniSA is well represented on the committee of the SA Branch of the Association for Tertiary Education Management.

UniSA's Student and Academic Services director Lucy Schulz has been elected ATEM's SA president, while undergraduate programs officer Storey Chambers is the new vice president (recruitment), and the Flexible Learning Centre's Jenny Ransome is treasurer. Other UniSA staff on the committee include Carol Sutherland, Judy Szekeres, Sam Jacob and Mary McEwin.

Chambers says she's enjoying her new role, and would like to encourage UniSA staff to join ATEM — the professional association for managers and administrators working in tertiary education.



"Benefits of membership include access to professional development programs run by the branch, scholarships, discounts for professional development programs offered by local providers, conferences and seminars, as well as receiving topical information via the association's regular newsletter and journal," she says.

For more information and to check out the professional development program for 2004, go to www.atem.org.au (also see the link for the SA branch) or contact Storey Chambers on (08) 8302 4561, storey.chambers@unisa.edu.au.

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