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# UniSANEWS

September 2004

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



## Brand Loyalty

Studying at UniSA was so rewarding that when Claire Doughty wanted to get a postgraduate qualification she was more than happy to come back again. So it is no surprise to Doughty that UniSA has been given the seal of approval from Australia's national university auditors. [Full Story](#)

## High praise from national quality audit

The University of South Australia has passed its national quality audit with flying colours. [Full Story](#)

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## Brand loyalty

Studying at UniSA was so rewarding that when Claire Doughty wanted to get a postgraduate qualification, she was more than happy to come back again. So it is no surprise to Doughty that UniSA has been given the seal of approval in a recent audit by the [Australian Universities Quality Agency](#).

Doughty is a marketing assistant for Hardy Wine Company and completed her undergraduate degree in Professional Writing and Communications seven years ago.

"I loved my studies the first time around because I always felt I was learning something and there was a real commitment from our tutors and lecturers to our success as students," Doughty said.

After graduation Doughty's career moved into a completely different field and she worked in retail in SA before moving interstate and then travelling overseas. She returned to SA to take up an administrative role with Hardy Wine Company but her not so secret passion was to move into marketing and communications.

"I asked my employers just what it would take to move into a marketing role and they were quite clear that a postgraduate qualification in wine marketing would give me the edge."

Doughty is now completing her graduate diploma in wine marketing at UniSA, which she is undertaking both on campus and online.

"I have really enjoyed the flexibility of being able to study some of the program online – in fact without that option I don't think I would be able to tackle the degree and work full time," she said.

"But engaging with the course on campus is when I feel that the University really excels. There is a real commitment to being available for students. You can talk through ideas and concepts with lecturers and their level of support is terrific.

"From my understanding of brands and how important they are in an organisation I can say the UniSA brand and image is really consistent with my experience of studying there.

"Experience. The difference underlines that the study you are involved in is relevant.

"As a working student the University encourages me to use my work situation to focus my studies, so that I can directly apply my academic work to my job.

"And it has been great to have that external measure of the study I am undertaking – the course materials and study topics are really credible in the workplace."

Doughty said UniSA at both undergraduate and post graduate level made important connections for students between the theoretical and the applied.

"The wine marketing program is just so well targeted to the industry I am really pleased I took on the extra study.

Hooked on the potential of the SA wine industry, Doughty is now keen to move on to a brand management role at Hardys. But her last word about UniSA is that it's an institution that keeps its brand promise.

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## High praise from national quality audit

by Michèle Nardelli

The University of South Australia has passed its national quality audit with flying colours.

Only the second SA University to be audited by the Australian Universities Quality Agency, the University has received 16 commendations for good practice from the auditors highlighting a robust quality assurance framework, good governance and strategic management, high quality assurance standards for offshore education programs, flexible program delivery, strong support for local and international students and a positive focus on innovation and contributing to the community.



The audit team spent four days in Adelaide, visited three countries to look at UniSA's offshore programs and interviewed over 400 people including UniSA staff and students, Council members and education and industry partners.

The report findings noted that the University was well managed, responded to opportunities with speed and flexibility and demonstrated a culture of innovation.

Welcoming the AUQA report Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley said she was extremely proud of the results and how well they reflected the commitment of the whole University community – staff, students and community partners.

"In the past seven years the university sector has met so many new challenges," Professor Bradley said.

"As an institution established just 13 years ago, UniSA has grown with a determination to make a difference to the community and the students who study with us in South Australia and around the world.

"We have had a very clear view that a modern institution must operate with an explicit approach to quality assurance as it implements its strategic intentions. This audit report makes clear we are responsive and innovative but also aware of the necessity of assuring the quality of all that we do."

But perhaps it is best to summarise in the auditor's words:

*There is ... a culture of innovation, combined with a willingness to abandon ideas if they do not work.*

*The University is good at leveraging opportunities with speed and flexibility. Also, staff express the view that new ideas are acknowledged and appreciated within UniSA.*

*The far-reaching aspirations of the University and its ability as an organisation to consistently move towards them, are notable.*

To read the report on the net, go to [www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai\\_reports/index.shtml](http://www.auqa.edu.au/qualityaudit/sai_reports/index.shtml)  
Click here to view UniSA's sixteen commendations from AUQA

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### from the Vice Chancellor

#### Audit finds UniSA is travelling well

Quality and quality assurance of higher education have been on the agenda of politicians and media organisations recently.

As the number of Australian students continues to grow and Australian universities offer education to tens of thousands of people from other countries it is not surprising that there is considerable interest in and, indeed, concern about the quality of the education which is being delivered and the adequacy of university systems for assuring quality.

As a response to these concerns, a national, independent body – the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA) was established to audit Australian universities every five years.

UniSA was audited earlier this year and the audit report has just been publicly released. The independent audit team reviewed the University's portfolio which was the outcome of its self assessment, then spent four days in Adelaide, visited three countries to look at our offshore programs and interviewed close to 400 people – students, staff, Council members and partners.

We are delighted with the results which give overwhelming endorsement to the University's systems of governance and administration, its review and planning process and its systems for quality assurance. The message from the report is that the audit team found the institution to be dynamic, flexible, well governed and sure of itself and its directions.

There are 16 commendations about good practice in the report and it is instructive that seven are about institutional policy settings and frameworks – review and planning process, governance reviews, management systems, management of change, course and program evaluation and review, quality assurance for offshore programs and our systems to support research education. They are saying the right systems, frameworks and policies are in place and are working.

For those of us who work in UniSA it was terrific to read that the audit team thought some of the things we think we do well or consider distinctive were worthy of commendation also. We were commended for our success in introducing flexible delivery of programs, our capacity to find and implement technological solutions to support our work, the information and support services we provide for international students, our attention to the development needs of our staff, the work of the Flexible Learning Centre and the Library, the management of the Blueprint capital program, the training of members of promotion committees and for the UniSA Northern Adelaide Partnerships Program – UNAP.

The team has made 10 recommendations for action which we will consider carefully. While all provide useful feedback about where we might improve, none draws attention to major deficiencies or highlights areas for immediate concern. Of course, we think they failed to commend us on many other things we do well but we accept that it is unusual for there to be complete correspondence between the views of an auditor and an auditee!

The University has emerged very well from the AUQA process. The public report paints a very positive picture of what we have achieved in the last few years. Such achievements are not the result of the action of a few individuals. The whole institution is the subject of the audit and of the report. The auditors



own words suggest we are travelling well.

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### In brief

#### **\$2.5m ATN research challenge**

Australia's five leading technology universities – including UniSA – have announced a \$2.5 million grant program, aimed at increasing and promoting the benefits of collaborative research. The Australian Technology Network (ATN) Research Challenge has allocated a total of \$500,000 per annum to fund up to two research programs, each of up to five years' duration. ATN director Vicki Thomson said the challenge would enhance the profile of ATN Universities and promote collaborative research. "The challenge will support research in common areas and emphasise multi-disciplinary partnerships across the ATN," she said. The ATN is an alliance of Queensland University of Technology, RMIT University, UTS Sydney, Curtin University of Technology and UniSA. Nominations of expressions of interest close on September 30.

For more information visit [www.atn.edu.au/](http://www.atn.edu.au/)

#### **Gribbles scholarships awarded**

Four UniSA students were recently each awarded a \$5000 scholarship thanks to Gribbles Pathology. The awards, presented by Gribbles managing director David Kirby, were determined on academic merit, a written application as well as an interview with a selection panel.

The scholarships are only available to full time Bachelor of Laboratory Medicine students. For more information, visit

[www.unisa.edu.au/studysas/scholarships/default.asp](http://www.unisa.edu.au/studysas/scholarships/default.asp)



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## Classifieds

### For sale

**1980 Triumph TR7 auto w/Rover 3.51 V8.** Professional conversion done in 2004, inc. all engine, trans., diff., exhaust, and cooling systems. Mechanically A1. No rust - a reliable classic sports car you can drive every day. Features include factory sunroof, new CD & 3-way speakers, tinted windows, central locking/alarm, sports exhaust, over \$10,000 in receipts, most work still in warranty. Regretful sale: \$11,900 ono. Call Rob on (08) 8302 0289 or 0419 550 543.

**Sofa set.** 2 seater and 3 seater green sofa set, \$300 (cost \$595). Ph 0402 598 580

### Wanted

**Visiting professor looking for furnished house or apartment** from Dec 04 - May 05, preferably in inner Adelaide suburbs. Wife is disabled, need place with few stairs and shower. Email [georgeshagglund@cs.com](mailto:georgeshagglund@cs.com) or [george.hagglund@uwex.edu](mailto:george.hagglund@uwex.edu)

**Rental house** needed for three months for visiting UK academic (mid Jan to mid April). Near beach or Magill, min 2 bdrms. Ph Gerry Bloustien on (08) 8302 4638.

### Free

**Ring Cycle Poster** UniSANEWS has a poster signed by the six stars of Wagner's epic The Ring Cycle. To win, email your contact details, marked attention: Ring Cycle poster to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)

### Accommodation

**For rent 3 bdrm, 2 bthrm split level home** on 13 acres 10 mins from Stirling (near Scott Creek Conservation Park) with BIRs, 2 living areas, separate laundry, combustion heater, undercover parking, veggie garden, chook run and views. \$245 pw. Avail Dec 2004. Call 8388 2654 or email [nadia.nairn@unisa.edu.au](mailto:nadia.nairn@unisa.edu.au).

**Holiday rental.** 2 bedroom fully-furnished air-con flat in Victor Harbour. Private pool, laundry. \$135 per night. Book now and get 'mates rates' 10 per cent off. Multi-night stay also price negotiable. Ph Naomi on (08) 8370 8419 or 0421 428 584.

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## Academic Board

**July 2004**  
by Peter Cardwell

Academic Board endorsed a draft UniSA submission to the South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE) Review, which will be refined by the Vice Chancellor, the Pro Vice Chancellor (Access and Learning Support) and the Chair of Academic Board before being forwarded to the Review Secretariat.

Members noted that in February 2004, the SA Government announced an external review of the SACE. Subsequently, the Vice Chancellor informed staff of a process that would allow for University-wide consultation to prepare a response to the review. The Chair, Assoc Prof Adrian Vicary, reported that consultations were then held on each campus and led by himself and the Pro Vice Chancellor (Access and Learning Support). Divisions were asked to discuss the SACE Review Issues Paper at Divisional Board level, and staff were invited to send their comments to a specially-created web site on the University's home page.

Following the consultation process a draft submission to the SACE Review was prepared, focussing on four areas: English as a compulsory requirement for Stage 2 SACE; the internationalisation of the SACE; the relationship between the SACE and the TER; and the relationship between SSABSA and the South Australian universities.

Academic Board supported the arguments addressed in the draft University submission to the SACE Review. There was a long discussion that concentrated on a number of issues including:

- The need to argue that satisfactory achievement in English at Stage 2 should be a compulsory requirement for university entry in line with other Australian states.
- The proposed compulsory English requirement needed to be more than Basic Interpersonal Communication Skills and in particular should prepare students for Cognitive Academic Language Proficiency.
- It was important that SACE be internationally recognised and benchmarked against an international standard.
- It was important that SACE be portable and that it reinforce other aspects of the Australian Qualifications Framework.
- It was alarming to see the decline in the proportion of school leavers making the transition to university study in South Australia, which was now well below other states.
- The relationship between SSABSA and SA universities was discussed and the level of university representation on the Board was regarded as too low.
- The possibility of the three SA universities making a combined response to the SACE Review was mooted, particularly in relation to a compulsory requirement for Stage 2 English.

### **New scholarships: Whyalla**

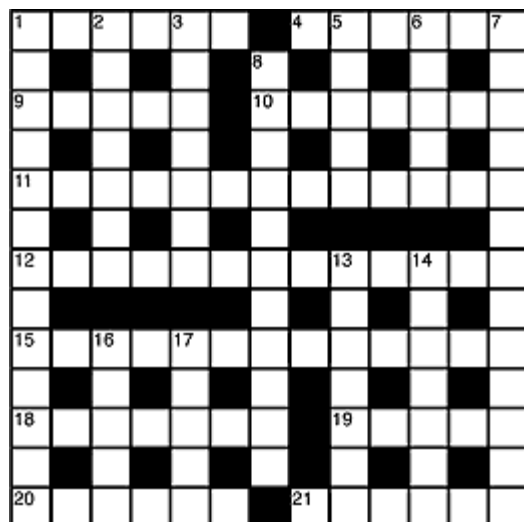
The Acting Director for Regional Engagement and Dean of Whyalla Campus, Assoc Prof Adrian Viacry, introduced a proposed new Northern Interests Outback Communities Development Scholarship, which will be sponsored by Northern Interests Pty Ltd to the value of \$10,000. It would be available annually for one full-time undergraduate student enrolled in any UniSA program who could demonstrate a link between their studies and the development of outback communities in South Australia. Members welcomed the new scholarship. Following discussion, the proposal was approved in principle subject to further information on the eligibility criteria being provided to the August meeting of Academic Board.

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**Colgan's cryptic**

**ACROSS**

1. Knock around with pin-head? (6)
4. Hops out of contentious workhouses, and weeps (6)
9. Heart of diamond exposed with outstanding cut (5)
10. Sound of a merry-go-round in Rio, but not for 500 years (7)
11. Cause damage by overuse, holding in reverse gear (4,6,3)
12. Systematic officialdom of government characters omits nothing (13)
15. Baseballer, supporting right defence firstly, is one to provide relief (4-9)
18. Relative curtailed notorious killer's move to release (7)
19. Talk incessantly about the country (5)
20. Lacklustre study of a poet (6)
21. The company line's abandoned in the act of transposing men (6)

**DOWN**

1. With one returning to the fold, the House division is tied (8,5)
2. Bend male trouser support (7)
3. Nothing dismal affected the land of Ms Leonowens (3,4)
5. One engaged in joint use (5)
6. Friend of chap occupying #10 evicts couple residing at rear of #15 (5)
7. Film inside homestead on The Rifleman's land (8,5)
8. Cultivating canola crops and fruit (6,5)
13. Opposed to expelling Frenchman from one island to another (7)
14. Tenant dressed for the occasion (7)
16. A big-headed bird? (5)
17. Put on a leg (5)

**Wine to win**

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday September 17.

**Solution**



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## Banksias provide balance

By Charlotte Knottenbelt

In academic circles, Professor Phil Howlett is best known for his work as director of UniSA's Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, where his research has used mathematical principles to make transport systems safer. But there's another side to his life that provides some balance to the equations, computer modelling and lecturing, and it involves getting his hands dirty in the great outdoors.

For 24 years, Phil and his wife Lorraine have been planting and tending banksias and other Australian natives on their block near Mount Compass on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

They have planted all of the 76 known banksia species, which range from small shrubs to trees up to 60 metres tall.



Banksias – distinguished by their hard, woody, cone-shaped fruit – are most prolific in southern Western Australia, but different species occur all over Australia in sandy soils, from southern Queensland to Tasmania.

“What I like about banksias is the way they look, and the fact that they're so well suited to sandy soil certainly makes planting and weeding much easier,” Phil says. “They're rugged, they have an array of colourful flowers, and they just look Australian .... Roses are nice flowers but I'd choose a banksia over a rose any day.”

When the Howletts first bought their block, the land had been cleared of most native vegetation and was covered in African veldt grass. They estimate they've planted at least 5,000 plants over the years, and the once-bare property is now a popular spot for black cockatoos and a myriad of other native birds.

Phil has been pleased to note a changing attitude towards planting natives from the farming community – “some of the best planting is being done by farmers these days and that certainly wasn't the case 20 years ago” – but hopes the importance of understory plants will become better understood by those outside of revegetation organisations. “When we started out I was all fired up to grow every species of banksia, but now I'm equally interested in regenerating the local scrub,” he says.

“Most people will look at a patch of trees and think 'that's native bush', but they're forgetting that in most areas there's very little native grass and there are many species that have disappeared.”

As for any parallels between his day job and his weekend passion, Howlett says he'd like to find a professional connection, but so far to no avail.

“The one thing I can say is when you plant banksias you notice an exponential growth pattern which is certainly interesting to mathematicians. We were here six years before we saw the bushes pushing up through the grass, the next year they were a metre high and the year after that they were two metres tall. The following year it was like a jungle.”

***Five to Nine is a column about UniSA staff members who have an interesting hobby or passion outside of work. If you'd like to see someone you know profiled, email your idea to [unisa.news@unisa.edu.au](mailto:unisa.news@unisa.edu.au)***

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### Our people - Jill Slay

As an accidental pioneer, I chose to study engineering because it was being promoted among girls as the best way to apply mathematical ability. I was utterly shocked to find myself the only female in my year but, although it was a bit unnerving learning to weld and solder, I found the study straight forward.

I hated working in a factory and leaned towards a research career from the outset. I have too many personal stories of the ways female engineers were discriminated against, particularly before anti-discrimination legislation was put into place.

I 'discovered' computers in the era of paper tape and punched card. Computers saved me from the noise and hassle of a machine shop and allowed me to simulate physical processes in peace and solitude. As much as I enjoy my research in IT security and computer forensics, my personal passion is culture, particularly Chinese culture.



I have spent about one quarter of my life in Hong Kong and China. I learned Cantonese by copying people I worked with and later I studied Mandarin in a formal way. My PhD was a study of the way Chinese culture affects the way students use, understand or learn about science and technology.

This definition of culture by anthropologist Clifford Geertz sums up how I understand culture: *Man is an animal suspended in webs of significance he himself [sic] has spun. I take culture to be those webs, and the analysis of it is not an experimental science in search of law but an interpretative one in search of meaning.*

I love looking at the webs we have all spun on our life journeys and analysing how we each derive and apply the meaning we gain from them.

*Jill Slay is a senior lecturer in the School of Computer and Information Science and Director of the Enterprise Security Management Laboratory.*

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### McDermott to lead health sciences

UniSA welcomes Professor Robyn McDermott, one of Australia's leading figures in public health, epidemiology and health systems research, to her new role as Pro Vice Chancellor and Vice President for the Division of Health Sciences.

Prof McDermott is a graduate of Sydney and Harvard Universities and comes to UniSA from James Cook University in Queensland, where she was Professor of Public Health Medicine.

She has recently been involved in developing a new chronic diseases strategy for Indigenous communities in far north Queensland, and research into early intervention and management of chronic diseases, particularly diabetes.

At UniSA, Prof McDermott's management portfolio includes the schools of Pharmacy and Medical Sciences, Nursing and Midwifery, and Health Sciences.



"I'm looking forward to working together with the team in the health sciences division, the senior management group, other SA universities and industry to move forward the agenda of improving the health of the people in South Australia," she says.

And what does she see as the challenges facing health sciences in higher education? "Of course there is the perennial problem of funding shortfalls compared with the job to be done, however within this context there is still a great deal of innovation which can improve teaching quality and research performance," she says. "The challenge is to make the links between people to help this along, and one of my jobs is to facilitate those links."

Although she was attracted to UniSA for its reputation as an "adaptive and innovative university with sound management and a commitment to equity", Prof McDermott does admit that moving from the warm climes of Cairns to one of the coolest winters seen in Adelaide for some time has taken some adjustment.

"I realise now that August wasn't the best time to move here, so I'm looking forward to spring," she says. "But despite the cold, I am very much enjoying Adelaide's rich cultural life, and hope to get out and explore the countryside soon."

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## New, improved maternity leave

By Charlotte Knottenbelt

UniSA staff have access to one of the most generous maternity leave packages in the nation, following the ratification of a new enterprise bargaining agreement covering academic and general staff.

Staff members with 12 months or more continuous service are now entitled to up to 52 weeks maternity leave, including 16 weeks at 100 per cent of their ordinary rate of pay, plus 12 weeks at 50 per cent.

By agreement with the staff member and their supervisor, the 16 weeks at full pay may be taken as 32 weeks at half pay. (Employees with less than 12 months continuous service also have access to some paid and unpaid leave.)

The agreement also includes a 'phased in return to work' clause, where staff returning after maternity, adoption or child rearing leave may work a reduced fraction and be paid the full time salary for eight weeks.

One person happy with the new agreement is Susan Seymour, a database administrator in the Marketing and Development Unit who is expecting her second child in October, and plans to take 12 months off.

"It's going to make things a lot easier financially," she says. "It wasn't easy the first time round with one child, but this time we'll have two to support so it's nice to know I'll have six months paid leave, making it possible to take the full 12 months off."

Susan has worked for UniSA and its antecedent institution the South Australian College of Advanced Education since 1989, and says the institution's family-friendliness is one of the reasons she has stayed so long.

"The University's fabulous as far as family and children go – if you have a sick child you can take parenting leave, if you have to take time off for an appointment they are always flexible."

Susan says the new provisions will benefit both employees and employer. "It's great for parents, but I think it benefits the University as well, they are rewarded by retaining more experienced and loyal staff members."

"In other industries there are a lot of women who don't have access to maternity leave, and a lot are choosing not to have children because they don't want it to affect their careers, which to me is sad."

"I definitely think there should be a national scheme rather than a baby bonus."

*Certified on July 26 by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, the University of South Australia's (Academic and General Staff) Enterprise Agreement 2004 also includes a 15 per cent salary increase over 26 months for most staff. The EBA was put to the vote in June, with 97 per cent of UniSA general and academic staff voting to accept the agreement. Agreements covering Document Services and security and grounds staff are currently under negotiation. For more information on the EBA visit <http://www-p.unisa.edu.au/entb/> or contact the UniSA workplace relations team on (08) 8302 2858.*

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### A drop in the ocean?

*South Australians have long been aware of their state's reputation as the 'driest state in the driest continent', and with water restrictions introduced more than a year ago, and a 'Save the Murray Levy' now added to SA Water bills, water conservation finally seems to be finding prominence on government priority lists and in the public consciousness. But are these initiatives making a difference or are we just treading water? Charlotte Knottenbelt reports.*

When water restrictions were introduced to SA in June last year, most householders duly complied with the new rules, which include a ban on sprinkler use during the day, among a raft of other measures. While initial indications are that domestic water consumption has decreased – SA Water was processing the figures to work out exactly how effective at the time this article went to print – the question of how far the measures will go toward actually saving the Murray has been raised by environmentalists and householders alike.



While most of us were happy to do our bit to reduce water consumption, we also know that household use accounts for a small proportion of Australia's overall water usage, with the bulk of water going towards irrigation.

"Irrigators drawing water from the Murray in South Australia presently take six times as much water as all urban users combined," says John Argue, an adjunct professor at the Urban Water Resources Centre in UniSA's School of Natural and Built Environments. "The main aim of reducing the amount of water we take from the Murray is to ensure that Adelaide's water in the second half of this century has a salinity level meeting the World Health Organization's 'top quality' standards, and to do this, Adelaide must reduce its take by 61 gigalitres, so we still have a long way to go."

Prof Argue says while dual flush toilets and rainwater tanks have their place in water conservation, nothing short of a major cultural shift is required if we want to see real results.

"Undoubtedly the greatest contribution to water conservation would be achieved if Adelaide's home garden culture were to change from its present emphasis on exotic species to native or drought tolerant grasses and shrubs," he says. "This change could achieve the 40 per cent reduction in demand required to meet the WHO standard."

The responsibility shouldn't all be on the householder, according to the director of UniSA's Water Law and Policy Group Professor Jennifer McKay, who cites the Mawson Lakes development in Adelaide's north – where a separate 'grey water' tap has been fitted to all homes for use in the garden – as exemplary. "We need to see more schemes where non potable water is used to water gardens, but such schemes are hard to retrofit, so there's a real need for strong legislation to make sure that these types of systems are planned in new homes from the beginning."

Probably predicting resistance from bottom-line conscious developers and home-buyers, the state government is yet to make water recycling a compulsory part of new house planning, however they have introduced legislation requiring all new homes after 2006 to be fitted with rainwater tanks (following the recommendation of Adelaide Thinker in Residence, Herbert Giradet.)

Prof Argue says that while the legislation is a move in the right direction, the new laws are unlikely to

have much effect for decades – by which time the amount of new houses will have cancelled out any savings. “A rainwater tank of acceptable size, plumbed into a household water distribution system can save some 40 to 50 per cent of in-house use per annum, so there’s no doubt that this is a positive action,” he says.

“However, the rate of new housing is some 8,000 units per annum: given that there are presently over 400,000 residential units in Adelaide, it will be well into the 21st century before the full effect of the initiative will be felt.”

He backs McKay’s call for better urban planning to maximise water conservation, and says UniSA is in many ways leading the field of Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD). “UniSA has made a major contribution to WSUD in Australia, particularly in regard to stormwater management, with more than 30 research and community projects around Australia looking at flood control, pollution control and stormwater harvesting,” says Prof Argue.

UniSA’s Urban Water Resources Centre has also produced a practical manual, *WSUD: Basic procedures for ‘source control’ of stormwater – a handbook for Australian practice*, to be launched at the Third WSUD Conference to be held in Adelaide this November.

Sensitive urban design is well and good, but the way we manage water in our cities is inextricably linked with water management practices in rural areas, and this is where Professor McKay’s work examining the different water allocation policies and laws – from local councils to state government, federal government and international law – comes in.

McKay, who has recently completed a report looking at the interplay of different laws in relation to Victoria’s water resources, says the different laws are not working effectively together. But while pointing out that existing laws are inconsistent across jurisdictions, Prof McKay notes the difficulty in getting stakeholders to agree to blanket measures.

“There’s a high level of political sensitivity about changing water allocation policies but a recognition of the need to reduce the complexity,” she says.

“The new National Water Initiative has proposed plans to rationalise the water allocation and water markets across the nation, but Western Australia and Tasmania have not signed up to the initiative because they say it is too Murray-Darling Basin focused,” she says.

“We need national consistency, but before we can hope to achieve that, we need consistent environmental data on existing water use. At the moment we’re not sure by how much we are salinising or over drawing aquifers.

“We need to set up an environmental reserve for water, and then only allocate to farmers and the urban environment an amount that is sustainable.”

*For more information on the Third Water Sensitive Urban Design conference, visit [www.plevin.com.au/WSUD2004/](http://www.plevin.com.au/WSUD2004/)*

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## Open Day attracts 12,000

UniSA's Open Day, held on Sunday August 15, was a huge success with an estimated 12,000 people turning up to find out more about the many study options available.

UniSA staff and students manned more than 40 information booths, while program directors and academic staff presented more than 70 lectures giving an overview of the numerous programs on offer, from IT and business, to teaching, nursing and visual arts.

Local rockers Foreshore entertained, the UniSA Students' Association provided a free sausage sizzle, and Triple M were on campus with fun and freebies for all.

Meanwhile, the Whyalla open day attracted more than 500 people to the campus on August 20.

Open Day coordinator, Annabel Mansfield, said that those that missed Open Day but still wanted to find out about their study options in 2005, should contact UniSA's Program Information Centre on (08) 8302 2376.





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## Growing pains affecting one in three young children

By Geraldine Hinter

Growing pains are a bigger problem for young children than first thought, affecting one child in every three, a UniSA study shows.

Parents of children aged between four and six from across South Australia took part in the study by completing questionnaires on the prevalence of growing pains in their children.

This is the first time that research has focused specifically on young children to determine the extent of the problem. It is these young children who are purported to be the most affected but have been the least studied, according to podiatry PhD student Angela Evans from UniSA's School of Health Sciences.



"Growing pains affect a lot of young children (36.9 per cent of children in our study) to the point that they're seeing a health professional or taking pain medication. It has also been estimated in other studies that children with growing pains who frequently see medical or other health practitioners can take up between five and seven per cent of health care resources, which is considerable," Evans says.

"Children who are otherwise healthy and well can be described as having growing pains when they experience recurrent leg pain and aches in both legs. It is important to note that these pains occur in the muscle groups, not in the joints, which differentiates them from more serious conditions.

"Growing pains typically start late in the day, particularly at night, and are more likely to occur after increased activity. The level of distress varies from complaints by some children to crying and screaming by others, depending on the intensity of the pain. In terms of frequency, it seems to go in spates, from say, four times in a week to nothing for a month, making it difficult to monitor," Evans says.

"While there's a lot that we still don't know about growing pains, it has been classically diagnosed by the exclusion of more serious conditions.

"It is important for health care professionals to be more aware of this too often dismissed childhood problem where, in about 70 per cent of cases, there is a family history of growing pains."

Evans is conducting world-first research to compare children with and without growing pains to see if there is a difference anatomically in their foot posture.

"Preliminary testing suggests that there is an association between children's foot posture and leg pains and we are investigating to see whether that theory is a factor," she says.

"We have developed the best methods for accurately measuring the anatomical part of the foot for children aged four, five and six by using ultrasound to make sure that measurements are valid."

Research that leads to identifying the cause of growing pain will help children and their parents to better manage the condition and reduce the number of visits to health professionals, according to Evans, whose research is being supervised by Associate Professor Sheila Scutter, Dean of Teaching and Learning in the Division of Health Sciences.

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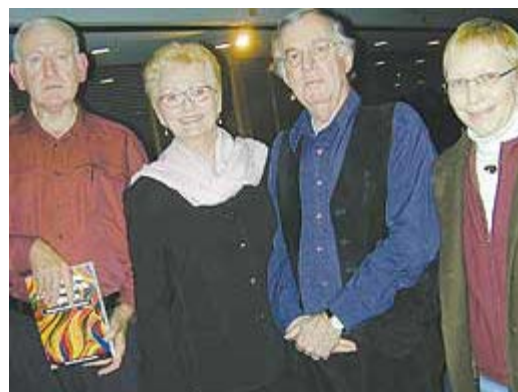
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## Countering apathy with education

By Charlotte Knottenbelt

The Hawke Research Institute's Weaving the Social Fabric 2004 public lecture series got off to an engaging start in August with a talk by Mike Newman on teaching for sustainable, vigorous and defiant societies.

Newman, well known for his books on adult education and community action, presented a pointed discussion bemoaning that too many people feel powerless to enact change in their lives and the world, and championing educators' roles in countering apathy.



Citing the actions and words of legendary agents of change, from Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi to Rick Turner (whose book *The Eye of the Needle* challenged the dominant perception in 1970s South Africa that apartheid was unbreakable), Newman urged the audience, made up largely of educators, to "teach choice".

He also covered the tricky question of whether violent means could be justified by a peaceable end result, citing a case in Pakistan where a child was kidnapped to lever the release of 40 children from hard labour, as well as the Terrania Creek anti-logging protests in northern NSW in the 1970s.

*Mike Newman's lecture was the first in the 2004 Weaving the Social Fabric series, which is based around a theme of sustainable societies. Upcoming public lectures in the series include Professor Gabrielle Meagher on the future for paid carers (September 2), Professor Daniela Stehlik on community partnerships (Sept 16) and Dr Gido Mapunda on indigenous business (Sept 30). For more information, visit the Hawke Institute events website at [www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/institute/events.htm](http://www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/institute/events.htm)*

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## A hat trick of tall poppies

By Emma Masters

One third of this year's nine South Australian Young Tall Poppy Science awards have been won by UniSA researchers for their investigations in specialised science and technology fields – one on the social and economic repercussions of fatigue, another for improving communication systems, and one in augmented reality.

The awards recognise the achievements of outstanding young researchers and this year is the first time UniSA researchers have won a hat trick of Tall Poppies, reflecting UniSA's growing research strength.



Dr Adam Fletcher, a senior research fellow at UniSA's Centre for Behavioural Science, received a Young Tall Poppy Science award for his investigations into sleep and work-related fatigue. He says that while the cost of fatigue has been well acknowledged in some areas – such as road and workplace safety – the impact of lack of sleep on a person's family life and general well-being is all too often dismissed. His computer model that predicts fatigue has been commercialised and is now in demand nationally and overseas.

Professor Alex Grant, who at 33 is UniSA's youngest professor, won a Tall Poppy for his contribution to information theory. He has been using mathematical theories to explore and extend communications systems, such as wireless data networks, broadband systems and new mobile telephony networks, to help deliver cheaper and better communications to the public. Leader of the Coding and Information Theory Research Group at UniSA's Institute for Telecommunications Research, Prof Grant is named in six patents.

Dr Wayne Piekarski, a UniSA PhD graduate and lecturer in the School of Computer and Information Science, received an award for his doctoral research into user interface design and augmented reality (AR), a process of projecting computer-generated images over a user's view of the real world.

Dr Piekarski built a mobile AR computer – with a backpack, virtual reality glasses, gloves with metallic sensors and a video camera that watches the user's hands – so augmented reality can be experienced in an outdoor environment.

“People had built AR systems before, but my mobile system is one of the first that allows you to really control and interact with it where users can grab and change the virtual models using their hands,” Piekarski says.

While the awards recognise scientific achievement, they also have a strong focus on the researchers' contribution to community awareness and education. UniSA's three award recipients said they were honoured to receive the prestigious award and look forward to continuing to promote science and technology to the public, a part of their award winning obligations.

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## UniSA's sixteen AUQA commendations

Listed below are the 16 commendations for good practice singled out by auditors from the Australian Universities Quality Agency as part of their report on the University of South Australia.

1. AUQA commends UniSA for its comprehensive annual planning and review cycle that provides a solid framework for quality improvement.
2. The regular and productive monitoring and self-review of the University Council.
3. Strong and effective management systems.
4. Effectiveness in the management of change.
5. The successful achievement of its goal of providing flexible delivery models.
6. Its thorough system of course and program evaluation and review.
7. The information and support services it provides to international students.
8. Its quality assurance system for transnational programs.
9. Introduction of a number of systems and processes to manage and support research education, while noting that some are too recent for their effectiveness to be assessed.
10. Commitment to, and range of activities in, community engagement, particularly the UniSA Northern Adelaide Project.
11. Attention to the training and development needs of staff.
12. The training of promotion committee members.
13. The highly-valued services provided to both students and staff by the Flexible Learning Centre.
14. The Library for its active support of the University's needs, and particularly its attention to transnational programs.
15. Its ability to identify and implement technological solutions that support its campuses and programs, both within Australia and overseas.
16. Blueprint 2005 which was soundly conceptualised and well-managed, and has engendered a positive spirit.

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### Agreement to open engineering options

Malaysian and Australian engineering students will be able study 'side by side' but nearly 5,000km away under a new agreement between UniSA and KBU International College

The agreement will provide opportunities for students who will be able to remain in Malaysia while they study the identical curriculum to the Bachelor of Engineering program offered by UniSA within Australia.

UniSA and KBU International College recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement for Malaysian and international students to enrol in UniSA's Bachelor of Engineering and complete the first three years of the program at KBU College in Kuala Lumpur and then transfer to UniSA's Mawson Lakes campus for the fourth year to complete the program.

"The agreement will give the Malaysian students and international students studying in Malaysia the added advantage of graduating with an engineering degree that is fully accredited by Engineers Australia," said Professor Robin King, UniSA's Pro Vice Chancellor for the Division of IT, Engineering and the Environment.

"The first three years of the engineering program will be taught by academic staff from KBU International College this will be supported by face-to-face teaching by UniSA academic staff on a regular basis in the second and third year of the program," said Prof King.

UniSA's School of Electrical and Information will offer the Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Systems Engineering); Bachelor of Engineering (Telecommunications); and the Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical and Mechatronic Engineering) through the new twinning program (which is subject to approval by the Malaysian Ministry of Education.) .

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### Status of women under the microscope

As part of its commitment to promoting equity, the Hawke Centre will present Irene Khan, international secretary general of Amnesty International at Respect for Women, a seminar to be held on September 9.

Khan (pictured right) has been at the forefront of a world campaign to stop violence against women and will join with other presenters, including Professor Lowitja O'Donoghue and Australian sex discrimination commissioner Pru Goward to examine current issues in women's employment, education, legal and social status. The event has been supported by Minister for the Status of Women, Stephanie Key, the SA Office of the Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, the UniSA Women and Leadership Program, and Amnesty International (SA/NT).



Centre director Elizabeth Ho said the seminar was aimed at professionals, executives, educators and volunteer leaders working in the areas of community, education, policy, law, human resources and strategic planning.

"It will be a highly informed and provocative round up of issues and a rare opportunity to create a flow of ideas between those who lead and influence policy and those who manage, practise and volunteer," she said.

UniSA's international and development executive director Dr Anna Ciccarelli will join Khan and UN UniFem leader, Senator Penny Wong in a panel discussion on international issues, while the Hawke Research Institute's Professor Eleanor Ramsay will lead out on the national agenda for women. Associate Professor Ingrid Day, also president of the Premier's Council of Women, will provide a summary of issues to be taken forward from the seminar. The seminar has a limited number of seats and includes lunch.

To book go to [www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/events/lectures/RESPECT.htm](http://www.hawkecentre.unisa.edu.au/events/lectures/RESPECT.htm) or call (08) 8302 0371 for a registration brochure.

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