



# UniSANEWS

June 2006

A newspaper of the University of South Australia



## ADHD: who's failing who?

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### ADHD: who's failing who?

University of South Australia lecturer and research fellow, Dr Brenton Prosser, says it's time for a broader understanding of ADHD.

I have heard a lot of heartbreaking and inspiring stories while working with young people with ADHD – Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder – and their families. Over that time, it has become ever clearer to me that there is a need for a broader understanding of the condition.

It seems what we now call a disorder could be blamed, at least partly, on a mismatch between the natural diversity of human behaviours and a world that has changed so much in the last 30 years that these behaviours no longer fit.

As blue-collar work has dwindled, there is less space for people who abound in physical energy, are intuitive rather than logical, and work through challenges by doing rather than reflecting. The new benchmark for behaviour in our classrooms is increasingly based on the traditional model of the hard-working, studious female student; and because schools are primarily geared towards a one-size-fits-all standard of success, success means students need to be passive and compliant.

Outside of school many of the avenues to "let off steam" once available to young people are disappearing within the urban landscape, with parents too afraid to let their kids go to the local shops alone. Increasingly, adults are more likely to be at a workstation than a worksite, and young people are safer at a PlayStation than in a playground.

Our competitive workplace now wants employees who are not only smart and creative, but focused and compliant as well. With such huge social and technological shifts in such a short time, it's a big ask to expect all human beings – diverse as they are – to adapt to these new rules in less than one generation.

Some look at the recent growth in ADHD and conclude that the disorder is a just a modern myth. However, ADHD is our best medical explanation for the cause of hyperactive, inattentive and impulsive behaviours in our young people (mostly boys). It is also true that there is no objective medical test to show who has ADHD, which has inevitably led some to question the existence of ADHD. Yet what stands out above all the "black and white" views on ADHD is the reality of the challenges that face these young people and their families.

If we only ask medical questions about ADHD, we will only get medical answers and more drug treatment. In response, we need a new view of ADHD and an even broader explanation that answers the educational, cultural and social questions that the medical explanation alone cannot.

If we accept that some of our children are physically different in such a way that contemporary social preferences see them fail at school and work, then as a community we need to decide how we will respond to that failure. I believe that leaving these challenges for doctors and drug prescribers to solve is effectively "shrugging and drugging".

As a community, we all need to take some responsibility for the growth of ADHD. Instead of just asking how children with ADHD are failing in our society, we should also be asking what it is about our society that's failing them.

Dr Prosser's new book ADHD: Who's Failing Who? is published by Finch Publishing and was launched



last month in Adelaide by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja.

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## From the Chancellery

### Executive Director and Vice President: International and Development Dr Anna Ciccarelli

In recognition of the benefits of international education, student mobility and open borders in particular, the Federal Government is bringing international education to the fore as a key strategy in foreign policy initiatives.

For instance, the billion dollar tsunami reconstruction commitment to Indonesia includes significant funds for scholarships and for building educational capacity, while Pakistan and India have both received significant Endeavour Scholarship commitments.

Also, the AusAID scholarship budget has doubled and UniSA is looking forward to re-engaging in this important international education program and rebuilding our links in Indonesia and growing our relationships in Vietnam as a consequence.

Further, Minister Bishop recently launched a discussion paper on "The Implications of the Bologna Process for Australia", a plan which aims to "harmonise" degree structures and build a European Higher Education Area across some 45 countries.

The goal is to make Europe the most competitive economic block in the world by 2010 through the alignment of education awards into a graduate, masters and doctoral program structure in order to facilitate both student and labour mobility.

A national response to the discussion paper may serve to position Australia in multilateral regional discussions about harmonisation of higher education award structures in the Asia Pacific region. Again, this would facilitate the mobility of students and recognition of Australian awards as well as employment of Australian graduates, whether domestic or international.

Australia faces some significant challenges at the 20-year anniversary of the introduction of the full fee paying program. The national slowdown in commencing international students should encourage all Australian universities to take stock and focus on all aspects of the international student experience in the classroom, campus and community.

To this end, UniSA has developed initiatives such as the "Network Mawson Lakes" and the "Aussie Family" program for commencing international students. These innovative programs effectively reduce isolation and foster deeper connections between international students and our community. To further facilitate successful study outcomes for our international students, English proficiency is a 2006 corporate project.

UniSA recognises that the academic and social communication skills of all our graduates is vital to successful employment and further study outcomes. In the long term, the quality of our graduates, along with the calibre of our research, provide the most effective way to present UniSA to the wider world.



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### In brief

#### Cranfield deal a boon

UniSA has welcomed the State Government's move to build on a collaboration with UK specialist postgraduate education provider, Cranfield University, Defence College of Management and Technology. The Premier Mike Rann, signed a Heads of Agreement with Cranfield at the end of May which will open the door to an even stronger research and education relationship with UniSA. UniSA Vice Chancellor Professor Denise Bradley said the agreement supported an 18 month collaboration and a memorandum of understanding between Cranfield and some of UniSA's most advanced defence industry research and education nodes. "Specific strategic collaborations such as this one can only strengthen SA's emergence as Australia's premier defence industries specialist," she said. "We have a long history of successful research and education alliances with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and industry partners at Technology Park, across Australia and globally through UniSA's Division of IT Engineering and the Environment (ITEE). The Premier's move to consolidate our relationship with Cranfield builds on the State Government's support for industry research collaborations such as the Centre of Excellence in Defence and Industry Systems Capability (CEDISC)."

#### Flagship institute for sustainability launched

Creating integrated eco-sensitive solutions for sustainable urban and rural environments is the focus of UniSA's multi-million dollar flagship institute for sustainability research launched in May. The Institute for Sustainable Systems and Technologies (ISST) aims to become an internationally recognised research facility for developing technologies that optimise the use of natural resources, minimise waste, emissions and other environmental consequences, and reduce costs. ISST brings together four world-leading centres within UniSA researching agricultural machinery, industrial and applied mathematics, sustainable energy, and transport systems. "Through the creation of multi-disciplinary research programs, we aim to help South Australia become a national and international leader in sustainable development and stimulate the growth of industries that will export South Australian sustainability technologies, products and expertise," ISST Director, Professor Wasim Saman said. The ISST houses more than 100 UniSA staff and research students developing systems and technologies in energy, transport, water, environmental modelling and agriculture.

#### Life imitating nature

Janine Benyus, the world's leading expert in Biomimicry – a new science that studies nature's best ideas and then imitates them to solve human problems – last month addressed a packed auditorium at UniSA's City East campus. Biomimicry: seeking sustainable solutions by emulating Nature's living examples looked at how "doing it nature's way" has the potential to change the way we grow food, make materials, harness energy, heal ourselves, store information and conduct business. "Animals, plants, and microbes have been perfecting their wares for 3.8 billion years. After all this R&D, nature knows what works, what is appropriate, and what lasts," Benyus said. Bullet trains inspired by birds, self-cleaning paint modeled on the lotus flower and the ubiquitous Velcro™ are all examples of biomimicry at work. Elizabeth Ho, Director of the Hawke Centre, said Janine Benyus brings together work done by scientists, engineers and designers, seeking sustainable solutions to real world problems.

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## Classifieds

### For sale

**Nissan Prairie 1984**, Station Wagon, good working order, air con, \$1500 ono. Call Marek on 0411 647 515.

**MGF 1.8 2D Roadster** 2001, 5-Speed, 58,000km, air con, CD Player, full service history, \$27,500 ono. Call David on 0415 456 986.

**Kitchen dresser**, restored large 1920s Oak Leadlight \$400. Call Mike on (08) 8302 3309 or email [mike.stuart@unisa.edu.au](mailto:mike.stuart@unisa.edu.au)

**Bar**, black wood veneer, u-shape, overhead wineglass racks and downlight, fixed under-bench shelving. Ex condition. \$450.00 ono. Call Kerry on (08) 8302 3694 or email [kerry.zweck@unisa.edu.au](mailto:kerry.zweck@unisa.edu.au)

**Bordeaux Wine Rack**, 72 bottle rack, assembled, as new condition. \$70. Call Colin on (08) 8302 2366.

### Accommodation

**For rent, Kensington Park**, July-Nov 2006. Fully furnished 2 bdrm house, with reverse cycle, renovated kitchen, nice backyard and shed/garage. \$280 per week. Call 0422 003 282.

**For rent, North Adelaide**, large room available in a fully furnished family house. Close to schools, public transport, shops, cinemas and North Adelaide swimming pool. Avail. Feb 1st, \$200 per week. Call Coco on 0422 514 715.

### Got something to sell?

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

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## Colgan's Cryptic Crossword

### Across

1. Have lightly cooked morsel as a snack (7)
5. Yank is one in debt (5)
8. Gymnasts seek admittance of a form of make-up (13)
9. Made from tin cans (7)
10. This dance is strange, to a degree (5)
11. Realises money is being devalued (3,5,5)
13. Ground one lacking potential (5)
15. Failing to behave economically (7)
17. They are charged for breaching strike, popular with the masses (9,4)
18. Natives' currency (5)
19. He returns your ID (7)

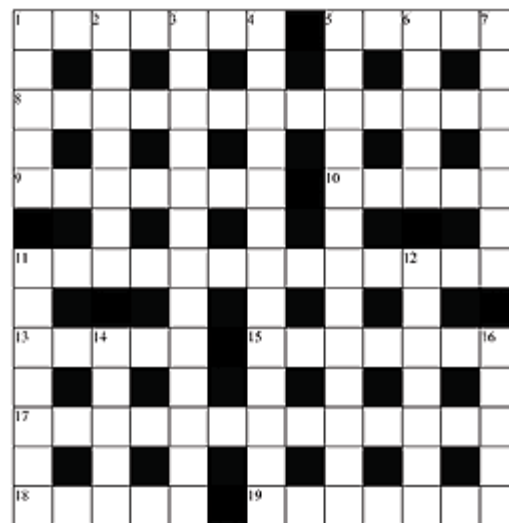
### Down

1. Recognises without opening files (5)
2. Substitute for fabrics (7)
3. Scales these awkwardly, by all accounts (7,6)
4. Drawn-out sentence's quite fascinating (4-9)
5. Some heavy rock, for example. Reject C&W to get Stones number (13)
6. Cradle is in a vacant room (5)
7. Lockers conceal elaborate security measures (7)
11. Mezzo briefly digressed into high-pitched quaver (7)
12. Stroking with hand high on narrow strip of water (7)
14. Device which goes up and down (5)
16. A star shining over South Australian girl (5)

### Wine to win

For your chance to win a bottle of fine wine, fax your completed crossword to (08) 8302 5785 by Friday, June 30, 2006.

### Solution



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

**Explanations** (C = cryptic part of clue + S = straight part of clue;  
or S + S = clue holding answer twice with two different straight meanings;  
or POW = play on words.)

Note that joining words may or may not be an integral part of the clue.

Punctuation and capital letters are irrelevant.

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

### Across

1. C: lightly cooked (rare) morsel (bit)  
S: snack = rarebit
5. C: one (l) in debt (inside "hock")  
S: yank = hoick
- 8 C: gymnasts (supple men) seek (try) admittance of a ("a" inside)  
S: form of make-up = supplementary
9. C: made from tin cans (anagram of "tin cans")  
S: made from tin = stannic
10. C: strange (rum) a degree (BA)  
S: dance = rumba
11. C: money is being devalued (the penny drops)  
S: realises = the penny drops
13. S: ground = earth  
S: one lacking potential = earth
15. C: behave economically (use less)  
S: failing = useless
17. C: strike (batter) popular (in) masses (grams)  
S: they are charged for breaching = battering rams
18. S: natives = euros  
S: currency = euros
19. C: returns your ID (reverses "name tag")  
S: he = gateman (one who returns your ID)

### Down

1. C: recognises without opening ("grasps", without "g" )  
S: files = rasps
2. C: fabrics (rep, lace)  
S: substitute = replace
3. C: scales (balances) these awkwardly (anagram of "these")  
S: all accounts = balance sheets
4. C: sentence (time) quite fascinating (consuming)  
S: drawn-out = time-consuming
5. C: reject C&W (remove "hundred" and "w" from "hundredweight") to get Stones number  
(8 stones = 1 hundredweight)  
S: some heavy rock, for example = hundredweight

6. C: in a (in a) vacant room (room with nothing inside = rm)

S: cradle = inarm

7. C: lockers (keys) conceal elaborate (around "pad")

S: security measures = keypads

11. C: Mezzo briefly (M) digressed into high-pitched (inside 'treble')

S: quaver = tremble

12. C: on (over) narrow strip of water (arm)

S: stroking with hand high = overarm

14. POW: device which goes up and down (= rotor, in both directions)

16. C: a star shining (sun) over South Australian (around SA)

S: girl = Susan

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### Our people - Michelle Tuckey

I joined UniSA only a year ago but I am happy to be in an academic position with the opportunity to develop my own program of research. I completed my PhD in Psychology at Flinders University in 2003 looking at factors affecting eyewitness memory. In the next few years I worked at the Australasian Centre for Policing Research as a senior researcher investigating a range of aspects of organisational psychology – from factors surrounding police burn-out and police corruption, right through to the development of national level policy to improve policing. UniSA was appealing for a range of reasons. I love the fact that we are genuinely linked to the community and that when we talk about research, the University really does value the application of knowledge.



I think there is a real appreciation of how research can make a difference. The research project I am engaged in now is a great example and one close to my heart. I am looking at how to make the volunteer firefighter role more satisfying and sustainable. I have been a volunteer firefighter since I was 18 so I understand some of the pressures of the role – balancing work and training needs in an increasingly professionalised service and the impact of volunteer responsibilities on family and personal life. How those factors affect volunteers may offer a key to reshaping policy so that we can arrest the decline in volunteer numbers for these important roles. I want to understand the negative impacts but also to identify what rewards people get from the role and how we can enhance positive aspects of the volunteer experience. It all fits for me. I can teach and research, but I can also contribute to the community in powerful ways through the research – well, that's my goal – and I feel that I am supported here to do just that.

*Dr Michelle Tuckey is a lecturer and researcher in the School of Psychology.*

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## Five to nine - A taste for the Big Apple

by **Rebecca Gill**

When Catherine Campbell isn't lecturing about the implications of international communication, you may find her waving a top hat or singing about the perils of living the single life. For while she teaches in the performing arts department and Unaipon School by day, Campbell is a cabaret artist by night.

"When I was growing up I desperately wanted to be on Young Talent Time, or something scholarly, like an academic, or a medical researcher. But I decided that the former wasn't very realistic, and so I pursued a career in academia," Campbell said.

But on her way to becoming a person with lots of letters at the end of her name, Campbell landed a place in one of the most lively and glamorous industries around.

She's obviously no slouch, having recently been invited to participate in the prestigious Yale University Cabaret Conference in the United States, which culminates in a showcase performance in the Big Apple.

This trip will be squeezed in between this year's winter school and the summer school, where Campbell will teach Effective Communication.

"In New York you not only make fantastic contacts but you get a feeling for where the standard of your work fits in the larger picture."

This will be Campbell's second trip to New York, with a previous trip being made for a cabaret/music theatre piece written with Adelaide's Cabaret Festival creator Frank Ford.

In addition to her many live appearances (she also appeared in the State Opera of South Australia production *Is there a Tenor in the House?*) and her work at UniSA, Campbell also teaches singing to young children and performance art to young adults.

And as if this wasn't enough to keep her on her toes, she will also perform in the sixth annual Adelaide Cabaret Festival before jetting off to New York. The festival, which runs from June 9 to 24, will see 40,000 people descend upon Adelaide to see hundreds of Australian and international artists.

Festival-goers can catch Campbell in black comedy *Secret Love*, and *Girls Just Wanna Have Fun* ("a cabaret version of *Bridget Jones's Diary*", in which she performs with hit cabaret comedy trio *Gentlemen Prefer Curves*).

And although clearly always up for a good challenge, Campbell is a little wary about undertaking her "ultimate" professional challenge.

"It seems that everyone I work with at the University is trying to convince me to finish my PhD. I'm still undecided at the moment," said Campbell who, for all her theatrical accomplishments, still loves taking centre stage in a UniSA lecture theatre.

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## Graduate bequest funds health research

by Michèle Nardelli

The generous bequest of a preschool teacher, who in her lifetime struggled with arthritis and breast cancer, was recently acknowledged at UniSA with the opening of the Kathleen Bodnar Laboratory.

A graduate of UniSA, Bodnar lost her battle with breast cancer in 2004 at the age of 51 but had long been interested in the use of alternative therapies to manage her own debilitating arthritis. She had a keen interest in research into new therapies and the nutritional factors influencing health and recovery.

The new Kathleen Bodnar laboratory will play a key role in UniSA's Nutritional Physiology Research Centre at UniSA's City East campus. Bodnar's bequest to the Centre has provided a dedicated research ultrasound machine to improve diagnostic capabilities.



Head of the Centre, Professor Peter Howe, said the bequest would ensure more thorough research could be carried out into the impact of a range of diet and lifestyle interventions including the importance of omega three fish oils and products such as cocoa and soy in the human diet.

"Right through all traditions of medicine there is a fundamental understanding of the importance of foods in influencing health," Prof Howe said. "The Centre is working to identify, quantify and verify how diet and lifestyle factors can improve cardiovascular, metabolic and mental health.

"The ultrasound will allow us to examine the changes in the lining of blood vessels and to observe changes in biomarkers that impact on heart health. It will complement our metabolic, cardiovascular and exercise testing facilities, making the Centre a fully integrated research unit dedicated to understanding the role of treatments and lifestyle changes, and alternatives to drug therapies, in improving human health. This is a wonderful gift because it will continue to contribute to human health well into the future."

Kathleen Bodnar completed a Graduate Diploma in Parent Education and Counselling in 1981. Dedicated to teaching and supporting opportunities for all children, Bodnar was active in the SA Institute of Teaching, influencing the development of an affirmative action policy for women and girls. She later worked for the World Workshop Resource Centre and ABSCHOL, a program to provide scholarships for Indigenous students.

A world traveller, Bodnar was a strong advocate for peace and for empowerment through education, and also spent some time working for Community Aid Abroad as a volunteer coordinator for CAA Trading. She taught at Bute Kindergarten until her poor health made it impossible to continue.

Attending the launch, Bodnar's sisters, Christine Majoros and Alice Broadbridge said they were delighted to see "Kathy's good intentions come to fruition".

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## Couples can divorce – parents can't

by Vincent Ciccarello

UniSA postgraduate students are playing a vital role in the design, trial and evaluation of a comprehensive model of family services delivery as part of the Children and Families in Transition (CAFIT) project.

Project director Associate Professor Dale Bagshaw said the project's latest report, *Children and families in transition: towards a child-centred integrated model of practice*, reveals children are being let down by a family law system focused on satisfying separating adults and managed by the many practitioners unqualified to address children's needs.



Education and training, she said, will play a critical role in any shift from an adult-centric approach to a child-centred model of separation. To this end, postgraduate students have interviewed parents, children and relatives during a statewide phone-in, consulted Indigenous service providers, helped to develop the content for a new website – *Children and Teens First (CHaT First)* – and are now helping to develop the content to be used by education groups for parents and children.

A field education unit will be established by the School of Social Work and Social Policy in partnership with Centacare Family Services so that students to gain experience in child-inclusive practices that could include running information sessions and education groups for children whose parents are separating.

"We need to run groups that focus on educating parents, relatives and children, as well as judges and teachers. And we need counsellors and mediators specifically trained to interview children, with appropriate undergraduate degrees or postgraduate qualifications," Prof Bagshaw said.

The report shows children are voiceless in the separation process and yet are deeply affected by it – a situation the Federal Government's new Family Relationship Centres hope to improve.

"The system underestimates the effects of separation on children, especially where there is entrenched parental conflict and violence," Prof Bagshaw said.

"In addition to missing an absent parent, children experience grief and loss in other ways: when they change schools; move homes; give up pets; and don't get to see other family members as often."

Denying children a voice in the process, and thereby failing to address their needs, has serious practical consequences.

"Very poor decisions may be taken and inappropriate parenting agreements can be made," Prof Bagshaw said.

The report concludes the Government's new Family Relationship Centres are unlikely to address the issues facing children "in any significant way", and calls for a child-centred model of service delivery that: prioritises the needs and rights of children; enhances communication between parents and children; minimises the effects of parental conflict, violence and abuse; and assists parents to help their children to cope with separation.

Children and Families in Transition is a collaborative project between UniSA's Conflict Management Research Group in the Hawke Research Institute and Centacare Family Services, funded by the Telstra Foundation.

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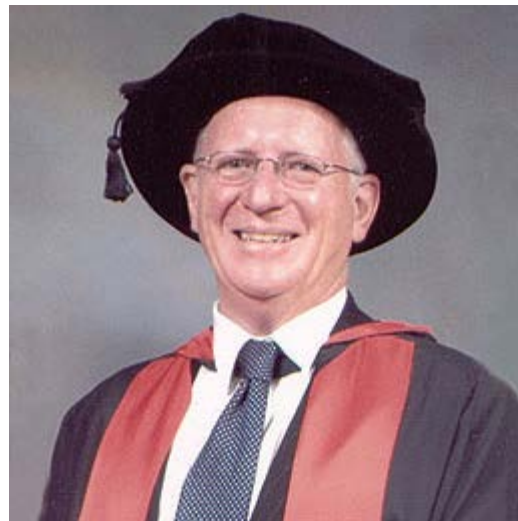
## SA pioneers a centre for ethical debate

Something novel has just happened in the SA university sector. Against all the odds, the Ethics Centre of South Australia (ECSA) has been set up across the three universities and with the support of the State Government. Emeritus Professor Robert Crotty reports.

Academics from UniSA, Flinders and Adelaide Universities together with professionals from the State Government, particularly the Department of Health, are pooling their expertise and interests in the fields of ethical theory and ethical issues.

So why an Ethics Centre and why just now?

Most people have their own ideas about what is right, what is wrong and how the difference between one and the other can be resolved.



At any contemporary dinner table there can be a quick cut in the conversation to the abortion debate and the use of the RU486 drug, to the printing of the Danish cartoons that depict Muhammad, to euthanasia, and to the use of bribes in international trading. Then there are same sex marriages and border security versus the right to seek asylum. Even if, ethically, a dinner guest might be in favour of an issue, should it be legitimated in law? Should the state, in fact, allow anything that is ethically acceptable?

It certainly raises the tone of mealtime conversation. But it also underlines the very many issues that demand ethical consideration.

Meantime, Pope Benedict XV, in a recent pronouncement, claims to have sufficient control of ethical principles and their foundation to be able to condemn modern societal values outright as the "filth around us" and has asked God to "free us from our decadent narcissism".

Such papal confidence in an ethical theory and such a negative evaluation of society are not new. In the fourth century BCE, Plato had similar confidence, being a moral absolutist who was sure that valid moral knowledge was actually encoded into the universe. He was able to condemn Athens as an immoral place because of the ethical scepticism of its sophist philosophers.

The establishment of ECSA does not presuppose that the problems of ethical debate can be so easily solved or that ready answers can be provided for the dilemmas that so often occur in society over what is right and what is wrong. Far from it. It is intended that ECSA should glory in ethical diversity.

There will be ethicists within ECSA who are utilitarians, deontologists, virtue ethicists, postmodernist ethicists. There will be ethicists whose vantage point will be feminist ethics, Indigenous ethics or environmental ethics. Within its fold, genuine dialogue can hopefully take place that will promote ethical understanding and perhaps unearth new challenges. Its purpose is not to solve ethical problems but to raise ethical consciousness.

ECSA's researchers, regardless of their university connection, will be able to explore ethical issues in seven broad research areas: public policy, professional practice; research ethics; science and technology; health care; Indigenous ethics and ethical theory.

Within these research themes ECSA academics will promote discussion and understanding of ethical issues in the South Australian community. ECSA will be available for comment on the ethical aspects of public policy and will contribute to academic and community debate on ethical issues. Research theme

groups, directed by acknowledged leaders in the field, will also foster research projects, make contributions to postgraduate education options and will endeavour to attract research degree candidates.

To return to the opening question – why an Ethics Centre and why just now?

ECSA exists to provide a forum for ethical discussion within a pluralist society in SA. It has been established at a time when ethics has become an urgent issue in society and the need for a forum is more and more appreciated.

Why in SA? The three universities in this state, together with elements of the State Government, have acknowledged the initiative and its value and, with commendable foresight, have agreed to set up a cross-institutional entity that, in many ways, breaks down existing barriers to cooperation. The future will prove whether the confidence in this venture has been well-founded.

Prof Crotty is Director of the Ethics Centre of South Australia, email: [robert.crotty@ecsa.edu.au](mailto:robert.crotty@ecsa.edu.au)

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## A friend of Bangladesh

by Vincent Ciccarello

Professor Atique Islam, Head of UniSA's School of Commerce, has been awarded the prestigious Bangabandhu Award for 2006.

Presented in front of 14,000 people at Sydney's Homebush Olympic Stadium, the award recognises Prof Islam's outstanding academic and professional achievements, his contribution to the Bangladeshi community in Australia, and his unwavering commitment to the ideals of Bangladesh.

"I'm not too sure whether I deserve it but I definitely feel very happy," Prof Islam said. "To be somehow linked with Bangabandhu is a great honour."

As a student activist, Prof Islam suffered at the hands of Pakistani army during the heady days of the 1971 Bengali liberation movement. He was an acquaintance of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, also known as "Bangabandhu" or "friend of Bengalis", who led the movement and became the first Prime Minister of Bangladesh in 1972.

Prof Islam said while he has always been committed to the hard-won ideals of Bangladesh enshrined in the country's constitution – democracy, social equity, secularism and nationalism – he believes the award is largely in recognition of his community work in Sydney between 1975 and 1990.

"I was a very active member of the community; I promoted the community in a positive way," he said. "I think I helped in maintaining some kind of cohesion with all of the various groups there."

That work had practical dimensions too, from interpreting, finding accommodation and acting as a guarantor, to drafting petitions on behalf of people in detention centres. Prof Islam admits to being altruistic, ("It's in the blood – my mother was a little Mother Teresa"), but wanting to help out of sympathy with newly-arrived migrants. As a student arriving in 1975 to a culturally very different Australia, he had to overcome his own hurdles.

"I recall standing at the bus stop, seeing the sign 'no standing' and being confused. It wasn't until I got home that I understood it was referring to cars," he laughed.

He has valuable advice for international students based on his own experience.

"Get connected," he said. "Don't stay within your own group, in your own 'country club'. Try to learn the culture by tuning into the local music, sport, films and media."

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## Gareth Evans on global indifference

by Vincent Ciccarello

Gareth Evans QC, president of the International Crisis Group, last month delivered the Anti-defamation Commission Gandel Oration at UniSA's Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre.

Atrocity Crimes: Overcoming Global Indifference, examined the obstacles to international intervention in humanitarian crises, suggested ways to overcome them, and urged governments into action.

"While we have made progress over the last decade or so, we certainly still cannot be confident that the world will respond quickly, effectively and appropriately to new human rights catastrophes as they arise," Evans said.

"Overcoming global indifference means addressing four big recurring problems: the problem of perception; the problem of responsibility; the problem of capacity and, as always, the problem of political will."

Citing the deteriorating situation in Darfur, Evans said competing priorities and preoccupations – "seen by governments as more immediately involving national interests" – are currently at the core of the general problem of indifference.

"But it is simply not acceptable for governments to look away, claiming more pressing engagements, when crimes against humanity are being committed or are manifestly about to be committed."

He said that while the first problem to confront in overcoming global indifference "is to ensure that policy makers know that there is a problem out there", it is more important "to establish a perception, in the minds of policy makers and those who influence them, of the seriousness of what is occurring".

The increasing tendency to label situations as "genocide" had too often resulted in "endless legal argument" about whether or not some humanitarian crimes met the strict definition of genocide.

"The real issue is the need to act to protect people when atrocity crimes of any kind are being committed, or are about to be committed, and to hold the perpetrators to effective account," Evans said. "We should all just use the generic expression 'atrocity crimes'."

He suggested the "habits of non-intervention" on the grounds of sovereignty are changing as a result of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, and added that despite their shortcomings, the UN and other international institutions had delivered "some remarkable results over the last decade or so".

In closing, the former Federal Attorney-General and Foreign Minister emphasised the crucial role of "national political will" in dealing with international conflict, human rights and humanitarian issues.

"It remains my fervent wish that Australia plays such a role again, consistently, credibly and constructively on the international stage," he said.

The Hawke Centre presents numerous perspectives on national and international affairs from leading experts for the community's benefit. The 2006 event program and past address transcripts are available



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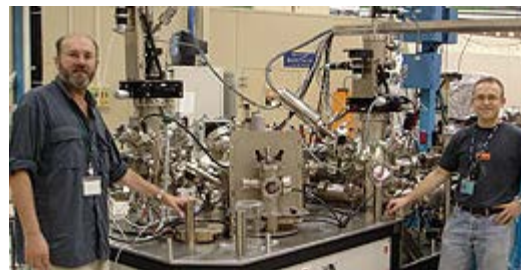
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## Synchrotron's SXSI end

by Michèle Nardelli

Deep down at the molecular and atomic level there are factors on the surface of things we don't know enough about. But with the arrival of the huge x-ray power of the first Australian synchrotron in 2007, scientists will have the ability to discover more about how surfaces and molecules interact, more quickly and more cheaply.



A key part of the project will be a million dollar soft x-ray synchrotron (SXSI) end-station, which has been commissioned by a team of Australians including UniSA's Associate Professor Bill Skinner (pictured left) from the Ian Wark Research Institute.

The size of a VW Beetle, the SXSI end-station will attach to beamline six on the synchrotron, adding even more sophisticated research capacity to the facility.

The SXSI end-station combines x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) with near edge x-ray absorption spectroscopy (NEXAFS) techniques.

All highly technical terminology, but as Prof Skinner explains, the equipment's applications across industry are vast.

"The synchrotron and end-station will give the Australian science research community a new vigor because we will be able to work here on projects that we once needed to go offshore to complete," Prof Skinner said.

"The applications are enormous across key research areas such as those The Wark™ is engaged in – surface chemistry, minerals processing and materials science.

"NEXAFS technology is something that cannot be replicated in an everyday lab – it allows us to zero in on how surfaces and molecules interact right at the atomic and molecular level.

"So, for example, we can look at drug particles and work out how the orientation of molecules may add to or diminish the efficient delivery of the drug. We can examine how the structure of an implant surface can be better constructed at the molecular level to ensure it is accepted in the body."

Prof Skinner joined a team of colleagues from the Australian Synchrotron Research Program in Taiwan recently where the end-station, which was manufactured in Germany and Poland, was commissioned and tested with a series of measurements on minerals surface chemistry.

"As well as providing a powerful local tool for studying fundamental aspects of minerals surface chemistry, which will be a boon to the new collaborative Australian Minerals Science Research Institute, led by Professor Ralston at The Wark™, its applications in forensic science, pharmaceuticals, environmental sciences and biomaterials development are really exciting for the whole nation."

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## Hello possum

A year of good rain over the Danggali Conservation Park has produced a few surprises for UniSA lecturer Joan Gibbs and her students, not the least of which is the discovery of a Western Pygmy-Possum (*Cercartetus concinnus*). After 20 years of surveys, tracking changes in the animals and vegetation in the park, 100km north of Renmark, Gibbs was especially delighted student that Gavin Agius found the tiny marsupial last month.

"We always thought we should catch a Western Pygmy-Possum because it's the type of mallee you get at Brookfield Conservation Park, near Blanchetown, which has pygmy-possums," she said. "This discovery expands their distribution range about a further 100km into the arid zone."

"The number of marsupials such as dunnarts and ningaus caught in the ongoing trapping program is a good indicator of intact mallee vegetation", Gibbs said. But this year's results have been unusual.

"We haven't had such a good rainfall in years. It's affected everything," she said. "In the past 20 years, it's been really dry. And so when we have an unseasonably wet year, all these things come out – they've been breeding up."

One might reasonably expect a seasoned ecologist to be a little underwhelmed by yet another marsupial, but Gibbs was clearly taken by the little critter.

"It was so cute, just like Possum Magic. He ate mealworms and he just chomped away, and when we went to release him, he didn't want to go," she said.

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## Flying double

by Rebecca Gill

UniSA's Aviation Academy has a new star recruit: a high-performance six-seat twin-propeller aircraft, the latest addition to the five plane training fleet.

Second year degree students Talia Sheppard and Jono Vadasz are excited about getting their flying times up in the new "twin-prop", and UniSA aviation program director Steve Thatcher said their new addition will benefit the students' learning greatly.

"Students can now do multi-engine endorsement and command instrument rating (CIR) training, and will have the opportunity to practise their instrument flying – flying through cloud – which is traditionally one of the most challenging tasks," said Thatcher.

"The twin-prop is very similar to what students will use when they become fully-qualified pilots. It's a real twin-engine charter aeroplane used by commercial operators, so it's much larger than normal aircraft used for twin-engine training in Australia.

"Not only will it build up the students' command experience as pilots, it will give them a good edge for their first job," he said.

The new twin-prop will take to the South Australian skies this month, flying to destinations such as Broken Hill, Ceduna, Port Lincoln and Kangaroo Island.



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## Sustaining the city

by **Rebecca Gill**

High-rise gleaming glass towers scrape the hot sky, and racetracks, malls and theme parks burst out from the ports, sprawling into a barren desert. This is Dubai.

Thirty years ago it was home to a few thousand people – today it has a population of over a million.

It may be one of the most rapidly developing cities in the world but much of Dubai City's construction is poorly planned and hastily executed. And while the emirate's rulers talk about the importance of sustainable urban planning, development continues to explode.

Enter a group of UniSA students who flew to Dubai in March to take part in The Dubai International Forum for Sustainable Urban Development. Sean Humphries and Alex Hall (architecture) together with Victoria Long and Anna Pullen (planning) put forward a plan to regenerate Dubai's old port area, and won third place for their efforts.



"We felt the 'develop and re-develop' approach would only result in what already exists all over the world where mega-development has occurred. It becomes sterile and banal, and wipes out the existing culture," Humphries said.

"We wanted to stabilise Dubai's unique nature, by protecting the existing urban fabric and sustaining it."

Victoria Long said acknowledging the complex cultural and environmental context of both the study area, and Dubai as a whole, was at the core of the group's proposal.

"There were so many factors to be sensitive to. It was a challenging project, but presenting our ideas in front of international judges and local municipality was so rewarding," she said.

Although they didn't take out the major prize, Humphries said competing on a global scale was an invaluable opportunity.

"Travelling is so important. If you just stay in Adelaide, you don't see things from a global perspective."

The Masters of Urban and Regional Planning offers students the opportunity to take part in an international urban design studio every year. In 2006 students will be visiting Penang in Malaysia as part of their studies. For enquiries about the program call Professor Steve Hamnett on +61 8 8302 2297

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### First Miller Medal winner

Former UniSA PhD researcher Dr David Haley, now employed by wireless network systems company Cohda Wireless, has been named the inaugural winner of the University of South Australia's Michael Miller Medal.

Founded by UniSA in 2005, the award recognises the best PhD research graduate from the Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR) each year. Research creativity, originality, significance and utility are key criteria for the awards.

The medal's namesake is Emeritus Professor Michael Miller who was the founding Director of the Institute for Telecommunications Research (ITR), now one of UniSA's largest research institutes focused on research in satellite and terrestrial wireless communications.

Dr Haley's PhD research examined ways of efficiently coding information sent over wireless networks.

Coding is used to ensure that errors introduced by the complex transmission environment in a modern communications system can be detected and overcome.

ITR Director Professor Andrew Parfitt said that Dr Haley's work showed mastery of a whole new coding area.

"While there were a number of excellent candidates, Dr Haley's work stood out because of its breadth of concept and its potential impact on the discipline," Prof Parfitt said.



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### Norton's Kokoda

More than 60 years after WWII, 'doing Kokoda' has become an Australian pilgrimage. The site of bitter fighting in extreme conditions, it has taken on legendary status not only as a war story, but because of the sheer physicality of the track. More than 3000 pilgrims walked the track this year and UniSA's Professor Kevin Norton was one of them.

The track runs for 96km through dense rainforest, boggy swamps, tall grassland, and rises to over 7,000 feet at its highest point. The slopes are steep with narrow uneven footholds and paths often less than a metre wide above sheer cliffs. Daily tropical rainstorms ensure slippery conditions. On one day the track runs through smelly, ankle-deep swamp for up to 10 hours. Hazardous river crossings are also a feature. Mainly ex-footballers, our group completed the walk in 7.5 days and I followed them measuring their physical work. Each walker performed health and fitness testing in the laboratory before heading off to New Guinea and all were allocated a heart rate monitor to wear on the walk.



Each walker performed health and fitness testing in the laboratory before heading off to New Guinea and all were allocated a heart rate monitor to wear on the walk.

"Their average weight loss was around five kilos, with one person losing almost 12kg – generally the largest people lost the most weight. Everyone lost their appetite as they succumbed to the heat and oppressive tropical conditions. Quality sleep was scarce. The energy expended in climbing the steep slopes, carrying water and other provisions was enormous.

Studies show that for health benefits we should try to expend at least 150 kilocalories (kcal) per day – about 30 minutes of walking. A very intense exercise session for an hour in the gym might require up to 600kcal.

On the Kokoda track, where days stretch to between seven and 11 hours of walking, the energy required averaged 4,200kcal per day. On the first day the energy used was almost 6,000kcal per person. This massive rate of energy use is not much under the energy required by the Tour de France cyclists, 6000kcal per day for 21 days. To lose one kilo of fat requires 9,000kcal of energy use. Kokoda required burning off about a kilo of fat every two days. Coupled with a loss of appetite, it's easy to see how each person could lose five kg over the eight days. You can't underestimate the preparation required for the walk. The week before our trek, a group had eight of 11 air-lifted out because of dehydration and extreme fatigue.

"Doing Kokoda is an extremely demanding walk both mentally and physically. The knowledge that previous generations of Australians had covered the same paths and had fought and died there kept us going.

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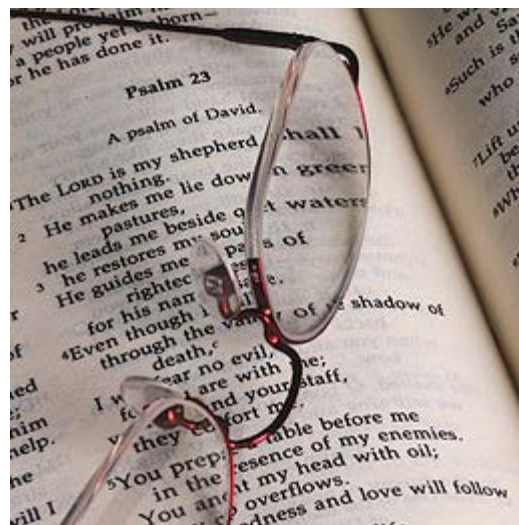
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## UniSA hosts national conference on religion

by Michael O'Donoghue and Heather Foster

The Australian Association for the Study of Religion will hold its 30th annual conference at UniSA in July. The conference entitled Celebrating the Past, Anticipating the Future, is to be held at the City West Campus from July 7-9. It celebrates the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the professional association for scholars of religion which is returning to its place of origin.

Thirty years ago the inaugural conference and the foundation of the Association took place at the Adelaide College of Advanced Education, an antecedent institution of UniSA. It was due to the leadership of local scholars such as Professor Norman Habel, Basil Moore, Vic Hayes, Penny Magee and Emeritus Professor Robert Crotty, all of whom had a national influence in the field of Religion Studies.



The significance of religion in international affairs has been highlighted in recent years by the resurgence of Islam. Locally, the growth of enthusiastic Christian churches such as Hillsong in Sydney and Paradise in Adelaide, as well as the influence of religion on national policy making, has refocused attention on religion. The conference will explore religion in all its manifestations from an academic perspective.

Scholars from Australia and across the world will attend the conference. Some of these include Mitri Raheb from Israel on Land, peoples and identities: a Palestinian Christian Perspective and John May from Ireland on Political Religion: studying the world's religions in global civil society, both sponsored by the Charles Strong Trust. Majella Franzmann from the University of New England will deliver the Penny Magee Lecture on Manichaeism in 4th Century Roman Kellis. Graham Harvey from England will speak on Contesting personhood in the study of indigenous religions and Jamie Scott from Canada on Christian Missions in contemporary Antipodean Fiction.

Participation in the conference is welcomed. Registration for non members is \$180 or \$120 concession and includes lunch and refreshments. Further information email [heather.foster@unisa.edu.au](mailto:heather.foster@unisa.edu.au).

UniSA lecturers Michael O'Donoghue and Dr Heather Foster are respectively president and vice president of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions.

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